

Disability Access Statement

As at December 2026



Welcome to St. Leonard's, Clawton. This ancient Grade 1 listed parish church has some Norman features, a tower and arcades in the north and south aisles from the 14th century and 15th-century arches of Polyphant stone. This access statement is aimed at helping you understand any challenges faced by visitors with restricted mobility, sight or hearing.

Access from the road

The church entrance has a small pull-in for cars where visitors can be dropped off, and parking is along the left side of the road facing up the hill. From the pull-in there is a fairly steep slope of ridged concrete for approximately 30ft to the gate, with a handrail on the right. From the gate a tarmac path with a reasonably good surface runs approximately level to the south porch.



External Lighting

For those attending evening Services during the dark winter months a torch is recommended as there is no lighting on the road outside the church or at the entrance gate. There is a movement-activated floodlight at the north-east corner of the tower facing the entrance gateway and further round the path on the approach to the south porch, where there is an internal light.

Internal floor surfaces

The south porch (right) has a step up (7cm) at the door with wheelchair access enabled by a short ramp.



The inside of this threshold step has a 10cm drop to the tiled floor and a metal portable folding ramp is available for wheelchair users. Otherwise the floor of the nave and aisles is tiled and level.





There are internal steps up to the chancel (15cm then 16cm) as shown on the left. As the church is Grade I listed it is not permissible to put edge-markings on the steps – please ask for assistance if you have impaired vision and may find these steps difficult to see. The minister will be happy to bring the blessed bread and wine of Holy Communion to the seat of anyone who might find difficulty in climbing the chancel step; please let a sidesman know if you would find this helpful.

The base of the tower (from where the bells are rung) has a set of steps.



Seating

The nave of the church has pews but is wide enough to allow a wheelchair to be positioned alongside any row of pews while still leaving room for others to pass by. For members of the congregation who find standing difficult please be assured that when the minister invites the congregation to stand you are welcome to remain seated.

Hearing assistance

The church is not currently fitted with an induction-loop system.

Large print assistance

Large print hymn books and Orders of Service are available on request.

Toilet

There is an emergency chemical toilet and handwashing facility in a wooden hut at the West end of the church - go outside and to the right then follow the path round. This toilet is not wheelchair accessible.

Should you have any queries regarding access to the Church or this statement please contact church secretary Paul Grafton on 01409 271456 (paul@devonholidays.org) or the Churchwarden.