

DAC National Conference 2023

“Beyond ramps, toilets and t-loops: getting in and joining in...”

Practical solutions –

making churches more accessible for disabled people



Revd Katie Tupling Disability Adviser Oxford Diocese

To provide support,
experience and expertise
in policies and practices
of inclusion of those with
disabilities,
across the spectrum of disability
and marginalisation.



Founding member of
“Disability and Jesus”

Wrestling with issues of
disability and theology,
delivering training for groups,
churches, organisations etc...
Our basic starting point is:
where is Jesus
in our disability?



Disability and Church buildings:



Something other
than a car...!
Not wide enough,
can't open both
doors, bollards
restricting access
to the path



Dedicated and clearly
marked/signed
Wide enough for both
doors





Loose gravel, narrow paths, tight turns – a hazard for wheelchairs, buggies, scooters, crutches, walking sticks...



Resin bound compacted gravel, clear edges, low level lighting, trip-free flagstones



Step free access from kerb to front door – and a gentle gradient





30 well-worn Victorian steps
with intermittent handrails
across gates – the lift was
behind industrial bins with no
signage and locked access..



Handrail,
and push button door access



No choice for wheelchair users, restricted seating for anyone with mobility/back/joint problems, trip hazards, unable to improve sight lines

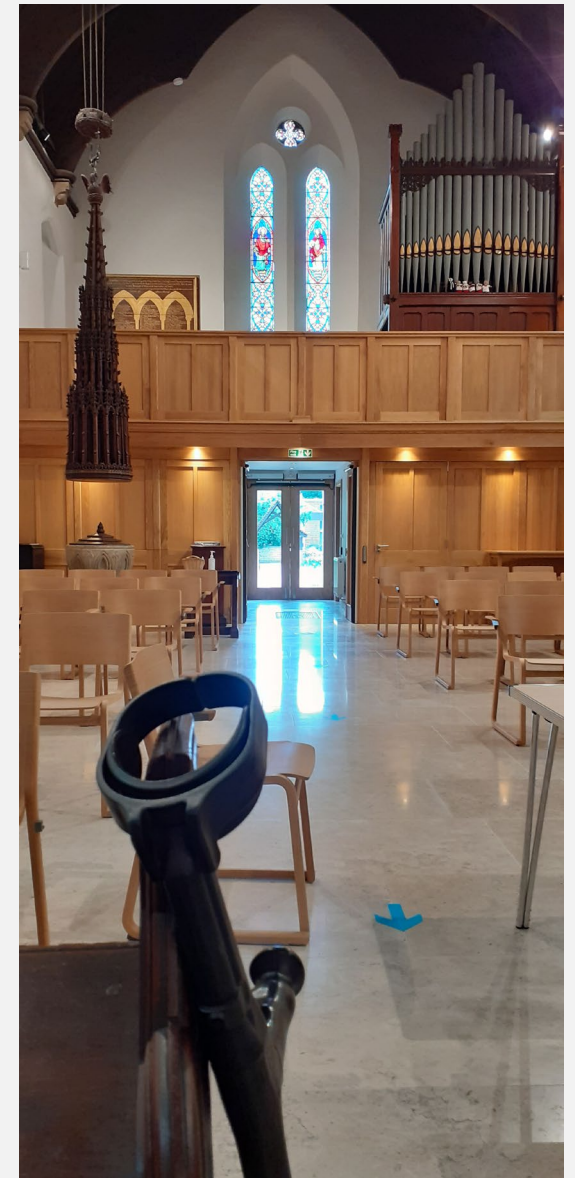
You will sit here...
No agency



Flexible seating gives agency and choice
Level access
Step/trip free
Can adapt to sight lines
Multi use space



