

DERBY CIRCUIT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

CIRCUIT POLICY TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

We believe that ALL people are loved by God. We will extend a warm and sincere welcome to all people with a disability. The Circuit will work with people with a disability*, enabling them to share and develop their gifts and abilities within the life of the Circuit.

1. We will endeavour to ensure that all people with a disability have an equal opportunity to experience the love of God and to grow spiritually.
2. We will seek to become aware of the special needs of people with a disability and their carers through consultation with them and through contact with various Disability groups in the community
3. We will ensure that as far as possible venues for Circuit events are accessible to people with disabilities, that provision is made for those with visual/hearing impairment and that we conform with the DDA*
4. We will endeavour to ensure that a Circuit Disability and Special Needs Liaison Officer is appointed. Through them, and by other means as appropriate, we will endeavour to encourage churches within the circuit to make provision for people with a disability, to conform to the DDA and to care for their pastoral needs.
5. The Circuit will review this policy annually or in the event of an incident.

**The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) states that: 'A Disabled Person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has an effect which is substantial, adverse and long term, on his or her ability to carry out day-to-day activities. Physical or mental impairment includes a sensory impairment. Hidden impairments are covered in the Act. An effect is substantial if it is more than minor or trivial. An effect is long term if it has lasted (or is likely to last) for at least a year, or is likely to last for the rest of the life of the person affected.'*