

Accessibility Information

St Peter's, Colchester

Last updated: October 2026

Review date: October 2027

Policy owner: The Parochial Church Council

St Peter's is a historic church building, and unfortunately access to both the church and church hall is not yet as straightforward as we would like. We are working towards significant improvements to accessibility, but in the meantime we hope the information below will help you plan your visit. If you have particular access requirements, please contact the Church Office on 07947 146 048. We will do our best to help.

Access to the church

The main entrance to the church is from North Hill. [What3Words: paths.lately.spoke](#)

There are two steps up from the pavement into the churchyard, followed by a further five steps up into the church. Handrails are provided on both sides.

Step-free access to the church is available from the High Street. [What3Words: survey.lunch.nights](#)

This entrance is normally available for our regular Sunday services and major services and events. For smaller services or if you are visiting the church at another time, please contact the Church Office in advance on 07947 146 048 so that we can make the necessary arrangements for step-free access.

Wheelchairs and walking aids in church

We want to welcome those who use wheelchairs, walking frames and other mobility aids, while also ensuring that routes through the church remain clear and that everyone can leave the building safely in an emergency. For this reason, wheelchairs and walking aids cannot be left in the aisles or other circulation and exit routes.

If you are able to transfer safely from a wheelchair or walking aid into a pew, you are very welcome to sit wherever suitable seating is available. Your wheelchair or walking aid will then need to be moved to a safe position nearby. We ask that someone who is able to assist you remains with you throughout the service and could help you return to your wheelchair or walking aid if an emergency evacuation were necessary.

If you need to remain in your wheelchair, please use the designated wheelchair area under the gallery on the north side of the church. This allows us to keep the aisles and evacuation routes clear. Seating can be adjusted to provide a good line of sight from this area.

If you are accompanying someone who may need assistance to evacuate the building – for example as a relative, friend or professional carer – please normally remain with them throughout their visit and be prepared to assist them in an emergency. Alternatively, you may make a specific arrangement for someone else present to take responsibility for providing that assistance. If you do so, please make sure that one of our stewards is aware of the arrangement, so that everyone is clear about who will assist in the event of an emergency.

Please do not leave someone who would be unable to evacuate safely without assistance unless such an arrangement has been made.

If you are bringing a group in which several people use wheelchairs or require assistance with mobility, we would be grateful if you could contact us in advance. This allows us to make suitable arrangements before you arrive.

Accessible toilet

The church has a purpose-designed accessible toilet.

Access to the church hall

The main entrance to the church hall is reached through the churchyard. This route involves steps up from North Hill into the churchyard and then steep steps down from the churchyard to the hall courtyard and entrance, with one step up at the door.

An alternative step-free entrance to the hall is available directly from North Hill, through the passageway beside the North Hill Noodle Bar.

- [What3Words: driven.poetic.drunk](https://www.what3words.com/driven.poetic.drunk)

We do our best to ensure that this passageway remains clear and accessible. As it is shared with our neighbouring premises, there may occasionally be an obstruction. If you experience any difficulty gaining access, please let us know so that we can assist and address the problem.

Please note that, although there is step-free access to the hall, the hall does not currently have an accessible toilet. The purpose-designed accessible toilet is in the church.

If you have particular access needs

We recognise that our present arrangements are not ideal, and improving accessibility to our buildings is an important part of our longer-term plans. In particular, please be aware that there are uneven floors in the church, with broken tiles in places.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about access, or if it would help us to know about your requirements before you visit, please contact the Church Office on 07947 146 048. We would much rather discuss arrangements with you beforehand so that we can make your visit as straightforward and safe as possible.