

ACCESS TO CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD

A joint foundation of College and Cathedral

Disability Equality Scheme

This information is provided for anyone wishing to contact or visit Christ Church and has been compiled with particular reference to persons with disabilities.

In 2006 Christ Church announced its intention to publish a Disability Equality Scheme in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. This took account of views expressed by members, staff, worshippers, visitors and others. A copy is available from the Steward of Christ Church [steward@chch.ox.ac.uk; tel 01865 286580]. The Steward will be glad to receive further comments on the accessibility of Christ Church and the services that the institution provides.

This booklet is available in large print format.

Welcome to Christ Church

Christ Church is a unique institution with two functions. It is one of the largest Colleges in the University and it is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Oxford.

Whatever the reason for your visit, we hope you will find this booklet useful. If you have any queries or need specific assistance please do contact us, we will be happy to help.

During the past thirty years, Christ Church has introduced a number of accessibility measures, physical and operational, several of them ahead of disability legislation.

Christ Church's buildings date from the sixteenth century and some parts of the college are not presently accessible. But we shall take as much trouble as we reasonably can to provide managed or physical solutions to access challenges. The extent to which we are presently able to meet these challenges in individual cases depends upon individual requirements. Please do contact us for more information.

Please note that Christ Church is a working foundation, parts of which may close without notice.

Getting to Christ Church

By Taxi, Dial-a Ride or car

Road access to Christ Church from the east (along the High Street) by private car is restricted between 7.30am and 6.30pm every day, during which time the High Street is closed to private cars. The restriction point is just to the west of University College. Public service vehicles are not subject to these restrictions.

At all times of the day and night Christ Church can be reached by road (including private car) from the south via the Abingdon Road and from the west via the Botley Road. Set down and pick up is outside Tom Gate on St Aldate's, or at Canterbury Gate in Oriel Square.

Taxis are available by telephone or at ranks at the railway station, in St Giles or the Gloucester Green Coach Station in the city centre. Wheelchair accessible taxis are available from: 001 Taxis (tel 01865 240000), Radio Taxis (tel 01865 242424) and A1 Taxis (01865 248000).

Parking

Parking is not usually available at Christ Church, except with special permission and by prior arrangement.

Blue badge holder designated parking is available outside Christ Church. On St Aldate's there are three spaces, (30 metres level going to Tom Gate – cobbles directly outside the gate - and 100 metres level going to the War Memorial Garden visitors' entrance).

There are two designated spaces in Pembroke Square (20 metres across St Aldates from Tom Tower and 40 metres across St Aldates to the War Memorial Garden and the towards the Visitors' entrance.

There are four designated spaces in Oriel Square (20 metres level going to the Canterbury Gate entrance) but cobbles thereafter.

Shopmobility Scheme

A Shopmobility scheme operates in the city, offering the loan of wheelchairs and electric scooters to people who need them for shopping and sightseeing in Oxford city centre. To use the service you will need to become a member and fill in an application form on Oxford City Council's website. Shopmobility is located at Oxpens car park. For full details of the scheme and the Shopmobility application form please visit:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20043/disability_and_accessibility/261/shopmobility

Public Car Parks

The nearest public car park is Oxpens on Oxpens Road, which is within five minutes walking distance from Christ Church. Parking for high vehicles (e.g. camper vans) is available at Redbridge Park and Ride (to the south of Oxford, reached from the city ring road), close to the exit.

Park and Ride

The recommended means of accessing the city centre is to use public transport and the Park and Ride bus service. There are parking spaces available for persons with disabilities immediately adjacent to the bus stop at all five of the Park and Ride car parks. All Park and Ride buses have the wheelchair accessible 'kneeling step' with fold down ramp. There are frequent services from the Park and Ride car parks to the city centre. Further information about the Park & Ride service can be found at http://www.parkandride.net/oxford/html/oxford_frameset.html

Train

Oxford station is the nearest train station to Christ Church. Accessible buses and taxis are available from the train station.

