**Accessibility Guidance Checklist**

**Car parking at your church**

Good car parking is essential for disabled people or people who have problems with mobility. This checklist will help you consider what you can do to help those in greater need of accessible parking choice.

The current UK norm for disabled parking spaces is 2.4 meters wide by 4.8 meters long (see British Parking Association reference below for more information).

If you do not have a car park, but are aware that a disabled driver is coming to a service or event, you may be able to create a temporary parking space with bollards and a notice with the person’s name on it. However, it is worth checking whether the visitor will have someone with them to move the bollards.

Consideration should be given to the surface of the car park. Wheelchairs do not function well in gravel so you should seek to use alternative options if your car park has a gravel surface.

It is also worth being aware of the condition of your car park surface. Carers do not welcome having to stand ankle deep in puddles when helping someone using a wheelchair to exit their vehicle.

**Further information:**

* Information on parking bay requirements can be found at [Bay\_Sizes\_-\_Jul\_2016.pdf (britishparking.co.uk)](https://www.britishparking.co.uk/write/Documents/Library%202016/Bay_Sizes_-_Jul_2016.pdf)
* The Baptist Union has produced a leaflet on things to consider when building a church car park [BUC GUIDELINES (baptist.org.uk)](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=227108&view=browser)

**Here is a checklist of things to bear in mind when thinking about car parking.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Action to consider | Tick when complete |
| Disabled parking bay  Is there at least one designated disabled parking bay or one that can be arranged on request? |  |
| Car park surface  What is the surface of the car park? Is it suitable for wheelchair users and their carers? Gravel is not suitable for wheelchairs, but there are similar, finer surfaces which may be suitable and possibly cheaper than asphalt. Please seek expert advice when exploring these options. |  |
| Clear path access  Is there a hazard free path to the church building and is it obvious? |  |
| Signage  Is there clear signage for where to go to enter/exit the building? Is it obvious if one entrance is accessible and others are not? |  |