



Access Statement

Introduction

The Beonna at All Saints is a Grade I listed building of national heritage importance. Its nave was constructed in around 1200 and expanded between 1400 and 1500 to add the chancel, tower, side aisles and porch. All Saints remained in use as a church until it was declared closed in 2003. A community-led project, supported by funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund, has restored, renovated and modernised the building, adding modern facilities and improving accessibility. The churchyard remains open to the public as a burial ground and has recently benefitted from a combination of new and newly-surfaced footpaths that have improved access to the building and across the site. A car park and drive were added in 2019.

This access statement aims to provide the information that will help you to know what to expect if coming to The Beonna to visit the building, use the café and other facilities or participate in an activity or event.

Car parking

The Beonna has a large free car park, which is entered from Main Road (the A52). The majority of the car park is gravelled, with a tarmac drive leading to the building. Spaces adjacent to the drive are reserved for visitors with mobility needs.

The car park is available for cars, minibuses and coaches. We ask that, where possible, drivers of minibuses and coaches contact us in advance to enable us to ensure that a space of sufficient size is available.

The car park is open during Beonna opening hours, for special events and activities and during all community and private hire.

Free on-street parking is also available on Bede Crescent, to the east of the site. A flat tarmac footpath from Bede Crescent runs along the northern perimeter of the churchyard.

Access

The Beonna is accessed from the car park via the tarmac drive. This leads directly to the main entrance.

Tarmac footpaths also lead to the building from the north east (adjacent to the almshouses) and from the east (onto Main Road). The latter is accessed through a low-level metal gate.

A separate footpath, also with a tarmac service, runs along the northern perimeter of the churchyard from Main Road to Bede Crescent.

There are no inclines or steps in the churchyard or on the drive or any of the paths.

While the churchyard is generally flat it does contain headstones that may be sunken and/or partially concealed and we consequently recommend caution when moving across the grass.

At the time of writing (February 2019) high-level lights are being installed in the car park and along the drive. Lower-level lights are also due to be installed both on the drive and at the main entrance to the building.

Inside The Beonna

The Beonna was renovated and refurbished in 2017-18 and is DDA compliant.

In the east end of the chancel there are two staggered steps leading to the holy table. The chancel itself is entered from the nave via a gentle ramp with handrails on each side. However, all other floors across the building are flat with no steps or inclines.

With the exception of the choir stalls in the chancel there are no pews in The Beonna. All of our seating takes the form of individual chairs, the majority lightweight and stackable. The chairs in our meeting room are heavier and include 2 seats with armrests and 12 without. Alternative seating can be provided if preferred.

Our meeting room is accessed by two glass doors that open fully both inwards and outwards. The glass panel separating the meeting room from the café area can also be folded back to create a single larger space. The tables inside the meeting room are on wheeled frames and can be removed from the room or placed in different configurations.

All of our interior and exterior doors have sufficient clearance for wheelchair users to pass through easily.

WC

The Beonna has a fully accessible and DDA compliant WC. There are also male and female WCs. WCs are situated in the café area, opposite the servery, to the west of the main door.

Religious services

The Beonna is a multi-use building and evening prayers and occasional small services are held in the chancel. The person leading the service usually stands in the stepped (east) end of the chancel. Although most attendees sit in the wooden choir stalls we also warmly welcome wheelchair users and anyone who would prefer to use chairs from the nave, which can be placed in the chancel's large aisle.

Larger services are delivered in the nave (main body) of the building, using normal chairs. Assistance is available for anyone who for mobility or other practical reasons would like seats to be repositioned or moved.

The person leading a service may invite the congregation to stand at certain points. You are most welcome to remain seated if this is more comfortable for you or is necessary in your circumstances. During services in which Holy Communion is given it is our practice to take the bread and wine to anyone who may prefer this for any practical reason, including but not limited to difficulty in accessing or climbing the chancel steps. If you would find this helpful please inform the person leading the service.

After larger services refreshments are usually served from the servery. All attendees are most welcome to stay and members of the church will be pleased to assist in obtaining refreshments for you.

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