Bus

The city 5 bus (all Oxford buses are equipped with access ramps, just speak to the driver who will be happy to assist you) can be caught directly outside the station and will stop at St Aldates outside the Old Tom public house. Tom Tower is 30 metres across St Aldates and the War Memorial Garden is 50 metres away). Please visit the Oxford Bus Company website for timetables, fares and route maps www.oxfordbus.co.uk

Coach

London, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports, and national coach network services operate from Gloucester Green Coach Station. Coach information is available from Oxford Bus Company (tel 01865 785400 www.oxfordbus.co.uk) and Oxford Tube (tel 01865 772250 www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire).

Cars may access the coach station only by prior arrangement. Contact 01865 794307 or 790303.

Access to Christ Church Information

General

For all general enquiries please contact the Porters' Lodge. Our staff will be pleased to assist. They can advise you on contacting all college departments and can be contacted on:

Telephone / textphone: 01865 276150 or 276151

email: enquiries@chch.ox.ac.uk

webpage: www.chch.ox.ac.uk

Website

Christ Church is committed to providing an accessible website. Since the relaunch of the Christ Church website in September 2015 [at www.chch.ox.ac.uk] our approach has been to meet as high a level of accessibility as we can achieve. Our aim is to meet all priority 1 requirements of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, meeting this standard is commonly known as Level A compliance. We also aim to meet as many priority 2 requirements of the WCAG 2.0 as possible, meeting this standard is commonly known as Level AA compliance. In commissioning new features and maintaining the accessibility of the existing site, we aim to follow best practice guidelines using British standard BS 8878. All our websites use web standard code so that whatever your preferred speech-enabled software is on your computer, it should be able to read the pages.

Read the full web accessibility statement at: <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/web-accessibility>

Tourism and Day Visitors

Please visit the opening times page of the Christ Church website for details of our visitor opening hours <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/plan-your-visit/opening-times>

Please note that Christ Church is a working academic and religious institution and as such some areas, such as the Hall and Cathedral, will close from time to time when in use for private functions or services. Occasionally closures can occur at short notice and we cannot guarantee that the Hall or Cathedral will be open at the time of your visit.

For enquiries about tourism and day visits to Christ Church, please contact the Groups Co-ordinator on:

telephone: 01865 276492
email: tourism@chch.ox.ac.uk
webpage: www.chch.ox.ac.uk

An illustrated guide to College and cathedral is available upon arrival. Large print versions are available.

Access to Parts of Christ Church

Entrances

Meadow Gate: the tourist visitor entrance is through the War Memorial Garden entrance from St Aldate's. The gates are 1m wide, giving satisfactory wheelchair access to the Garden. This entry point can be reached from the disabled parking spaces in St Aldate's, south of Tom Gate.

There is then a paved level path through the War Memorial Garden, leading to two sets of steps, one with a stone ramp adjacent, approaching the Broad Walk. You will need to then use the vehicular route, where a 5 m.p.h speed limit applies.

The entrance to the college is through Meadow Gate, up a flight of seven steps, not ramped.

Tom Gate: wheelchair access to the College, and for visitors to the Cathedral, is through Tom Gate. Wheelchair users will find this an easier entrance as there is a ramp leading to the level paved paths around Tom Quad. It is also adjacent to the Blue Badge parking spaces on St Aldates.

Cathedral

Worshippers and visitors to the Cathedral are advised to use Tom Gate for entry (see above). Wheelchair users can enter the Cathedral through the door from Tom Quad, where there is a ramp to provide access. For more information, please contact the Cathedral Visitor Officer on 01865 28165 or look at the webpage www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral

Hall

The introduction of lift access has enabled us to assist wheelchair users and people who experience difficulties with walking up/down stairs to access the Hall. (You will be accompanied at all times by a fully trained staff member). The lift is suitable for most types of unmotorized wheelchairs, and small motorized wheelchairs/scooters. In the event of the lift being out of order we have a motorized stairclimber, this is a device that the wheelchair user would need to transfer to from their own wheelchair. Advance notice of access to the Freund Room is need and the Groups Co-ordinator (contact details above) can advise.

