



Access Statement for Coventry Cathedral

Introduction

The Cathedral Church of St Michael is situated in the city centre of Coventry. The site includes the second Cathedral (known as the 'old' Cathedral and often referred to as 'the Ruins'), and the third or 'new' Cathedral on a hill top with differences in the ground level but with access provided to all external areas.

The Ruins are on one level accessible from the south and west end (next to where the Tower is) from both Bayley Lane and Cuckoo Lane.

You should allow two hours to tour around the two Cathedrals.

If you are interested in the first Cathedral (the Priory of St Mary), situated alongside the Ruins and new Cathedral, please note that it is a ground level ruin which is not managed by Coventry Cathedral, and as such you will need to make separate enquiries via their website <https://www.coventrypriory.co.uk/>

There are usually complimentary guided tours of the Ruins and the New Cathedral at 11am, 12:15, and 2pm daily (with the exception of Sundays when there is a tour at 1pm only). However, these are run by volunteers and as such may not always be available; we would advise you to check before visiting. It is possible to guarantee a guide by pre-booking (a small fee is payable), and this is mandatory for groups who wish to take a guided tour. There is a full educational programme for school visits.

Please note that some areas of the new Cathedral can only be reached via steps and so are not accessible to those using wheelchairs.

There is a model of the Cathedral for a person with visual impairment to touch. This is located in the Nave. There is a hearing loop in the new Cathedral which is used for services and events.

There is a wheelchair available for loan, free of charge. Please ask at the Welcome Desk.

Our staff and volunteers are on hand throughout the Cathedral should you require any assistance.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any particular assistance please call 024 7652 1200 or email information@coventrycathedral.org.uk.

Pre-arrival

For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the 'Visitor Information' section of our website. To look up directions to the Cathedral, our postcode is CV1 5FB.

The nearest bus stop is at Pool Meadow bus station which is about 200 metres away with a slight incline leading up to the Cathedral.

The main road outside the Cathedral (Priory Street) has a wide pavement. On the other side of the Cathedral, near the church of Holy Trinity, in Cuckoo Lane and Bayley Lane, there are many cobbled pathways and limited dropped kerbs.

Our brochure and guide are available in larger print upon request.

Car Parking and Arrival

There is no car parking on the site. The nearest car park is Grove Street car park (CVI 5AG) which is located underneath the ring road. For further information please see https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory_record/11435/grove_st

There are a two Blue Badge parking bays on Bayley Lane.

There is a drop off point on Priory Street, just in front of the steps and ramp leading up to the entrance for the new Cathedral, where there is not a kerb.

Access to the new Cathedral – West Screen entrance



Access to the new Cathedral is via seven steps to a landing then a further thirteen steps. There are hand rails on either side.



Alternatively there is a ramp leading around the old Cathedral up to the porch area between the two buildings.

To enter the new Cathedral there is a vestibule comprising of two glass doors, measuring 90cm wide with 103cm between them.

The welcome desk is directly in front of you. The area is lit.

The Nave and Chapels

There is level access to the Nave via the West Screen. The floor comprises smooth dark marble paving. There is plenty of seating. The lighting can sometimes be low as it is a mixture of natural and artificial light.

Access to the Chancel walk way can be gained from either side by climbing six steps with a handrail on one side on each set of steps.

Access to the Chapel of Unity is via four steps followed by a landing followed by three additional steps. There is no hand rail and this is the only means of access. Alternatively on request level access can be gained from the outside to the bottom of the three steps where a non DDA compliant metal ramp can be deployed and assistance offered to navigate the upper steps should visitors choose to use it.



Access to the Lady Chapel and Chapel of Christ in Gethsemane are via either a ramp (on the left hand aisle facing the Tapestry) or eight shallow steps from the right hand side. There is a hand rail.

Access to the Chapel of Christ the Servant is via four shallow steps. Care should be taken on entering and exiting this area due to changes in natural lighting. This is the only means of access.

To access the Millennium Chapel there are sixteen steps down from the Lady Chapel/Cathedral or sixteen steps up from Saint Michael's Gallery. This is the only means of access.