Would need more contrast between floor colour and seats



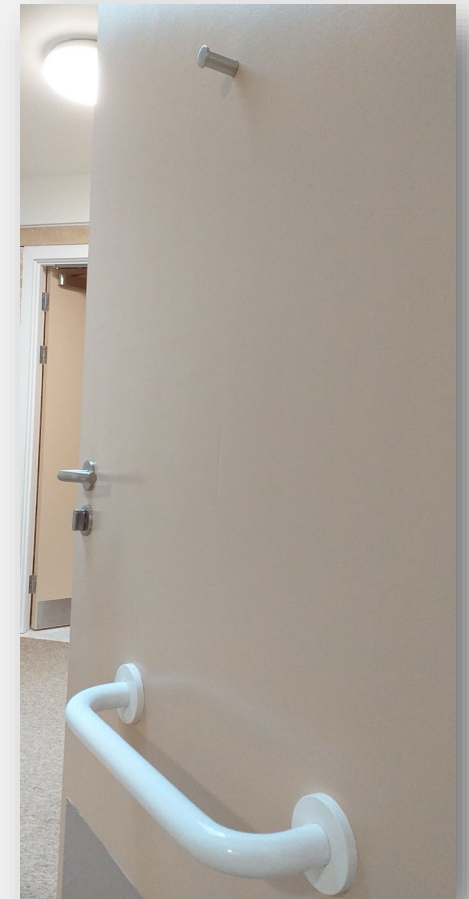


Communion wine
stored in the toilet...



Clutter free disabled toilet,
sliding (pocket) door, colour contrasts,
grab rails, paper towels,
baby change, large turning circle

*emergency cord was tied up 😞
*toilet flush was a reach over the toilet 😞



Wheelchair level bar
Door hook for ambulant
users, needs a second lower
one for wheelchair users



Access for the congregation – but only as far as the Chancel steps...



Step free access from nave area to the chancel re-using original materials with a gentle gradient



Chancels...



Sensory over-stimulus
caused by light or sound



Poor/no sound amplification,
t-loops not installed/working or
out of date technology

