Church is for everyone! DisABILITY

Three Scriptures to help you reflect:
- Exodus 4:11 God takes responsibility for disability
- Psalm 139:14 We are all made by God in his image
- 1 John 4:19-21 God’s love motivates us - disability is about discipleship - this is part of our mission

Four things every church needs to do:
- Find yourself a good loop system - there are 2.5 million people with hearing impairment in the UK and many of them want to come to church!
- Provide a large print (16 pt) alternative to hymn books, bibles and church newsletters.
- Agree a strategy for how a wheelchair user will come in and join in with the service. (They don't want to be parked somewhere by themselves.)
- Get trained. Order the 60 minute training video or DVD from 'Through the Roof': 'Making your church accessible to disabled people and their families' for £8.

Three facts to urge you to act:
- 1 in 7 of us in the UK are disabled - 1 in 4 of us are affected by disability in some way.
- 'Through the roof' is in touch with 3-400 disabled Christians who have given up on church because they were made to feel unwelcome.
- Latest regulations are there to make services accessible to everyone not just disabled people.

(Based on talks from Paul Dicken, 'Through the roof' and the Archdeacon of Totnes, the Venerable John Rawlings in Paignton, June 2006)
Ten steps forward for your Mission Community, Benefice of parish

As a PCC how many of these principles are you already committed to and how many more do you need to consider?

1. We will move forward in mission together by making the life of our churches in Devon, not just our doorways, accessible to any disabled person who wishes to come.

2. We will welcome disabled people into the life and ministry of our church and we will recognise and affirm their gifts and contributions to daily life in our neighbourhood.

3. We will ask disabled people within our congregation or community about their experiences and we will listen to their advice about how to improve our welcome to disabled people.

4. We will evaluate physical access to our church buildings in the light of God's call to mission. We will consider finances for building alterations alongside budget for other mission activities, recognising that what God has made (people in his image) takes precedent over 'people-made' buildings.

5. We will evaluate our teaching and preaching programmes and include teaching about respecting disabled people as made in the image of God with gifts to bring to the church. We will consider the feelings of disabled people when looking at the healing narratives in the Gospels.

6. We will ask for specific advice about praying with disabled people to be included in any training for intercessors, counsellors and prayer and pastoral teams.

7. We will help each other give a warm welcome to disabled adults, young people and children in our home groups, youth groups and Sunday schools. We will look out for suitable training and resources.

8. Whenever possible we will include disabled people in music, administration, prayer, pastoral teams and other forms of leadership.

9. We will ask our church or group to include a disability awareness session this year around 'Disability Sunday' and invite disabled people to take part in our worship, preach or teach on disability in a Biblical context, and raise understanding of issues faced by disabled people in the church and the wider community.

10. We will find out how many among us are carers for others in their household or family and ask them what sort of support they find helpful and what they don't.

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1 Adapted from 'Making a world of Difference' by Roy McCloughry and Wayne Morris, SPCK Isbn: 0281054231
3 For a church audit contact Debbie Starling Disability Advisor (Voluntary) on dstarling@blueyonder.co.uk or 01803 615234.
4 www.prospects.org.uk (0118 950 8781); www.throughtheroof.org (01372 749955)
5 www.prospects.org.uk (0118 950 8781); www.throughtheroof.org (01372 749955)
6 Download resources from www.throughtheroof.org
7 www.carersweek.org 020 7566 7608; carersindevon@devon.gov.uk 01392 382331
Church is for everyone! Recommended resources


**Enabling Church £7.99**
A Bible-based resource towards the full inclusion of disabled people by Gordon Temple, Lin Ball ISBN 9780281066490, SPCK Publishing.

**Top Tips On Welcoming Special Children £2.99**
A short, really practical book by Denise Abrahall published by Scripture Union as art of their Top Tips Isbn 9781844271269. Every Sunday School should have a copy.