There is a service lift to access the lower floor which can only be used with assistance from a trained member of staff or volunteer. Please ask at the welcome desk.

Displays and Exhibits

Most standard displays are in large font.

Attending a service

We are able to guide individuals to appropriate seating.

We provide wheelchair spaces in the main body of the Nave.

We provide large print versions of our major services and can arrange to do so for smaller services should you require this. Please let us know in advance if this is the case.

There is hearing loop equipment which is available from the stewards.

We offer communion stations which are accessible without encountering steps.

We offer the opportunity to receive communion from your seat.*

We make gluten-free wafers available at communion.*

*Please let a steward know upon arrival.

The Chapter House, Retail outlet, Café, and St Michaels Gallery

Reached either by descending the staircase from the Nave or alternatively there is access via the Chapter House entrance from Priory Street, down a wide smooth pathway to a sliding glass door which is 180cm wide. There is a raised weather strip at the threshold at floor level.



The path can be slippery in wet or freezing conditions.

The lower ground floor (or Undercroft) is all accessible with no steps throughout the Chapter House, St. Michael's Gallery, toilets, Lecture Hall and Rising Café.

The Chapter House is completely accessible (the door is 110cm wide but can be extended to 210cm).

There is no hearing loop in this area of the Cathedral.

There is a wheelchair available for loan, free of charge. Please ask at the Retail Desk.

There are toilets in St Michael's Gallery. The Men's toilet is on one level with a door measuring 84cm for access – there is one cubicle and 3 urinals. The Ladies toilets have level access but the 3 WCs are on a raised platform with a step of 18 cm to enable plumbing. The flooring is non-slip.

Cafe

The Rising Café is located on the lower ground floor and has step free level access from Saint Michael's Gallery, and the cobbled pathway running around the north side of the Cathedral.

The internal entrance doors to the Café is 80cm but can be opened to 151cm.

The external entrance door to the Café is 58cm but it is a double door which can be opened to enable 116cm access.

The style and feel of the Café is vintage 1940's, and as such the furniture is not of a uniform shape or size, and is quite close together. There are a mix of chair types and informal

seating areas with sofas. Provision can be made for wheelchairs and walkers: please contact the Café directly on 02476 521235 to arrange this.

The flooring comprises dark coloured tiling.

Orders are placed at the counter and brought to the tables by staff.

Male & female toilets and an accessible WC (details below) are located at the rear of the Rising Café.

Public toilets

Accessible toilets – rear of Rising Café

These are one level with a door measuring 80cm for access. There is a unisex accessible toilet which has a door of 82cm wide. The toilet height is 40cm with a 70cm transfer (with the toilet being on the left hand side).

There are three vertical hand rails (one by the sink and two by the toilet). There are two horizontal rails by the toilet, one by the basin & one on the back of the door. The floors and walls are either white or cream. The floor is non-slip.

There is an emergency cord. The lighting is fluorescent but the light switch is not at a lower level. A baby change table is available.

Accessible toilets – Undercroft

There is also another unisex accessible toilet in the Undercroft. Please ask a staff member or volunteer to escort you. It has a light easy door 82cm wide.

There is 80cm of transfer space from the toilet located on the left. The toilet height is 48cm. There are rails located on either side of the basin and toilet.

There are three vertical hand rails (one by the sink and two by the toilet). There are two horizontal rails by the toilet and one by the basin which has lever taps. The floors are blue and walls are cream. The floor is non-slip.

The toilets are well lit with fluorescent tube overhead lighting with a low level light switch. There is no emergency alarm pull cord.

Grounds

There is a circular pathway between the Chapel of Unity and the Unity Lawn. This leads to a cobbled area but the path is relatively smooth and 120cm wide.

The Ruins

The Ruins are built on a hill. There is flat, even access from Bayley Lane (which is cobbled) and from the west end of the Ruins (i.e. where the Tower is) from Saint Michael's Avenue.



St Michael's Avenue is cobbled but this pathway also has an inlay of smooth stone slabs to enable access.