I'm loud so I don't need
A MICROPHONE

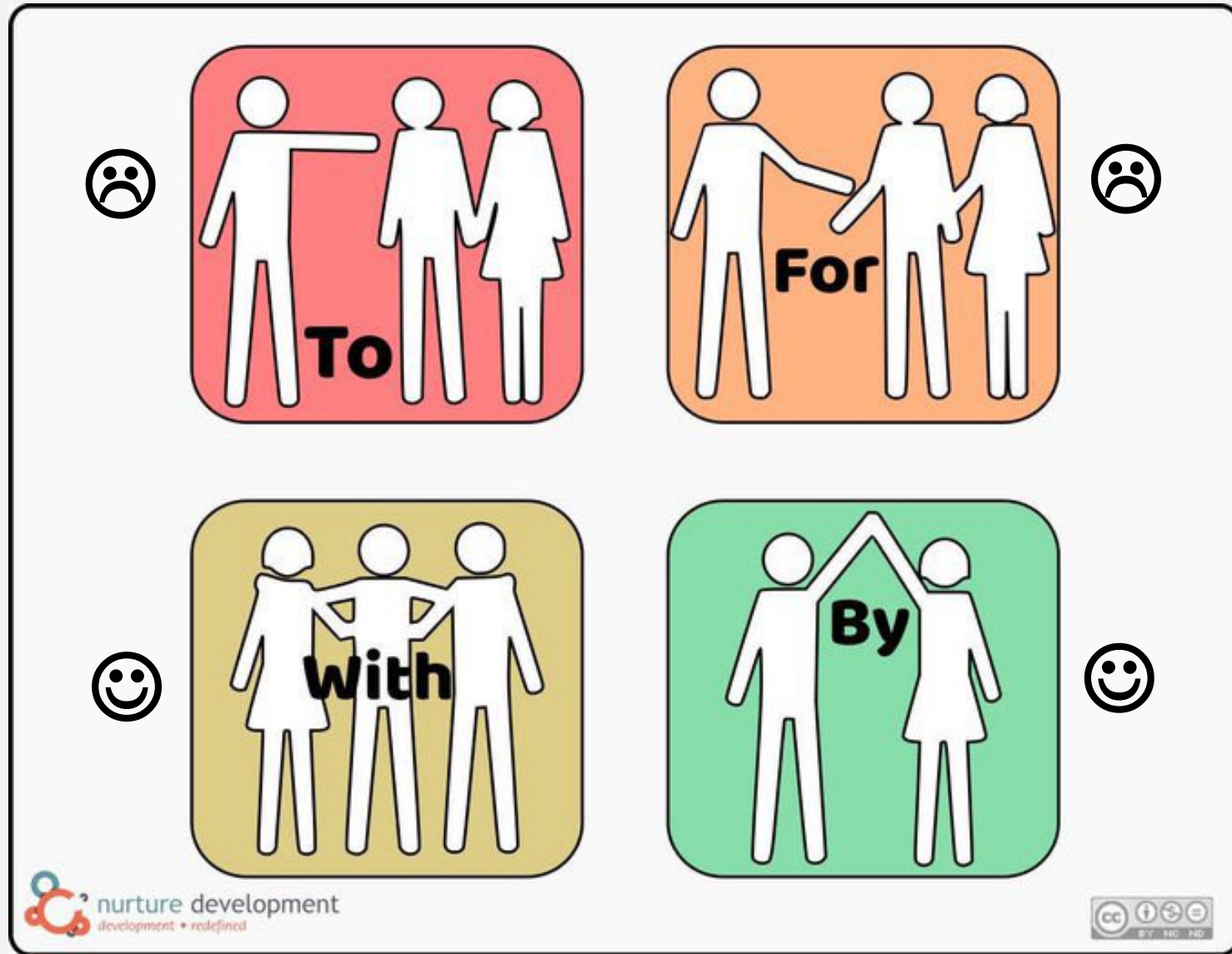


YES, YOU DO!



#accessibilityFAIL

Some of my favourite ramps...!



making churches more accessible for disabled people

Diocesan Disability Advisers

Vacant:
Durham, Leeds, York,
Manchester, Sodor & Man

Vacant:
Lincoln, Peterborough, Norwich, St Eds & Ips,
St Albans, Guildford, Chichester, Portsmouth,
Winchester, Salisbury, Truro

