



MDPAG Polling Station Access Surveys 2019
Redeemed Christian Church of God Strong Tower Miracle Arena

Venue	Access	Notes
<p>1. Redeemed Christian Church of God Strong Tower Miracle Arena</p> <p>Contact: Taiwo Adegbola Visited on 21st October, 2019</p> <p>Surveyor: Flick Harris</p>	<p>Approach to the polling station</p>	<p>1.1 The approach to the church is along a narrow pavement and small road.</p> <p>1.2 There is no dedicated parking and cars park on the pavement because of the narrow approach road. This is an obstruction for visually impaired people in particular.</p> <p>1.3 There is no dropped kerb on to the narrow pavement.</p> <p>1.4 The church is accessed by steps and a ramp. The steps are very uneven with gaps between them. There is a handrail only to one side. The ramp has no handrails although it has a gentle gradient. There is no colour contrasted indication at each end of the ramp and the steps have no contrasted colour on the nosings. I was told that most people use the ramp.</p> <p>1.5 The main entrance door is double leaf and when both are open it is adequate at 1300mm</p> <p>1.6 The second set of doors are 1200mm wide when both sides are kept open. I was informed that on polling day, both doors will be held open but the minister was concerned about fire regulations.</p>
	<p>Internal route to the area to be used as the polling station</p>	<p>1.7 It was envisaged that a small room, immediately to the left of the second entrance doors, would be used as the polling room. However, the width of the door to the small room is only 760mm which would not be wide enough for all wheelchair users and others with assistance dogs or needing other assistance. Design for Access 2 recommends a minimum of 850mm.</p>

		<p>1.8 It is recommended that the main church hall, directly opposite to the main entrance, be used for polling purposes. The minister indicated that this would be acceptable. The chairs down one side would be moved.</p> <p>1.9 The doors to the main hall would both have to be kept open. The width of both open doors is 1200mm</p>
	Room to be used as the polling station	<p>1.10 The main church room would be suitable for wheelchair and scooter users</p> <p>1.11 The floor surface is smooth and non-slip and non-reflective.</p> <p>1.12 The lighting is rather uneven but the minister demonstrated how the curtains could be opened, letting in more daylight.</p>
	Other facilities or barriers	<p>1.13 There is no accessible toilet. There are plans to build an extension for an accessible toilet and to improve the ramp in the future.</p>
	Recommendations	<p>1.14 The building requires clear external and internal signage</p> <p>1.15 The polling station should be located in the church if the venue is used.</p> <p>1.16 However, access to the church, particularly by the steps, is unsafe and requires maintenance. The ramp requires handrails and there is no accessible toilet.</p>

