



East Anglia District EDI Summer 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our second, shorter, East Anglia District EDI newsletter.

AccessAble

Have you heard of this organisation? It used to be known as DisabledGo. My attention was drawn to it by our District Property Secretary, Roy Hollands. The website link is <https://www.accessable.co.uk/>

It encourages the production of Detailed Access Guides. These let people know what access will be like when you visit somewhere, such as a church (e.g. if there is a ramp or steps). It looks at the route you will use to get in and what is available inside. Remember that what is accessible for one person may not be accessible for someone else. This is why the detail is so important. Each Detailed Access Guide is 100% facts, figures and photographs.

The website says that a trained surveyor visits every venue you will find on AccessAble to collect the facts people have said are important. The access guides are kept up to date by regular review.

I had a look at the website to see what Detailed Access Guides are available for the Norwich area and sadly there were no churches listed but places like Primark and Tesco. The nearest churches to us are in Essex and you may wish to have a look at the guide for Trinity Methodist Church, Romford. I also had a look at the Blackpool one as that is a church I am familiar with.

I would encourage churches, particularly the bigger ones, in the District to have a look at the website and consider engaging to get a Detailed Access Guide produced. It does not look too onerous. We provide basic access information on our District website but this is taking it a stage further.

Equality Impact Assessments

One of the areas highlighted in our EDI Needs survey was that a greater understanding of Equality Impact Assessments, including when to use them, would be helpful. In response to this, the Beds, Essex and Herts (BEH) District and our District jointly put on a Zoom session on 9th July, led by Stuart Watkin from the Learning Network. This was a good session, appreciated by those who attended, but sadly the attendance was low. It was not a session suitable for recording, but I will be adding some information from it to our website in due course. Equality Impact Assessments are useful to help manage change or when you are running a new event and you want to consider how to be more inclusive.

Inter-faith

A very interesting Zoom was held on 23rd June with Revd Andrew Brazier (BEH EDI Officer) in conversation with a lovely lady, Nahid Saiyed, who is a Muslim. This was recorded and a link will be added to the Awareness Sessions page of our website. Tips given included to find an issue (e.g. tackling a build-up of rubbish, like in the Birmingham strike) to create shared interest and to connect first as human beings, rather than focussing on different beliefs.

I encourage you to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/gwgKY2duuQE> which lasts 55 minutes.

Neurodiversity

Revd Jonny Bell ran a Zoom follow-up session on 16th June aimed at neurodivergent people who work (voluntary or paid) for the church to enable greater flourishing in their roles. It included building up a toolbox of strategies and techniques to manage some of the challenges of neurodiversity (which differ from individual to individual). This was a good session and Jonny will hopefully provide some information from it in due course. It was not suitable for recording as some of it is very personal.

Footnote

This newsletter is again being provided in both a Word and pdf format. Please print a copy for those without internet access who you think would be interested in it.

If you have any EDI thoughts or concerns, please get in touch with Revd Jonny Bell (District EDI Champion) or me.

Susan Eldridge
District EDI Officer