Picture Gallery

It is regretted that, at present, the Picture Gallery is not accessible to a wheelchair user as it is reached by a narrow flight of stone steps. There are further level changes within the Gallery. Descriptions of exhibits are available in large print for those with visual impairments. For further information or to book a guided tour please contact the Curator of the Picture Gallery on 01865 276172.

Library

The College Library is open to external readers and Oxford University card holders by appointment only. The Lower Library is accessible to wheelchair users. There is a ramp leading to the main entrance. Contact the Assistant Librarian on 01865 276169 or e-mail library@chch.ox.ac.uk for further information.

Toilets

These are located close to the cathedral cloisters. A unisex accessible w.c. is located in Tom Quad (beneath the Hall). Please ask a Custodian for access.

Also, there are public toilets with facilities for people with disabilities (with National Key Scheme entry) at several points in the city. The nearest is in Speedwell Street (open March-October). Key scheme keys are available from Oxford railway Station, the Tourist Information Centre at Gloucester Green Coach Station and from St Aldate's Chambers opposite the Town Hall adjacent to Christ Church. Telephone 01865 726871 and 252067.

Liddell Building

The Liddell Building is a student residence situated at 60 Iffley Road. The three-room ground floor accessible apartment on Liddell Building staircase 7 is the college's most suitable accessible residential accommodation. During most of the year this residence is allocated to student member(s) of the college. Its allocation is the responsibility of the college's academic authorities. Please contact the Censors' Administrator on 01865 276157. It is available subject to (i) transport from Liddell to the main site and elsewhere and (ii) the disability profile of a possible resident. For occasional availability to visitors during July and August please contact the Resident Manager on 01865 725364.

Boathouse and River

For emergency, not routine use, there is vehicular access over tarmacked and gravelled ground onto the Broad Walk and down the gravelled Long Walk. These roadways are usable by regular roadworthy saloon cars and vans (subject always to advance arrangements being made with the Treasurer's Administrator), and by motorised or assisted wheelchairs. The path narrows once it reaches the riverbank but is still one vehicle width.

The Boathouse can only be accessed via the Cherwell hump bridge. It is regretted that this is unsuitable for wheelchair users who are not presently permitted access to the Boathouse island for overriding health and safety reasons.

There are no accessible toilets at the Boathouse or elsewhere in Christ Church Meadow.

Sportsground and Pavilion

The college's Sportsground with Pavilion and tennis courts can be accessed by car, on foot and by wheelchair via a tarmacked roadway with speed humps, from Iffley Road. Some parking is available near to the pavilion. There are some steps to the pavilion and the changing rooms are not accessible. There is a partly accessible toilet at the pavilion, the approach to which involves shallow steps. There is level going access to spectator areas. Further information is available from the Sportsground Manager on 01865 243992.

University Ceremonial

Ceremonies such as Matriculation and Degree Days, take place in the Sheldonian Theatre.

Sheldonian Theatre staff are able to find space on the ground floor for guests who will be seated in their wheelchairs during ceremonies, and if space permits will always seat other guests in the same party nearby. There is usually also a small number of seats available on that floor for guests who have difficulty with the stairs. They are however unable to allow advance reservations for any of these seats. Varying demands on the space available on the ground floor on any particular day make this an unworkable option.

Guests in wheelchairs will be directed by the Security staff on the gate to the **South doors** facing the Divinity School, where there is a ramp. Such guests will find access to the Theatre precincts most convenient by the ramped gate next to the Museum of the History of Science.

Parties where one or more of the guests have difficulties with stairs should join the queue at either **Door B or D** and explain to the steward on the door that they would like ground floor seating if available.

Seating can be reserved on the ground floor of the Theatre for ambulant disabled people. It is accessible for a wheelchair user, and there are convenient places for wheelchairs, but prior notice is essential. Please contact the Custodian at the Sheldonian Theatre (01865 277299) who will be pleased to discuss the details with you, and make any necessary arrangements.

This information will be regularly updated as further access measures are introduced by the College and Cathedral.

Enquiries about the information provided in this leaflet, together with suggestions for inclusion, may be directed to the Steward's Office, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP. Tel 01865 286580.