Appendix: Images of the venue

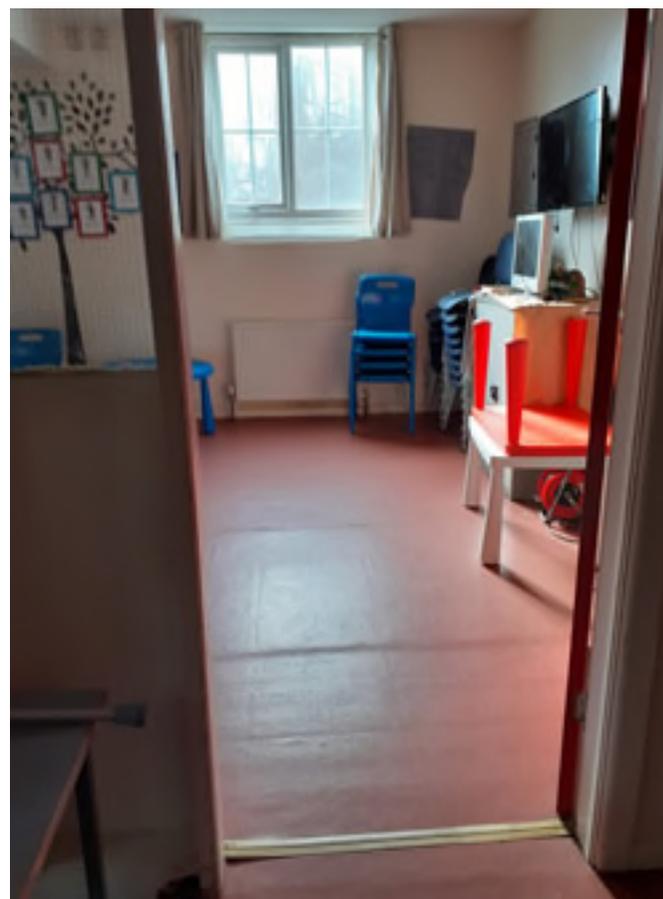
Main entrance route and parking spaces



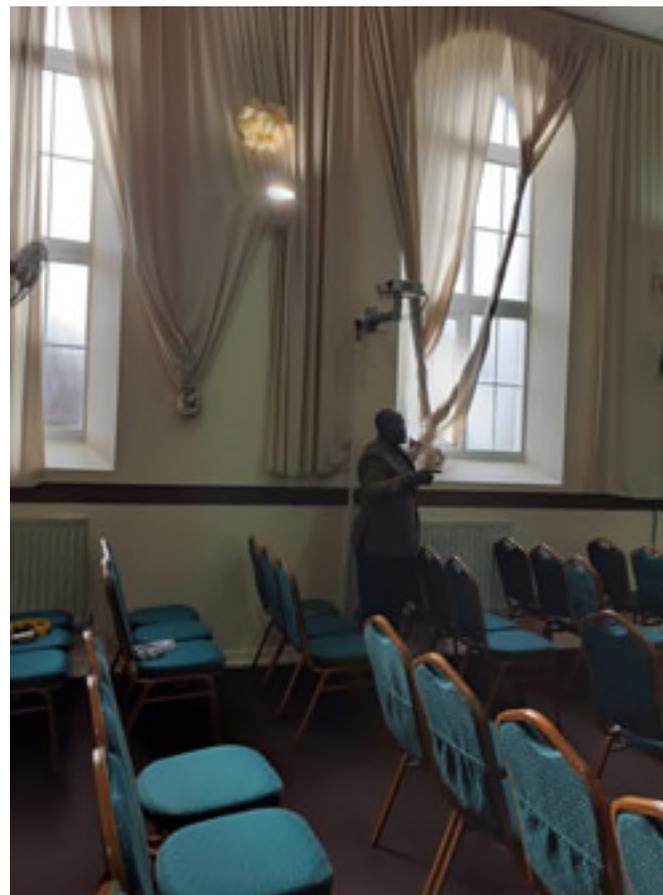
Steps and ramp



Entrance doors to main building area and to small room



Church area





MDPAG Polling Station Access Surveys 2019
St. Mary of the Angels and St. Clare, Parish Centre

Venue	Access	Notes
<p>1. St Mary of the Angels and St Clare, Parish Centre</p> <p>Contact: Jennifer Jones Visited on 20th and 23rd October, 2019</p> <p>Surveyor: Flick Harris</p>	<p>Approach to the polling station</p>	<p>1.1 The Community Centre building is located to the right of the church and the entrance is not very well lit at night but should be easily recognised if there is adequate signage to the polling station.</p> <p>1.2 The main church is easily seen, has a wide vehicle and pedestrian entrance. The entrance, ramp and door needs better signage for occasional visitors. Good polling station signage is required.</p> <p>1.3 There are many parking spaces in front of the church and in front of the Centre which is to be used for polling purposes. There are marked out accessible parking spaces in front of the main church building though they are a short walk away from the centre. However, there would appear to be sufficient parking spaces overall.</p> <p>1.4 There is a ramp to the main entrance of the Centre with handrails to both sides. The ramp has no upstands on the left side on approach to the building but the edge could be highlighted with coloured paint well contrasted with the surface of the ramp.</p> <p>1.5 The ramp is reasonably contrasted with the roadway but the handrails are set high at 1600mm and are metal and not warm to the touch. Paint could also be used to indicate the bottom and top of the ramp. The handrails to the right side of the building finish before the entrance but this space will be enclosed with each door kept open on the polling day.</p> <p>1.6 The width of the main entrance door which double sided is 760mm x 2 (1520mm). I was advised that both doors would be kept open for polling day which would be sufficiently wide for everyone.</p>

