

Access Statement for Coventry Cathedral 2026

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 provide the key access information for the Cathedral, but should you have any specific queries in advance of your visit you can contact the Welcome Team, on 02476 521232 during normal opening times or through the contact us part of the website.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Introduction

Coventry Cathedral is situated on Hill Top within the historic Cathedral Quarter. The site includes the ruined Medieval Cathedral, known as the Old Cathedral or the ruins and the New Cathedral that was completed in 1962.

Our neighbours include places of interest such as Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's Guild Hall, Draper's Hall and the Herbert Art Gallery.

The pavements around this area are a mixture of cobbles, flagstones and modern paving. There is level access to all external areas of the Cathedral.

Opening Times

The New Cathedral is ordinarily open to visitors from 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday and then 12pm until 3.30pm on Sundays. We also welcome you to join us for our services including morning prayer, evensong and Sunday worship. We are a working church and as such opening hours are subject to change, sometimes at short notice. Please check the Cathedral Calendar found on the website in advance before making a special visit.

[Full calendar - Coventry Cathedral](#)

Planning your journey

The Cathedral is very close to Pool Meadow Bus Station and about a mile and a half from Coventry Train Station.

Further useful information about visiting Coventry can be found on the Visit Coventry website [Maps and Guides for Coventry](#)

Car Parking

There is no on-site parking available for visitors. The nearest car park is located at Salt Lane – postcode CV1 2GX- roughly a quarter of a mile from the Cathedral.

More information about parking in Coventry City Centre can be found on here-

coventrycitycentre.co.uk/parking/

Information about Blue Badge parking in Coventry City Centre can be found here - [Coventry Information Directory | Location of disabled parking in Coventry](#)

Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome in all of our buildings.

Toilets

There are public toilets at the Nave level situated at the entrance to the John Laing Centre. These are individual cubicles with their own sink and hand dryer. There is an accessible toilet, as well as a separate baby changing facility. There are additional toilets in St Michael's Gallery.

The nearest Changing Place can be found at the Mobility Centre next to Salt Lane Car Park on Greyfriars Lane or at the Central Library in the shopping precinct. More information about the opening times and locations can be found here -

[Changing Places Toilets](#)

Access resources

We have access bags available for our younger visitors. These include ear defenders, doodle pads, fidget toys, magnifying glasses and timers. We also have balance cushions available.

There is Braille guide of the Cathedral available along with a model of the Cathedral designed for people with visual impairments to handle.

Please ask at the welcome desk if you would like to borrow these resources for the duration of your visit.

New Cathedral access

There is ramp access from Priory Street to the New Cathedral entrance and there is level access down St Michael's Avenue. The main entrance to the New Cathedral is through the glass doors, welcomers can support with opening these if needed.

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

There is level access the entire length and width of the Nave. Rows of chairs ordinarily fill this space and fill roughly two thirds of the Nave. There may be additional chairs in place for

larger services or events. On occasion, there are exhibitions and art exhibitions in the space. Ample access is always left on both sides to allow for movement along the Nave.

The New Cathedral is generally well lit by a combination of natural sunlight and artificial light. For some events and services lights can be dimmed or additional lighting may be used. Extra care should be taken during these times.

There is gentle sloping access to the John Laing Centre and the rear of the High Altar giving access to the Lady Chapel, the tapestry and the Chapel of Gethsemane.

There is only stepped access to the Chancel and High Altar.

Access to other chapels

Access to the Chapel of Unity is via four steps followed by a landing, followed by three additional steps with no hand rail. There is an external door with flat access to the landing.

The Lady Chapel and Gethsemene Chapel can be approached via the shallow ramp with hand rails on both sides or via eight shallow steps again with hand rails on both sides. The Chapel of Industry (Chapel of the Servant) is accessed by four wide, shallow steps. There is a significant change to the lighting in this area so care should be taken on entering and exiting this space.

The Millenium Chapel is accessible via 16 steps down from the Nave level or 16 steps up from St Michael's Gallery.

Access to St Michael's Gallery and the Undercroft.

The public accessible lift is found at the entrance to the John Laing Centre and this goes to St Michael's Gallery and the Undercroft area.

There is a wide smooth path down to the doors to St Michael's Gallery from Priory Street. Access is via a coded door. Please inform a member of staff if access is needed via this door and they will be happy to assist.

Access to the Chapter House and Old Refectory are both level with wide access doors.

Access to the Old Cathedral

There is level access to the ruins from Bailey Lane and St Michael's Avenue via the entrance next to the Tower. The ruins have a mixture of slabs with some cobbled areas. Reasonable care should be taken as there are raised pillar bases, tombs and memorials at various locations. Paving can be uneven and slippery in wet or icy conditions. For safety reasons the ruins are closed in extreme weather.

Access to the Blitz Museum

The museum is located in the ruins, to the right of the Chancel. There is no level access to the museum. The entrance is via seven stone steps. The museum comprises five connected

rooms with limited space in some areas. The exit is up five steps and lead into the altar area where the ground can be slippery and uneven.

Access to the Tower Base and Shop

There is level access into the Tower Base and Shop through double doors. The floor of the Tower is paved and generally level. There is space for a wheelchair within the shop.

Access to the Tower Climb

There is no wheelchair access to the Tower Climb, which comprises a narrow spiral staircase. There are 181 steps, which are uneven and vary in height. The staircase is narrow and passing others can be difficult. There is a bell ringing viewing room roughly one third of the way up where passing others is possible.

Access to St Michael's House, Priory Row

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