ST MARY STOKE

Life-changing FAITH | Renewed HOPE | Committed LOVE

DISABILITY ACCESS POLICY

Statement of Intention

The PCC of St Mary Stoke accepts that, as far as reasonably practicable, all people must be given full access to the life of the Church in terms of worship, fellowship and ministry.

The term “disability” covers a wide range of conditions, physical and mental, permanent and temporary. Many people, including the elderly and those with families, will at some time or other have special access needs and will appreciate provision to assist them in leading as near to their “normal” life as possible.

We aim to lessen the situations that could deny access to, or make things more difficult than need be for, a disabled person – for example, doors not wide enough to admit a wheelchair or pushchair, or not using microphones linked to our hearing loop.

Facilities – Church

The following are already in place at St Mary Stoke to assist access to the building and the services:

- The main body of the church is flat-floored.
- There is a movable ramp to provide access into and out of the church.
- The church is bright and well lit.
- The main body of the church has fixed seating with a wide, open area at the rear of the nave where wheelchairs can be positioned.
- The main aisle is wide enough for wheelchair users; communion is taken to the pews where required.
- A sound system with induction loop is installed in the church building and is serviced on a regular basis. The system is used by celebrants, readers and intercessors during services.
- There is a wheelchair kept in the choir vestry for use by anyone in need.
- Sides-people are on duty at the door of the church to assist people as they enter.
- There is a well-equipped children’s area at the back of the church.
- We have a set of large-print service books.
- There is a lavatory in the church hall, which is fully accessible by wheelchair.

Facilities – Church Hall

The following are already in use to assist access to the Church Hall:

- A ramp to one of the main doors.
- A wide opening door.
- A toilet on the same level as the main room.
- The building is on one level.
- The fire exits are clearly signed.

This policy should be read alongside the Health and Safety Policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the PCC.

Approval

Signed	
Role	Parish Priest / Churchwardens
Date	

Prepared for St Mary Stoke PCC.