

# OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

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Before someone walks through the doors  
of a church there is a wealth of ways to  
welcome from the outside.



# OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

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There are four areas to be considered outside:


1. Access 2. Parking 3. Signs 4. The Graveyard

Before considering the suggestions, make a note of your current provision

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## ACCESS

What do you have in place to make access easier for those with mobility issues or families with prams?



## PARKING

Do you have signs to help with parking?



## SIGNS

Are entrances clearly identified?



## THE CHURCHYARD

Is there a graveyard plan available and are the watering and refuse areas obvious for those visiting graves?



Who is responsible/in charge of giving attention to this area?

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The following ideas are suggestions for enhancing your welcome in this area...

ACCESS	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
We have wheelchair and pram access into the church.		
We provide handrails in necessary areas.		
Edges of steps are marked appropriately.		
Access routes are adequately lit.		
We have a sign to the easy-access toilet/baby changing facilities.		



Animal lovers feel very welcomed when there's refreshment for their furry friend!  
(Constantine Church)

PARKING	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
We have parking spaces allocated for people with restricted mobility and/or young children.		
We communicate on our noticeboards, website/ A Church Near You, where safe and adequate parking is available.		
We use welcoming language such as 'Please do not park here' rather than 'No parking—offenders will be clamped'.		



Visitors appreciate knowing where to park, especially if blue badge holders

SIGNS	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
Signs lead people to the church from parking areas, public transport areas and walking routes.		
Signs are all appropriately lit and clearly visible.		
We signpost the nearest toilets.		
We make it clear when we are open. If locked we give contact information or key location.		



A simple arrow sign at St Keverne indicates the way in



Phillack's welcome sign is visible from the road and is easily removed at the end of the day



An inexpensive sign communicates welcome

OUTSIDE



CHURCHYARD	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
Grassed areas are tidy and litter free.		
We provide seating in the churchyard.		
If the path in the churchyard is uneven or slippery at time, we have a warning sign in place.		



↑ A 'Gods Acre' sign sets the tone of a visit to the graveyard in Padstow



↑ A bench at Kenwyn Church graveyard is a welcome space to rest and reflect

# Welcome

God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship; narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

God make the doorway of this house the gateway to thine eternal kingdom.



A welcome prayer  
on the church door  
at St Buryan

## RESOURCES

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### SIGNAGE

[www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/making-changes-to-your-building/detailed-advice/noticeboards](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/making-changes-to-your-building/detailed-advice/noticeboards)

### CHURCHYARD

[www.caringforGodsAcre.org.uk](http://www.caringforGodsAcre.org.uk)

### ACCESSIBILITY

[www.trurodiocese.org.uk/mission/community/equalitydiversity](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/mission/community/equalitydiversity)

### FAMILY HISTORY

Facilitate visitors exploring their family history by drawing up an index to graves in the churchyard.

[www.trurodiocese.org.uk/family-history](http://www.trurodiocese.org.uk/family-history)

### GEOCACHING

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

OUTSIDE



# NOTES