**Vulnerable Communion £10.99**
A theology of disability and hospitality by Thomas E Reynolds published by Baker Book House USA Isbn:9781587431777

**Making a World of Difference £8.99**
Christian Reflections on Disability by Roy McCloughry and Wayne Morris SPCK Isbn: 0281054231
Encourages Christians to reflect on the implications of relating faith to disability. Packed with case studies and useful Bible material. The charter for healing ministry in chapter 10 is particularly helpful in training and encourage a sensitive and respectful approach.

**Resources for Disability Sunday**
Downloadable from [www.throughtheroof.org](http://www.throughtheroof.org) or [www.churchesforall.org.uk](http://www.churchesforall.org.uk)

**Hearts in Motion £2**
A six lesson Bible study exploring disability from a biblical perspective.
Available from [www.throughtheroof.org](http://www.throughtheroof.org) 01372 749955

**Including people with learning disabilities**
Bibles studies, discipleship materials, worship resources. [www.prospects.org.uk](http://www.prospects.org.uk)

**Resource packs on disability for Anglican churches**
**Everyone-together £5** Includes Biblical reflection and disability etiquette.
**Confirmation and Holy Communion £5** For people with learning disabilities in Anglican churches.
**Pastoral Care £5**
Available from Ruth Reed Disabilities Advisor, Liverpool Diocese ruth.reed@liverpool.anglican.org or 0151 705 2130

**Chaplaincy with Deaf People Exeter Diocese**
Revd Catherine Carlyon catherinecarlyon@btopenworld.com or Tel/Minicom 0164724099

**Carers**
Carers Week usually mid June [www.carersweek.org](http://www.carersweek.org) 020 7566 7608
Carers in Devon carersindevon@devon.gov.uk 01392 382331
LINk Devon
Provides useful information about what the people who use services in Devon want and the issues that matter to them. This information can be used to help Health and Social Care providers to plan and develop new and existing services in their area. www.linkdevon.org.uk

Living Options Devon
is a leading, local disability organisation with an excellent reputation for providing a range of user-led projects to improve services, equality of opportunity and social inclusion across the county. Living Options Devon, Isca House, Haven Road, Exeter EX2 8DS info@livingoptions.org www.livingoptions.org tel: 01392 459222 fax: 01392 423427 sms: 07958 517919

Some facts
British Government statistics state that there are approximately 9.8 million disabled people in the UK who are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act, representing about 15% of the population. Consider the following statistics:

- One in four households is affected by disability
- 95% of the population will experience disability at some point in their lives
- Over 5.2 million disabled people are of working age, equivalent to 18% of the working population
- Disabled people are over six times more likely than non-disabled people to be out of work
- Less than 8% of disabled people are wheelchair users - about 550,000 people
- RNIB state that 1 million people are registered blind and another 750,000 cannot see well enough to read a newspaper or recognise someone across a street
- RNID state that more than 8 million people have a degree of hearing loss, including 2.5 million with hearing aids and 100,000 profoundly Deaf people
- There are 1.25 million people with learning disabilities
- There are 410,000 people with epilepsy
- Over 250,000 people have severe facial disfigurement
- 3% of all children under 16 have one or more disabilities
- One person in three will have mental illness at some time in their life
**Church is for everyone!**

Questions from access audit in 'Widening the Eye of the Needle' £10.95 (available from Church House Bookshop, or through your local bookshop), which provides more detailed information about access to historic church buildings.

### APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wheelchair</th>
<th>Ambulant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Is the building within convenient walking distance of car parking?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Is the surface smooth and slip resistant?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Is the route wide enough?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Is the route adequately lit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Is there car parking for people with reduced mobility?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Is it clearly marked out, signed, easily found and kept free from misuse?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Is it as near the entrance as possible?</td>
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</table>

