

Making wheelchair users and their carers feel welcome

1. Reserved parking spaces need to be wide enough to allow a wheelchair to be placed alongside the car.
 2. Leave at least three metres behind a rear entry wheelchair accessible vehicle.
 3. Level access, a ramp or a lift are essential for someone using a wheelchair to gain access to a building. Powered wheelchairs do not climb steps and should not be lifted!
 4. It is good practice to keep a wheelchair available for the use of people who do not have their own but find walking difficult and arrive in a car.
 5. Be aware of the nearest accessible toilet (one and half metres clear turning space inside with the door opening outwards).
 6. As with all types of disability, communicate directly with the person. Please do not address someone else such as a friend or companion, on their behalf.
 7. Wherever possible, get down to the same eye level as the person sitting, by kneeling, squatting or sitting alongside.
 8. Always ask if and how someone would like assistance. Never assume anything.
 9. Ask where someone would like to sit if in a church or meeting etc, and move chairs to accommodate them. Please do not assume that they want to sit where **you** think it would be best for them!
 10. Wherever possible please enable wheelchair users to receive communion (and any other sacraments) alongside everyone else.
- (Debbie Starling 2012)

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