	Internal route to the area to be used as the polling station	<p>1.7 It was envisaged that the small room, immediately opposite to the main entrance would be used as the polling room. However, the width of the door to the small room is only 820mm which would not be wide enough for all wheelchair users. Design for Access 2 recommends a minimum of 850mm. It would be confusing to some people to enter via the hall and then enter via a set of doors. Also entering through the small door takes people past a row of tables and chairs.</p> <p>1.8 The carpet is pink and patterned and the chairs are a similar colour so could be confusing for some visually impaired people.</p> <p>1.9 It is recommended that the main hall, next to the smaller room be used for polling purposes. The venue representative indicated that this would be acceptable.</p> <p>1.10 The doors to the main hall would both have to be kept open. The width of the doors are approximately 700mm x 2 (1400mm)</p>
	Room to be used as the polling station	<p>1.11 The hall is accessible for wheelchair and scooter users and is well lit.</p> <p>1.12 The floor surface is smooth and non-slip although somewhat reflective. This should be alleviated with the location of polling booths, tables and chairs.</p> <p>1.13 The room is regularly used for community activities.</p>
	Other facilities or barriers	<p>1.14 There is an accessible toilet. The emergency cord was tied up and this was discussed with the venue representative, who agreed to extend the cord to the floor. The fixtures and fittings are white against a white background and it was recommended that the walls are painted a dark colour such as blue to contrast the fixtures and fittings for visually impaired people. There was a bin located under the hand dryer and it was recommended that this bin was moved to another place, other than to the transfer space. The transfer space was a bit restricted particularly by pipes but probably sufficient for polling purposes in the short term. The floor was clearly contrasted with the walls. There is a flashing alarm for people who are deaf or hard of hearing as well as standard emergency alarms, which we tested on the visit.</p> <p>1.15 There is access from the hall for staff to a small kitchen area with washing facilities, fridge and cooking facilities.</p>

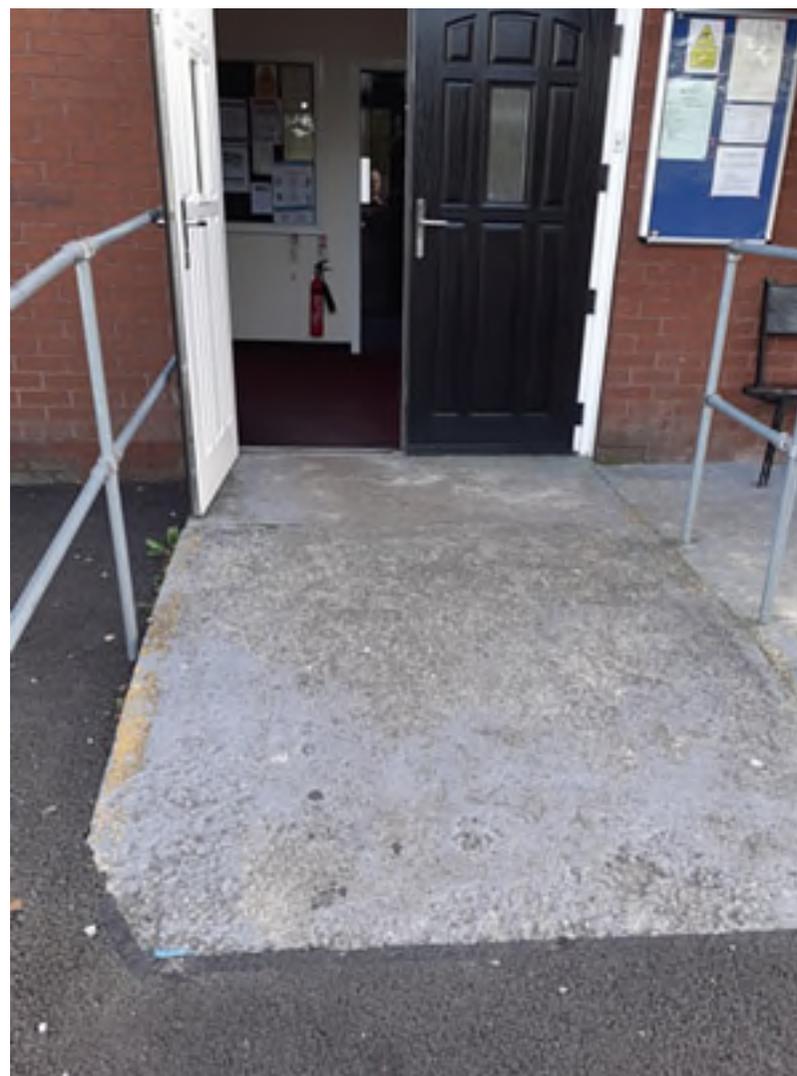
		1.16 There is also access to male and female toilet facilities in the area opposite the main door
	Recommendations	1.19 The building requires clear external and internal signage. 1.20 The polling station would be more accessible if moved from the smaller room to the main hall. 1.21 Doors should be kept open during polling hours. 1.22 The edge of the ramp, where there is a drop and no upstand, should be marked with colour contrasted paint to indicate a hazard. 1.23 The emergency cord in the accessible toilet should be extended to the floor in case someone falls so that it is reachable.