### ROUTES AND EXTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE INCLUDING RAMPS AND STEPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wheelchair</th>
<th>Ambulant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Is there a ramp, with level surfaces at top/intermediate/bottom?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Is it wide enough and suitably graded?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Is the surface slip-resistant?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Are there handrails to one or both sides?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>If a permanent ramp cannot be formed, is a portable ramp available?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Are there (alternative) steps?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Are ramps and steps adequately lit?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wheelchair</th>
<th>Ambulant</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Is the door clearly distinguishable from the façade?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>If glass, is it visible when closed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Does the door opening or one leaf when opened permit passage of a wheelchair or double buggy?</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Does it have a level or flush threshold, and a recessed mat well?</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Can the door furniture be used at both <em>standing</em> and <em>seated</em> height?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Can it be easily grasped and operated?</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>If there is a lobby, do the inner and outer doors meet the same criteria?</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Do junctions between floor surfaces present tripping hazards or cause visual confusion?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Does the lighting installation take into account the needs of people with visual impairments?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Is the reception point fitted with an induction loop?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Is any corridor/passageway/aisle wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Is any corridor etc free from obstruction to wheelchair users and hazards to people with impaired vision?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Do any lobbies allow users to clear one door before approaching the next with minimal manoeuvre?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Are direction or information signs (including means of escape) visible from both sitting and standing eye levels, and are they in <em>upper</em> and <em>lower</em> case and large enough type to be read by those with impaired vision?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Are seating arrangements/spaces available for use by people with visual disabilities?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Are all areas for assembly / meeting equipped with an induction loop system?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Is the location of any <em>steps/stairs/ramps</em> clearly indicated by use of <em>sign/colour/contrast/texture/lighting</em>?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Does any <em>step/stairs/ramp</em> have a handrail to <em>one/both</em> side(s)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Is any level change clearly lit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>If a permanent ramp cannot be provided, can a moveable ramp be made available?</td>
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<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Are steps available as an alternative to any ramp or ramped surface?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DOORS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Do the doors serve a <em>functional/safety</em> purpose?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Can they be readily distinguished?</td>
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<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>If glass, are they visible when shut?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Can people <em>standing</em>, or <em>sitting</em> in a wheelchair see each other, and be seen from either side of the door?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Is any door furniture/handle at a height for <em>standing/sitting</em> use?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Can the door furniture/handles be easily <em>operated/grasped</em>?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LAVATORIES – please see additional guidance below.</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Is WC provision made for people with disabilities?</td>
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<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Do all lavatory areas have slip-resistant floors?</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Can ambulant disabled people manoeuvre, and raise and lower themselves in standard cubicles?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Is provision made for wheelchair users?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>If so, is the wheelchair WC compartment large enough to permit manoeuvre for <em>frontal/lateral/angled/backward, with our without</em> assistance?</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Are the fittings arranged to facilitate these manoeuvres?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Is the tap appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity, grip or strength?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Are suitable grab rails fitted in all the appropriate positions to facilitate use of the WC?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FIXTURES AND FITTINGS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Is any baptistry/font accessible to all users, including those with hearing impediments?</td>
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<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>If the church has pews, are there also spaces for wheelchair users amongst the seating of the congregation?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Is it possible for wheelchair users and people with other disabilities to serve as members of the choir?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>Is it possible for people with disabilities to serve as members of the choir?</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
54. Are all fittings readily distinguishable from their background?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55. Is the <em>church/church hall</em> equipped to provide hearing assistance?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. Does the lighting installation of the <em>church/church hall</em> take into account the needs of people with visual disabilities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57. Are there large print versions of information about the church and activities available?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58. Is there Braille information available for people with visual disabilities?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59. Is there an 'audio' version of information about the church available?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. Where there are staff available in the church and at sales and refreshment facilities are they trained in communication with people with physical and sensory disabilities?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessible toilets
Many Devon churches want to give a welcome to children, older and disabled people but face some practical obstacles particularly in providing toilet facilities. However churches even in rural areas are overcoming these issues. Below you will find some general advice about providing an accessible toilet and also some contacts for potential funding.

Useful contacts
Please do contact the Church Buildings Adviser and disABILITY Adviser for specific help while investigating possibilities.

