



Tolpuddle Old Chapel Accessibility Guide

This guide does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services we offer our visitors.



Tolpuddle Old Chapel
59a Main Road
Tolpuddle
Dorchester
DT2 7ET

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I. Introduction

Tolpuddle Old Chapel is a rare example of a vernacular Chapel from the 1800s. As an 'earthen' building, the structure is built primarily of cob and is a remarkable survivor of a superb example of a 'hand-built' structure made from the scant resources available and the earth of the Piddle Valley. It has a rich history linked to the Tolpuddle Martyrs and stands as a testimony to the independence, determination and radicalism of the men who built it.

The Chapel is located at the east end of the village of Tolpuddle. With parking on the road, the surrounding area has pavements and curb cuts. Volunteers are usually on hand should you have any questions or require assistance.



Looking east



Looking west

At a glance

2.1 Level access – there is level access throughout the Chapel and Annex via the Annex door. The flooring is concrete slabs in the Annex and limecrete in the Chapel.

2.2 Hearing – The fire alarm makes an intermittent sound

The Chapel is a tall, one-room space and some visitors may find the acoustics challenging.

We do not have a Hearing Loop fitted at the Chapel.

2.3 Visual – The walls and doors have a high colour contrast. The Chapel and Annex are well lit throughout.

2.4 General

- There is an accessible toilet on the ground floor.
- Assistance dogs are welcome in the Chapel. Water can be made available on request.

2. **Getting Here**

Travel by public transport:

3.1 Travel by train

South Western Railways - London Waterloo to Weymouth line

Arriving at Dorchester South Station

Station Approach,

Dorchester

DT1 1QX

South Western Railways – Weymouth to Gloucester line

Arriving at Dorchester West Station

Damers Road

Dorchester

DT1 2LB

3.2 Travel by bus

Damory Coaches CR9 bus travelling between Blandford Forum and Dorchester South Station. Bus stops are outside the Chapel and immediately opposite across the road.

3.3 Travel by taxi

There are various local taxi companies including:

Damos Taxis

7 Hardy Arcade

Dorchester DT1 1BZ

Tel: 01305 250 222

Email:

damostaxis@gmail.com

Bob's Cars

17 Trinity Street

Dorchester DT1 1TU

Tel: 01305 269500

Email:

info@bobscars.co.uk

A Line Taxis

8 Trinity Street

Dorchester DT1 1TU

Tel@ 01305 264747

Email@

info@alinetaxi.com

bookings@alinetaxi.com

3.3 Parking

- Parking is mainly on the road, away from neighbours' drives and with no turning into residents' drives. There is plenty of roadside parking near the Chapel on a wide and generally quiet road.
- There are laybys at the east end of the village about a 5-minute walk from the Chapel.

3. Arrival

- From the street to the Annex door there is a slight slope upwards on the Chapel 'apron'. The angle of the slope is 8.6° near the Annex door tapering to 3.9 at the roadside.



- The main door is side hung with a disabled access pad available to automatically open the door. The door is 900mm wide.



Disabled access
pad

- Access to the Chapel double doors is also up a slight slope with a step up into the Chapel.



5. Getting around inside the Chapel and Annex

The Chapel and Annex are on one level.

The stable door between the Annex and Chapel is 1100 mm wide.



6. Toilet facilities

The toilet facilities are within the Annex on the same level as the Chapel. The toilet door is 903 mm wide.

The direction of transfer onto the toilet is to the right.

The toilet seat is 485 mm high

The toilet is fitted with handrails either side of the toilet and to the right of the sink.

There is 804 mm of space to the right of the toilet and 804 mm in front of it.



7. Emergency Evacuation procedures

The emergency exit doors are through the Chapel double doors (which are unbolted and unlocked during all events) or through the Annex door. Anyone with mobility issues should exit the building via the Annex door as this does not have a step down as does the Chapel double doors.

The collection point is on the opposite side of the road, outside Orchard Meadow.

The fire alarm has is an intermittent sound.