Tricia Rogers

Joy Rushton

Laura-Lee Leatherbarrow

Vanessa Layfield

Carl Veal

Zoe Heming

Garry Ward

Steve Jones

Jo Hyrons

Sandra Miller

Claire Reynolds

Sally Beazley

Alice Kemp

Rachel Wilson

Jonathan Macy

Richard Hill

Christine Herbert

Pete Edwards

Emily Williams

Charles Higgins

Sue Nelms

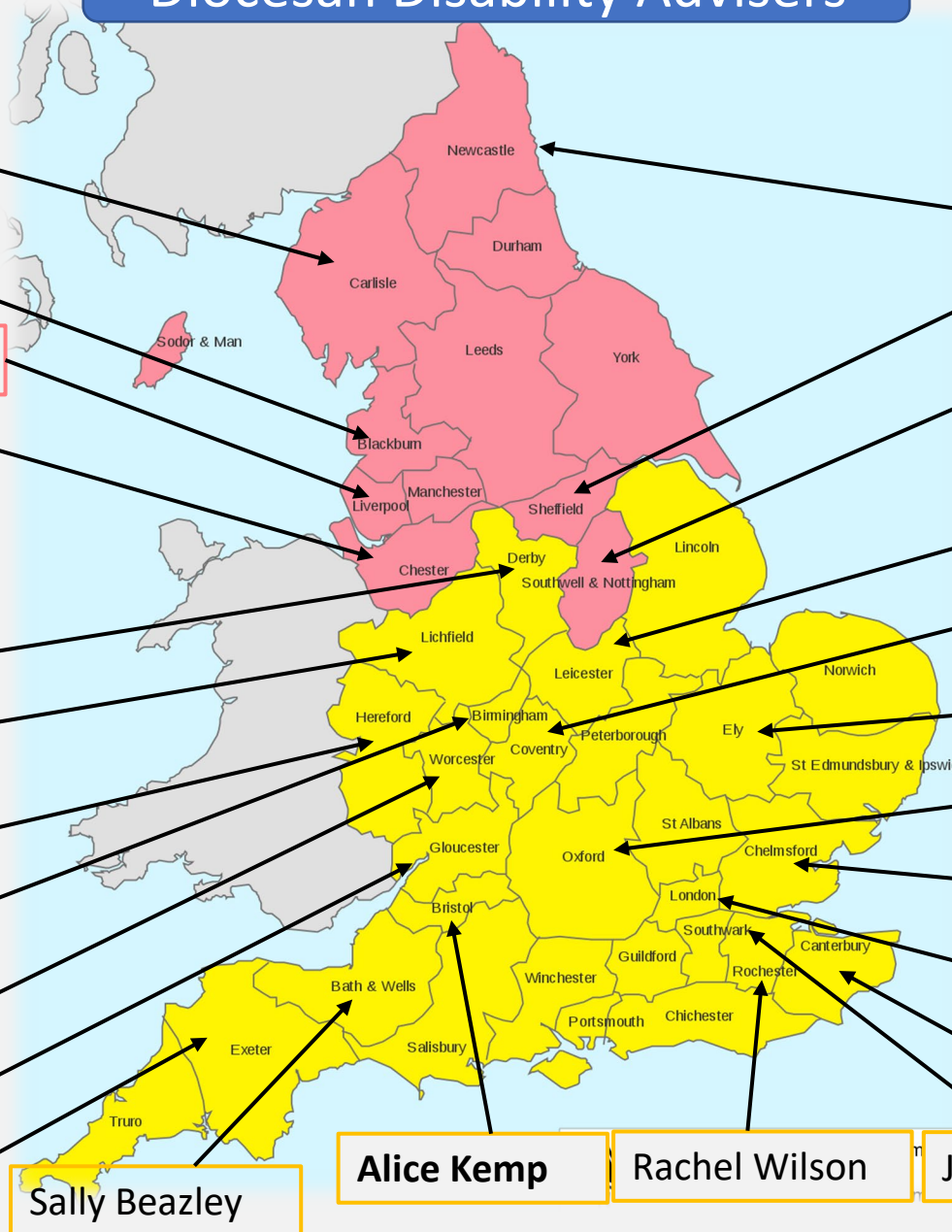
Kt Tupling

John Saxon

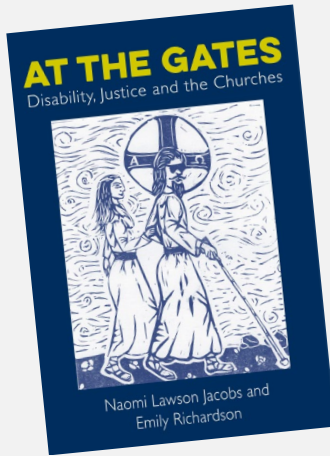
John Beauchamp

Karen Adams

Names
in **BOLD**
are paid



Recommended reading – the ‘why’ behind the ‘what’...

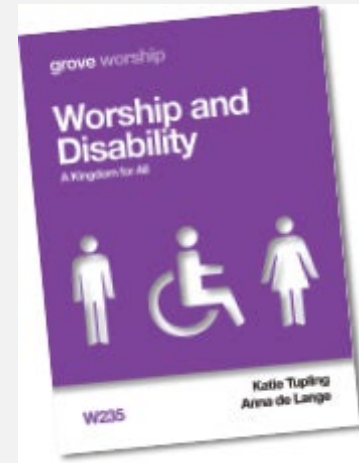


**‘At the Gates:
Disability, Justice and the Church’**
Naomi Lawson Jacobs and
Emily Richardson
Published by DLT

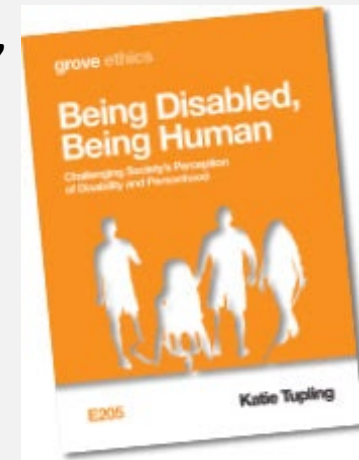


‘My body is not a prayer request’
Amy Kenny
Published by BrazosPress

‘Worship and Disability’
Katie Tupling and
Anna de Lange
Published by Grove Books



‘Being Disabled, Being Human’
Katie Tupling
Published by Grove Books



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