1. Our Church Buildings Adviser and DAC Secretary offers a site visit to give you some advice at the earliest stage, even when you’re not sure how to proceed.
   Louise Bartlett
   Church Buildings Adviser & DAC Secretary
   Diocese of Exeter
   01392 294944 louise.bartlett@exeter.anglican.org

2. Our DisABILITY Adviser is always ready to come and visit you and provide some advice about ensuring the design of your new toilet is genuinely wheelchair accessible before it’s built!
   Debbie Starling
   disABILITY Awareness Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter (voluntary)
   01626 867129
   07863 398707 debbiestarling@btinternet.com
Disability Access

The following list suggests improvements that can be made to toilets (even if you do not have the space to create full wheelchair access) that will benefit many older people and ambulant disabled members of your congregation. These are only guidelines to help you know what to consider. Make sure you get the right technical advice before you begin. You will need specific technical advice on creating a wheelchair-accessible toilet compartment, as the layout, dimensions and positioning of fittings are all critical, for example it’s essential a toilet has a minimum of 1.5 metres clear turning space inside with the door opening outwards.

• 'Widening the Eye of the Needle' £10.95, available from Church House Publications is particularly helpful for critical measurements.

• **Fit the door** opening outwards if possible to make it easier for people with poor mobility to access.

• **Fit grabrails**: appropriately positioned grabrails can be of great benefit to those with poor mobility, limited movement, balance or grip.

• **Better lighting**: improving lighting in toilets will benefit everyone, particularly those with poor sight or visual impairments.

• **Use of colour**: people with visual impairments may find ‘all-white’ areas difficult to orientate themselves in and to identify fittings such as basins and the toilet itself. Making fixtures and fittings stand out more easily through the good use of contrasting colour is important – it makes toilet compartments and washroom areas much easier to use for all.

• **Floor surfaces**: for safety reasons, could you change shiny or slippery floor surfaces to non-slip surfaces? This will be of help to everyone.

Provide information on nearest accessible toilet facilities

If it is not reasonable to provide a wheelchair accessible toilet for your congregation and visitors, it may be possible to refer them to a nearby place where there is an accessible toilet open during your activities. Look for one that has 1.5 metres clear turning space inside with the door opening outwards.

The Equality Act 2010 (EA)

This gives disabled people important rights of access to everyday activities. Service providers including places of worship and voluntary groups have an obligation to make reasonable adjustments to premises or to the way they provide a service. Sometimes it just takes minor changes to make an activity accessible.

Examples of reasonable adjustments could include:

- installing an induction loop for people who are hearing impaired
- providing disability awareness training for people who have contact with the public
• providing larger, well-defined signage for people with impaired vision
• putting in a ramp at the entrance to a building which has steps

What is considered a reasonable adjustment for a large organisation, like a bank, may be different from a reasonable adjustment for a small local shop. It is about what is practical in the service provider’s individual situation and what resources the business may have. They will not be required to make adjustments that are not reasonable because they are unaffordable or impractical. (See www.direct.gov.uk/DisabledPeople/Everydaylifeandaccess.)

**Where there is no water supply: Composting toilet**

Some churches in the Diocese have in the last 10 years or so installed composting WCs, in one case within the church building, and in others in a separate building in the churchyard. These can be a good solution for rural churches, where connection to mains water or drainage is problematic and/or expensive. Although each location is slightly different, the equipment within is always the same, and consists of a dry composting toilet run on electricity only. No drainage, water supply, or chemicals are needed. Compost toilets are less disruptive of church fabric and archaeology than cesspools or septic tank systems and the residue provides good compost.

There are two types of composting WC; one that requires electricity and has a self contained humus tray within the WC. The compost is retained in a tray within the WC fitting. The amount of usage determines how often the tray has to be emptied. Various capacity WC’s are available depending on the projected usage. These environmentally friendly toilets are about the same size as a conventional convenience. They are odour-free, simple to install and require minimal maintenance. The churchwardens of those churches who have installed them are happy to talk to other parishes about how they work; contact details can be obtained from the DAC office. The second type discharges into a ‘vault’ below the WC floor from which the finished compost is removed. This system does require a soakaway.