Appendix: Images of the venue

External signage, main entrance route and selection of parking spaces



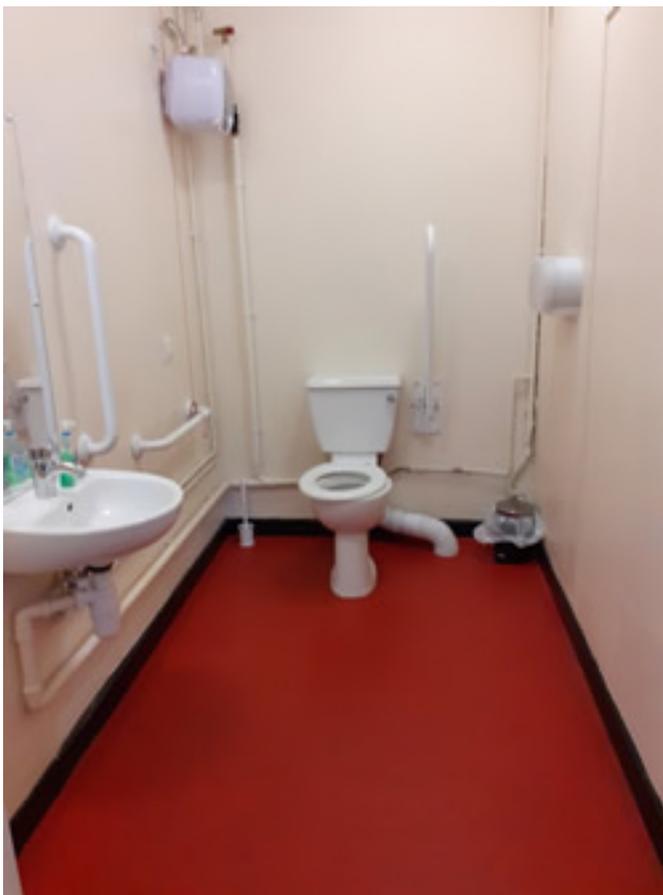
Main entrance door and ramp



Internal doors to small room and to hall



Accessible toilet





MDPAG Polling Station Access Surveys 2019
Yes Building

Venue	Access	Notes
<p>1. Yes Building</p> <p>Contact: Ike Obe Visited on 21st October, 2019</p> <p>Surveyor: Flick Harris</p>	<p>Approach to the polling station</p>	<p>1.1 There is a side door with steps and a ramp and both have handrails but only on one side. Neither the steps nor the ramp are highlighted at the bottom or top and the steps are not highlighted on their nosings. There are plants and grass around the end of the ramp which need to be removed. This door is not generally used.</p> <p>1.2 The Yes building is well signposted and is located on a main road with many buses travelling the route. Bus stops are near to the entrance.</p> <p>1.3 There are a small number of parking areas along the road which are normally occupied and many cars park on the pavements, which is a bit hazardous for pedestrians. However, there is also parking along the side roads near to the Centre.</p> <p>1.4 There is no dropped kerb in the front of the Centre but there is one at the side entrance, where there is also room for a small number of cars to park, although parking spaces are not marked out. It would be helpful to have at least one space at the side of the building marked as an accessible parking bay.</p> <p>1.5 The steps at the main entrance have a handrail only to one side and are not highlighted at the top and bottom or on the nosings. They also need maintenance to remove rubbish and weeds.</p> <p>1.6 The ramp has a handrail only to one side and is not highlighted at the top or bottom and has no tactile or visual warning of a change of level. The ramp needs regular maintenance to remove weeds at the bottom.</p>