From the porch which links the two Cathedrals, there are twenty steps from the new Cathedral to the Ruins with a hand rail on both sides.

The ruins are reasonably flat and are a mixture of slabs with some cobbled areas. There is a slight change in the gradient at the north and south aisles. Please take care in the Ruins as there are many raised column bases, tombs & memorials. The paving is uneven in places and can be slippery in wet weather or freezing conditions.

There is a chain across the sanctuary where there are two small steps leading up to the Altar. This is only accessible during times of worship.

Access to the Haigh Chapel within the Ruins is accessible via two steps and the door is 75cm wide. The Cappers Rooms is inaccessible unless you have excellent mobility and sight, due to a narrow spiral staircase. Access to this room and the Haigh Chapel are only available by prior appointment.

Blitz Experience

The Blitz Experience is an exhibition of life in Coventry before and after the bombing. It is located in five rooms underneath the Sanctuary in the Ruins. The access is down seven steps located under a canopy to the right of the Altar. The access is 126cm wide – there is no handrail.

The first room is presented as a 1940s class room with an aisle which is 155cm wide. The introductory film does not have subtitles.

The next room is presented as a kitchen with vinyl flooring with most of the exhibits at a low level.

The door to the next room is 84cm wide with exhibits from floor level to 183cm high. The flooring is carpet tiles.

The door to the next two rooms is 78cm.

To exit the Blitz Experience, there are five steps up to the exit which is at the Sanctuary where there is fairly level surfaces.

Tower and Shop

The Cathedral Tower shop is located at the bottom of the tower. To enter there is a vestibule comprising of two glass doors, measuring 78cm wide with 136cm between them. There is level access from inside the Ruins apart from a raised threshold and the paved floor is also level.

The Tower Climb

This is accessible through a door which is 60cm wide. There are one hundred and eighty one steps of average 20cm depth forming a narrow spiral staircase, where passing other persons is difficult apart from by pausing in the bell viewing room.

Raised platform in the Ruins

There is a raised platform/stage in the ruins. It is 75cm high with access via five steps at either side of the area and a further two shallow steps towards the rear of the platform. There is no hand rail.

St Clare's Church Community & shop, St Michaels Avenue

There is an access ramp with a double door measuring 178 cm wide. The floor is all on one level. The counter is situated directly in front of the entrance door. It is well-lit and has a lowered desk to enable access (75cm high).

The Shop has shelves at levels up to 155cm – a member of staff is always available to assist. There is occasionally background music playing.



Cathedral Offices – Youell House, Hill Top

The Cathedral Offices are located next to the Cathedral at postcode CV1 5AB. They are accessible via a steep service road next to the Britannia Hotel on Fairfax Street or Priory Row via Hill Top

There is a steep incline on the cobbled alleyway to the entrance of Youell House. This is for approx. four metres. Once through the gate of Youell House there is a smooth paved area which has a slight incline to the office door.

The intercom bell is located 130cm from the ground. The entrance door is 185cm leading to a lobby which has a lift to all floors – the doors of which are 80cm wide.

Accessible toilets – there are accessible toilets on the ground & first floors. The doors to these are 95cm wide. There is an emergency cord. The toilet height is 48cm high with 100cm access room to the right hand side. There are three vertical hand rails (one by the sink and two by the toilet). There are two horizontal rails by the toilet and one by the basin. The floors are blue and walls are cream. The floor is non-slip.

The toilets are well lit with fluorescent tube overhead lighting with a low level light switch. The flooring is non-slip laminate. There are lever taps on the sinks.

Additional information

We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.

Contact information

Address: Coventry Cathedral
1 Hill Top
Coventry
CV1 5AB

Telephone: 024 7652 1200

Email: information@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Website: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

Grid Ref: GR SP 336790

Usual Hours of opening: Monday to Saturday – 10am until 5pm (last entry at 4pm)
Sunday – 12:30 until 4pm* (last entry at 3pm)

*Dependent upon Sunday services

Please note this is a working Cathedral and may close from time to time for a service or event.

Please check the diary on our website or call ahead to check on 024 7652 1200.