Please use the above guidelines to ensure that the fitments and room of composting toilets are fully accessible and suitable for use by disabled people.

To see examples of a local composting toilet which has no plumbing but requires electricity, please see the case study from Shobrooke on our website www.exeter.anglican.org and look under Your Church and then Your Church Building.

**Funding: Grants and Advice for New Facilities in Churches**

Please look at the organisations below for a reference to ‘Community use’ and you may be able to gain funding from them to adapt your premises or put in a fully-accessible toilet. Most churches in Devon who have made this kind of improvement to their facilities have gained funding from someone below to make their building of wider community use.

See also www.churchcare.co.uk/churches - Funding and Resources for Community Projects
The Adapt Trust
ADAPT stands for Access for Disabled people to Arts Premises Today and is the only charity in the UK with the sole aim to advise, encourage and assist arts and heritage venues to create effective access for disabled people. It does this by offering grant-aid, awards for excellence, disability awareness training programmes and a consultancy service. Offers grant aid to assist arts/heritage venues to create better access for disabled people. Contact: The ADAPT Trust, Wellpark, 120 Sydney Street, Glasgow, G31 1JF Tel: 0141 556 2233. Email: adapt.trust@virgin.net

Allchurches Trust Limited
In general terms, the Trustees make charitable grants to the Church and the Christian community. Grants will be considered in response to appeals in support of churches, church establishments, religious charities, charities preserving UK heritage, schools promoting Christian religion, charities sponsored or recommended by the Church in the United Kingdom, the local community and those concerned with the welfare of the disadvantaged and disabled. Will offer grants for repair/restoration, as well as grants for community facilities in church buildings. Applications made in writing with an application form. Contact: Company Secretary, Allchurches Trust Limited, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ Tel: 01452 528533
Website: www.allchurches.co.uk

Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund)
Awards for All England is a simple small grants scheme making awards of between £300 and £10,000. The Awards for All programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. They will fund projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- People have better chances in life - with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- Stronger communities - with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments - which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

They have previously offered grants for churches to install disabled access and toilets in order to make the church buildings more accessible to the wider community, and to purchase equipment for churches which will be used by young people in the community.
Contact: 0845 4 10 20 30. Email: general.enquiries@awardsforall.org.uk
Website: www.awardsforall.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund (Reaching Communities)
The Reaching Communities programme has two strands:
1. Reaching Communities – funding from £10,000 to £500,000 for revenue projects and/or smaller capital projects up to £50,000.
2. Reaching Communities buildings – funding of between £100,000 and £500,000 for large capital building projects.

Reaching Communities funds projects that help people and communities most in need. Projects can be new or existing, or be the core work of your organisation. They will fund projects that will replace or improve buildings where a wide range of community activities
They want to fund buildings that are well used by their community and have an impact long after the building work is completed.

They are targeting the funding at buildings or sites based in the most deprived ‘Lower Super Output Areas’ in England, while also taking into account rural needs. It is vital that you check whether or not you are eligible to apply for this funding by using the eligibility checker on the Big Lottery website. Applications will be assessed on a monthly rolling basis, and the Reaching Communities buildings application process is in three stages. Contact: 0845 4 10 20 30. Email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

The Charles Hayward Foundation
Size of grant available typically £1,000 to £20,000. Fund a limited number of capital projects to accommodate community activities, where the project is a capital build or extension costing less than £250,000. The new facilities must accommodate new activities, which are at a demonstrably advanced stage in their planning. The activities must be designed to meet basic needs of new clients and users. They will fund capital costs of community facilities provided by churches and faith groups. Trustees meet four times a year to consider applications.

Contact: David Brown, Administrator, The Charles Hayward Foundation, Hayward House, 45 Harrington Gardens, London, SW7 4JU
Tel: 020 7370 7063
Website: www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk

The Church and Community Fund (formerly the Central Church Fund)
Grants of up to £15,000 are available to support both capital and revenue projects, including preliminary costs such as feasibility studies or professional fees. All projects should seek to strengthen the relationship between the church and the local community, should benefit the Church locally as a whole, and should manifest a sense of vision in responding to needs. Previous grants offered have included funding projects to enable activities for children and young people; to provide disabled access and facilities to increase community use; and for an extension to a vestry to provide a meeting room, toilet and kitchen facilities. Grants are not made for maintenance, restoration, repair or heritage works to church buildings. Applications are considered at quarterly meetings.

