

Where to find help with an Accessibility Audit

Widening the Eye of the Needle, Access to church buildings for people with disabilities. 2nd Edition (£10.95 from Church House Publishing. ISBN 0 7151 7589 0, Website: www.chpublishing.co.uk.)

Acquire a copy of Circular 1994/4 at a cost of £1 from The Churches Main Committee "Rights of Access for Disabled People, Goods, Facilities and Services", Elizabeth House, 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ, Tel: 020 7898 1861/1878, Fax: 020 7898 1798, email: cmc@c-of-e.org.uk.

Further information can be obtained from the organisation "Through the Roof", Global House, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5AD. Tel: 01372 749955, Fax: 01372 737040, email: info@throughtheroof.org and Web: www.throughtheroof.org

They publish leaflets and guidelines on a wide range of disability issues.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

If you have any questions please contact the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC):

DAC Secretary (Mrs Christine Marshall)
Diocesan Office
5th floor, Church House
90 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 2GH
Tel: 0161 828 1419
Fax 0161 833 2751
Email: dac@manchester.anglican.org

For more information about the care of churches visit the DAC pages on the Diocese of Manchester's website: www.manchester.anglican.org



How the Act affects you and your church



The Disability Discrimination Act came into force in 1995, and the provisions of part III of the Act place duties on those providing goods, facilities or services to the Public.



This means that as 'service providers' churches are affected by the requirements of the Act and this in turn means that you are affected.

The purpose of this information bulletin is to alert you and your PCC to the fact that from 2004 you will have to make "reasonable adjustments" to the physical features of your church* to overcome physical barriers to access as well as providing an environment to allow anyone with any type of disability to participate in services.

A checklist for your church

The following checklist is offered as a starting point to help you to start planning what, if any, changes are needed in your church:

- 1 Place this item on your next PCC agenda.
- 2 Carry out an audit (see page 4)
- 3 Review the audit and draw up a list of reasonable changes.
- 4 Decide priorities and what changes the parish can do itself (eg large print books, leaflets)
- 5 Draw up a schedule for making changes by the deadline.
- 6 Consult your church architect as to the feasibility of proposed changes and costings.
- 7 Consult further if necessary
Deanery Buildings Officer
Local Authority Access Officer
Diocesan Pastoral Officer (Mr Chris Barratt)
- 8 Investigate funding sources by enquiring of persons listed above.
- 9 Apply for a faculty
(contact the DAC Secretary Christine Hart if in doubt whether a faculty is required.)

Remember

The requirements of the Act will also need to be met in any other public buildings belonging to the church, for example a parish hall on the same or at another location.