		<p>1.7 The pink main entrance door is 1500mm wide when both doors are open, and is well contrasted with the building and the approach.</p> <p>1.8 There are two interior doors which are generally closed and it is recommended that they are kept open during the polling day to ensure accessibility. There may be a security issue if this recommendation is followed so staff may need to supervise to ensure the safety of the many computers in the building.</p>
	Internal route to the area to be used as the polling station	<p>1.9 Voters would enter the reception area which has computers that can be used by visitors, a reception area with seating and a reception desk, an accessible toilet, a small corridor to an office and a small corridor to a main area with computers for use and a large table, and another small corridor to the room suggested for the polling station and access to stairs and other office facilities. The door width from the corridor to the main area is approximately 840mm which is a bit small but probably adequate for most wheelchair users. There would be no alternative provision in the building.</p>
	Room to be used as the polling station	<p>1.10 The room initially considered for polling is at the end of a small corridor which is quite dark. The width of the door is only 730mm so it is recommended that the main area is considered for voting. The Centre manager was not sure if this was possible, as there are people coming and going in this area and using the computers along the window and wall.</p> <p>1.11 The small room is light and adequate for use as a polling station but the doorway would not be accessible for most wheelchair users. It is suggested that further discussions should take place with the centre manager about the use of the main space.</p>
	Other facilities or barriers	<p>1.12 There is an accessible toilet available for everyone which although there are some design faults, would be acceptable in the short term.</p> <p>1.13 The handle is high at 1300mm from the floor to the top, there is no shelf for ostomy users and the lever taps are small. It would be useful to have paper towels as well as a hand dryer for neuro-diverse people as some may find the sound of a dryer upsetting. A long mirror would be more useful for wheelchair users. The handles and locks on the door are not standard Doc M design to meet Building Regulations and BS 8300 standards, and it is not very clear</p>

		<p>when the toilet is engaged. However, the main facilities are acceptable in the short term.</p> <p>1.14 There is no flashing alarm to indicate to people who are deaf or hard of hearing that there is an emergency.</p> <p>1.15 The transfer space is adequate for some wheelchair users but some wheelchair users transfer from the front.</p> <p>1.16 The alarm cord was tied up and not to the floor but the manager agree to extend the cord to the floor.</p> <p>1.17 There is no colour contrast between the fixtures and fittings and the walls and the manager agreed to consider painting the walls a dark colour to highlight the facilities for visually impaired people.</p> <p>1.18 A flashing alarm should be installed in the toilet for people with hearing impairments.</p>
	Recommendations	<p>1.19 The building requires clear external and internal signage to the polling station area.</p> <p>1.20 The polling station would be more accessible for wheelchair users if it is located in the main computer area space instead of in the small room.</p> <p>1.21 The alarm cord in the toilet should be extended to the floor.</p> <p>1.22 The ramps and steps around the building should be regularly maintained to allow for smooth access along the routes.</p> <p>1.23 There are more long term issues in the building which would benefit from a fuller access audit and funding to make the building more accessible overall for all its activities.</p>

Appendix: Images of the venue

Main building and parking in the vicinity



Ramp and steps – main building

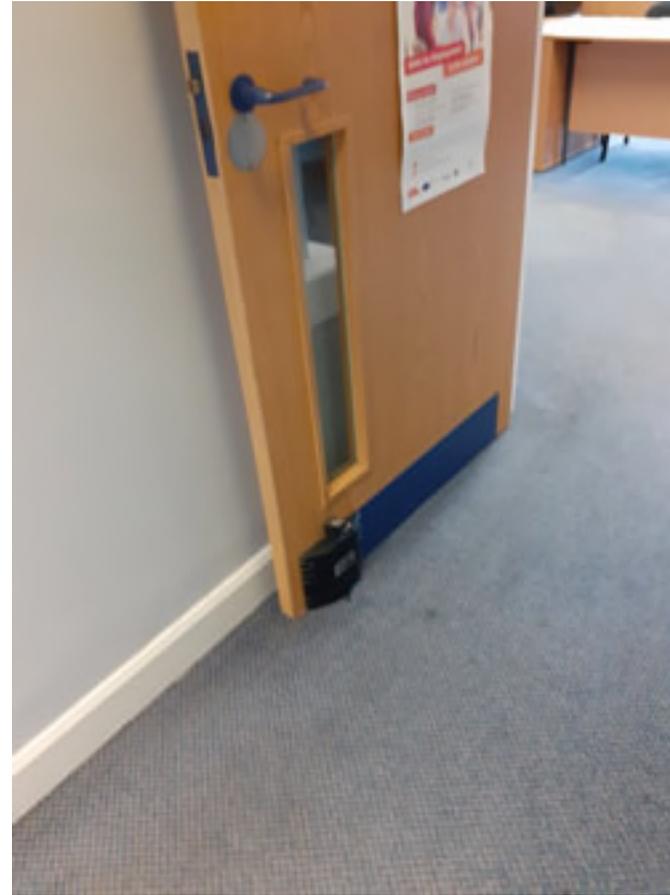


Ramp and steps – side building



External, internal doors and corridors





Main computer room and corridor to small proposed polling station room



Small room proposed as polling station room



Accessible toilet