Contact: The Central Church Fund, Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3NZ Tel: 020 7898 1767/1541/1564. Email: ccf@c-of-e.org.uk
Website: www.centralchurchfund.org.uk

Devon County Council Community Fund
Devon County Council has decided that each of its 62 councillors will have at their disposal an annual budget of £15,000 in financial year 2011/12. The budgets will enable Councillors to respond to local needs in their divisions and support projects or activities for the benefit of the communities which they represent. The Community Strategy Officers team is responsible for overseeing the administration of the scheme and will provide whatever support is necessary to enable members to make the best use of their funds. Councillors in neighbouring areas will be able to combine their money for larger-scale projects.
Contact should be made through your local county councillor direct with a case for the project including brief evidence of strategic and local need, outline costings, key project benefits, and how it meets the objectives of community/voluntary provision of local services. Further details: http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/county_councillors/locality-budgets.htm

The Garfield Weston Foundation
The Garfield Weston Foundation runs a specific grant programme for churches, including grants for modifications to improve community use, for re-ordering, improving disabled access, and creating toilet and kitchen facilities. The Foundation will also consider giving grants for the preservation of religious buildings of historic or architectural interest.
Contact: The Administrator, Garfield Weston Foundation, Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QY Tel: 020 7399 6565; Fax: 020 7399 6580
Website: www.garfieldweston.org.uk
Specific details on church applications: www.garfieldweston.org.uk/policy/ChurchApplications.aspx

National Churches Trust (formerly The Historic Churches Preservation Trust)
Will consider both listed and unlisted churches, chapels and meeting houses of any age, as long as they are open for public worship. All projects must be overseen by an architect who is either ARB, RIBA or AABC accredited, or by a chartered surveyor who is RICS accredited. Churches can apply to their ‘Cornerstone’ programme, for grants of at least £40,000 towards major repair projects with estimated costs in excess of £50,000; to the ‘Foundation’ Programme for grants from £2,500 to £39,000, and to the ‘Community’ Programme for grants for the installation of new facilities. Further details can be found on their helpful website.
Contact: The National Churches Trust, 31 Newbury Street, London EC1A 7HU
Tel: 020 7600 6090
E mail: grants@nationalchurchestrust.org
http://nationalchurchestrust.org/

The Rank Foundation
Concentrates on the promotion of Christian principles through film and other media, encouraging and developing leadership amongst young people, and supporting disadvantaged young people and those frail or lonely through old age or disability. In general, they do not make grants for church buildings, except where community facilities form an integral part of the appeal. They have previously funded extensions to churches, and upgrading facilities in churches so that they can be used by both the church and the wider community. Contact: Mrs Jan Carter, The Rank Foundation, 12 Warwick Square, London, SW1V 2AA Tel: 020 7834 7731. Email: jan.carter@rankfoundation.com
Website: www.rankfoundation.com

Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund (suitable for church halls)
ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) manages this fund on behalf of DEFRA. The aim of this fund is to provide unsecured loans to those looking to meet the costs of: providing a new building; extending or renovating an existing building; upgrading a building to meet fire standards, building regulations, security needs etc; and/or improving accessibility.
The aim of the loan fund is to provide an alternative funding source other than grant aid. A loan can be used for a wide variety of purposes. It can help with cash flow until a promised grant is awarded; enable a project to start immediately rather than waiting for all the funds to come in (only to find a subsequent increase in project costs); or to help build or purchase a hall.

