

Access Statement for Coventry Cathedral

A warm welcome is at the heart of all we do at Coventry Cathedral, and we want to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

This document aims to cover the key access information for the Cathedral campus, but should you have any specific queries in advance of your visit you can contact Carla Crawley - Head of Tourism and Engagement - via email at Carla.Crawley@Coventry.Anglican.org or you can call the Welcome Team on 02476 521232 during normal Cathedral opening hours.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Introduction

Coventry Cathedral is located in Coventry City Centre, within the historic Cathedral Quarter. The surrounding pavements are a mixture of cobbles, flagstones and modern paving and can be uneven in places. There is level access to all external areas.

The site includes the ruined medieval Cathedral (also known as the 'old' Cathedral, or more commonly 'the Ruins') and the 1960s 'new' Cathedral.

Opening Hours

The New Cathedral is ordinarily open to visitors from 10am until 4pm from Monday to Saturday, and from 12pm until 3:30pm on Sunday. We are a working church and as such opening hours are subject to change, sometimes at short notice, and we recommend checking in advance before making a special visit.

Planning your journey

Information about travelling to Coventry can be found on the Visit Coventry and Coventry City Council websites:

<https://visitcoventry.co.uk/how-to-get-to-coventry/>

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/parking-travel-streets>

Full details and a map of how to reach the Cathedral can be found on our website:

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/visit/visit-coventry-cathedral/find-us>

Car Parking

There is no on-site parking available on the Cathedral campus. The nearest car park is located at Salt Lane - postcode CV1 2GX - roughly a quarter of a mile from the Cathedral. More information can be found here - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory-record/49378/salt-lane-car-park>

Blue Badge Parking

There are Blue Badge spaces on Cuckoo Lane - roughly 100 yards from the cathedral. More information about Blue Badge spaces within the city centre can be found here - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/directory/30/parking/category/129> and a map can be found here - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/17031/city-centre-disabled-parking-bay-map>

There is a drop-off point at the base of the cathedral steps on Priory Street - postcode CV1 5FB - where there is no kerb. There is a ramp which runs adjacent to the steps.

Toilets

There are public toilets at Nave level, located in the Sir John Laing centre. These are individual cubicles which each have their own sink and hand-dryer, and are for mixed-sex use. There is level access to these toilets via the ramp on the left-hand side (facing the Tapestry) of the building. There is an accessible toilet, as well as a separate baby-changing facility.

There are men's and women's toilets located in St. Michael's Gallery. There is a further accessible toilet in the Cathedral undercroft. This is ordinarily only for use by staff and volunteers but should access be needed this can be arranged with one of the staff team.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome in all of our buildings and throughout the campus.

Access to the Ruins

There is level access to the Ruins from Bayley Lane, and from the entrance by the Tower which can be accessed via a path from St. Michael's Avenue. Saint Michael's Avenue is also cobbled but this pathway has an inlay of smooth stone slabs to enable access. There is stepped access between the Ruins and New Cathedral, with handrails both at the sides of the staircase and in the middle.

The Ruins are a mixture of slabs with some cobbled areas, and whilst reasonably flat care should be taken as there are many raised column bases, tombs & memorials at various points in the space. The paving is uneven in places and can be slippery in wet weather or freezing conditions, and for safety reasons the Ruins are shut in extreme weather conditions.

Access to the Tower Base and Shop

There is level access to the Tower base, through double doors, from inside the Ruins (apart from a raised threshold). The floor of the Tower base is paved and generally level. There is ample space within the shop for a wheelchair.

Access to the Tower Climb

There is no wheelchair access to the Tower Climb, which comprises of a narrow spiral staircase. There are one hundred and eighty-one steps, which are uneven in places and can vary in height. The width of the staircase means that passing others can be difficult, however there is a bell-viewing room roughly one-third of the way up where this is possible.

Access to the Blitz Museum

The Blitz Museum is located in the Ruins, to the right of the Charred Cross. There is no level access to the museum, which is located down 7 stone steps. The steps have no handrail. The museum comprises of 5 connected rooms, which are quite narrow at points. The rooms are dressed in a 1940s wartime style and as such can be quite full of items in some places. The exit to the Museum is via 5 steps up, which lead into the altar area of the Ruins where the ground can be uneven and slippery so care should be taken.

Access to the New Cathedral

There is level access to the New Cathedral, which is ordinarily via double doors located at the base of the West (glass) Screen directly opposite the Ruins. These doors are locked open during opening hours. In inclement weather only one may be open, or alternatively access may be via a side door, however a member of staff will be able to assist in this instance.

The floor inside the New Cathedral is largely smooth dark marble paving, however some of the brass lettering at the entrance has lifted slightly so care should be taken when crossing this area.

There is level access for the entire length and width of the Nave. There are ordinarily rows of chairs filling roughly two-thirds of the length of the Nave, however there may be extra chairs in place for large events or services, and on occasion there may be art installations or exhibitions in the space. Ample access is always left in the aisles on both sides to allow movement along the Nave.

The New Cathedral is generally well-lit by a combination of natural sunlight and artificial light; however this light may be dimmed during certain events or services so extra care should be taken during these times.

There is an access ramp on the left-hand side (facing the Tapestry) of the building. This ramp leads to the Sir John Laing Centre on the left, and to the area behind the High Altar to the right - providing level access to the Lady Chapel, Tapestry, and to the Chapel of Christ in Gethsemane.

Access to the Chapels

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. There is an external door which provides level access to the landing which can be opened by a member of staff upon request.

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

Access to the Chapel of Christ the Servant is via four shallow steps, which have a hand rail on both sides. 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 Nave level or sixteen steps up from Saint Michael's Gallery. This is the only means of access.

Access to St. Michael's Gallery and the Cathedral Undercroft

There is access from Nave level via a passenger operated accessible lift, located just inside the Sir John Laing Centre. Visitors should turn left at the top of the ramp on the left-hand side of the Nave, and left again where they will find the lift.

There is external access via a wide smooth path from Priory Street to the Chapter House entrance. External access is via a security coded door so visitors requiring access should inform a member of staff who will be able to assist you. The door can be opened from the inside via a hands-free button.

Access to Youell House

The Cathedral Offices, including the Office of the Dean, are located in Youell House - postcode CV1 5AB - which is not physically connected to the cathedral.

Youell House is located on Hill Top, which is a steep cobbled path and can be slippery in poor weather conditions, or during times of the year when there are a lot of fallen leaves, so extra care should be taken. Youell House can either be accessed from Priory Row - down Hill Top and through the gates roughly halfway down on the left-hand side, or from Fairfax Street via the service road next to the Britannia Hotel, roughly half way up on the right-hand side.

There is level access into Youell House via an intercom system, and an accessible toilet located on the ground floor.

Access to St. Michael's House

Access to St. Michael's House is via 4 stone steps into a double doorway. There is no level access into the building.