Contact: ACRE, Somerford Court, Somerford Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1TW Tel: 01285 653477 Email: acre@acre.org.uk
Website: www.acre.org.uk/communityassets_villagehalls_loanfund.html
The Tudor Trust
An independent grant-making trust which supports organisations working across the UK. They aim to support work which addresses the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of our society, and are particularly interested in helping smaller, under-resourced organisations which offer direct services and which involve the people they work with in their planning. They will fund applications that work in the areas of youth, older people, community, housing, relationships, mental health, substance misuse, learning, financial security and criminal justice.

Churches which are engaged in community projects which address these issues can apply. They will not fund projects for the promotion of religion. There is no maximum or minimum grant amount. Grants can take the form of core funding (including salaries and running costs), development funding, project grants or capital grants for buildings or equipment.
Contact: The Tudor Trust, 7 Ladbroke Grove, London, W11 3BD
Tel: 020 7727 8522 Website: www.tudortrust.org.uk

The Village Core Programme
The Village Core Programme supports the establishment of community-owned shops in rural communities in England that can become viable and sustainable community enterprises. Grants are available for rural communities of at least 300 people, and where the initiative will provide the only food store and/or Post Office in the village and geographical area of the planned activity. The project will need to provide identifiable benefits to a minimum of 50 rural residents whose lives would be significantly disadvantaged without the presence of a village shop.

The Village CORE Programme is managed by the Plunkett Foundation in partnership with Co-operative & Community Finance and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. It provides advisory support along with a £40,000 funding package comprised of a £20,000 grant matched with a £20,000 loan which is also matched by the equivalent community contributions. Church buildings may provide suitable sites for shops as well as being eligible to apply themselves. Further information is available on the website.
Contact: Village CORE Programme, Plunkett Foundation, The Quadrangle, Oxfordshire, OX20 1LH Tel: 01993 814377. Email: ruralcommunityshops@plunkett.co.uk Website: www.plunkett.co.uk

Community Council of Devon: Community Buildings Advice Service
The CCD is part of a national network of Rural Community Councils. They offer support, training and information about funding, current legislation, sustainability or other topics specific to rural community buildings. They also administer the County Grants Scheme for Devon County Council.

The County Grants Scheme is for capital projects (e.g. refurbishments, extensions, building costs) for village halls. They provide 1/3rd of the funding, 1/3rd is matched by the District Council in which the Village Hall is situated, and 1/3rd is matched by the Village Hall Committee through local fundraising. For further information, contact CCD. Organisations seeking advice (not funding) for similar projects in Plymouth should contact the Plymouth Community Partnership.
Community Council of Devon, First Floor, 3 & 4 Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close, Matford Business Park, Exeter EX2 4QB Tel 01392 248919; Email: grants@devonrcc.org.uk;
South Hams Community Grant Fund

Will support projects that meet a Council priority (affordable housing, supporting the economy, maintaining a distinct and clean environment and improving access to services), and projects which help to meet the Council’s cross-cutting themes of climate change, meeting the needs of young people and promoting a healthier community.

The CGF provides one-off ‘seed bed’ funding of up to 50% of the total project cost to new projects and initiatives. It is unable to fund ongoing projects, repairs or maintenance. All projects must involve and benefit the community and have their match funding identified and preferably secured.

Projects for church use alone will not be eligible. If a church was looking to build a community hall which would be used by the whole community, then potentially it would be eligible to apply. Such an application would be most likely to succeed in a community without an existing community facility such as a village or parish hall. Evidence would need to be provided regarding the need for a hall in all cases, and in particular in the case of an application from a church in a community with an existing community facility.

Installing new facilities and improving disabled access to church halls could also be eligible. All projects should be discussed with the Community Development Team before an application is submitted. Contact: South Hams District Council, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes, TQ9 5NE Tel: 01803 861234. Email: community@southhams.gov.uk

Website: www.southhams.gov.uk/index/residents_index/ksp-community-support/ksp-communitygrants.htm

More on Funding
To see a fuller document about potential funders please visit our website www.exeter.anglican.org and look under Your Church and then Your Church Building.

Sally Farrant
Social Responsibility Officer
Church and Society 01392 294940
Sally.farrant@exeter.anglican.org