

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Resources on disability and physical disability, and on the participation of disabled people in all aspects of life, including church.

WEBSITES

Livability <https://livability.org.uk/>

Livability is disability charity that connects people with their communities and works to build a fairer more connected society. Livability works with people in the community and in residential care – being concerned with most forms of disability including physical disability – and making connections for people who are isolated because of disability.

Livability brought us the '**More than Welcome**' initiative. They also have a course called **Together For Good** - A Bible study course designed to resource churches to take a community approach to wellbeing. Users can register for the course on the Livability website. The **It all adds up** section contains some good videos and resources

Scope <https://www.scope.org.uk/>

A campaigning and advisory organisation that provides support and resources around disability equality. In a similar way to Livability, it is not limited to issues of physical disability. The Scope website has a good selection of videos.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESES

Diocese of Bath and Wells

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry-for-mission/mission/social-justice/what-we-do/disability-open-to-all/>

has a Disability Inclusion policy

Diocese of Birmingham has a Disability Inclusion page with regular blogs

<http://www.cofebirmingham.com/hub/mission-learning/intercultural/disability/>

Diocese of Leeds website contains useful materials on disability and inclusion:

<http://www.leeds.anglican.org/disability-inclusion>

Diocese of Lichfield

https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/enabling_church/

has a series of useful webpages and links including the Churches for All and the Enabling Church courses. The Enabling Church course is written and developed by and with disabled people. It is designed to be relevant to all churches and is supported by a range of resources.

<http://churchesforall.org.uk/about-us/>

<http://churchesforall.org.uk/enablingchurch/ecc/>

https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/www.lichfield.anglican.org/ec_course/

UK NETWORKS

Two UK-based networks who both have much current material on Christianity and disability are

Through the Roof <https://www.throughtheroof.org/>

At **Through the Roof** you can apply to become a 'roof-breaker', which is about 'equipping churches and communities to become welcome and safe spaces for all'. This costs £5 a copy

<https://www.throughtheroof.org/shop/be-a-roofbreaker/>

<https://www.throughtheroof.org/supportingyou/churchresources/>

Through the Roof's website will also lead you to a course for young people to explore the values of the Paralympic Games.

'Lasting Values' - A practical four-session resource to explore the values of the Paralympic Games with young people – ages 11 – 14 on the four values of the Paralympic Games: Courage. Determination. Equality and Inspiration

<https://www.throughtheroof.org/abd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Lasting-Values.pdf>

Disability and Jesus <http://disabilityandjesus.org.uk/>

Their motto is

'Join us on a pilgrim journey to find out what it means to be fully human'

Disability and Jesus's website includes some videos

<http://disabilityandjesus.org.uk/videos/>

and an on-line community and prayer resource called 'An Ordinary Office'

<http://anordinaryoffice.org.uk/>

The group 'Disability and Jesus' have also provided a link to the podcasts by Rob Bell

<https://robbell.podbean.com/e/kentucky-here-we-come/>

Inclusive Church <https://www.inclusive-church.org/disability>

The website includes reports on disability conferences.

VIDEOS

There are many useful videos on disability and Christianity available online:

The Church of England has a website on disability

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/place-belong-disability-and-church>

John Swinton is a theologian who specialises in Theology and Disability. There is a 10-minute You-Tube of him here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJFGbU5tnKY>

Revd Zoe Heming is based in the Diocese of Lichfield and has created a short You-Tube video 'Called and Enabled'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK75pRC96LU>

You-Tube also has a short lecture to camera on 'What does the Bible say about Disability?' by Jeff McNair

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7sCXqYTQEs>

The theologian Stanley Hauerwas is filmed giving a lecture on theology and disability. This is on You-Tube but the talk is over an hour long

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EQKZ8WHrbE>

Other videos on You Tube, which are useful and explore the social model of disability are

Livability: tackling the barriers that isolate people

<https://livability.org.uk/italladdsup/section/whats-unlivable/>

SCOPE's video on the social model of disability

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e24rfTZ2CQ>

SHAPE Arts – an introduction to the social model

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24KE_OCKMw

Ben Myers – The Disability Conversation. A young speaker in the USA reflecting on issues of disability in a TED talk. Worth watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccIAqPjwKcY>

BOOKS

These books are also recommended

Disability: The Inclusive Church Resource – John M. Hull, D.L.T. 2014

The Enabled Life: Christianity in a disabling world – Rory McCloughry SPCK 2013

Widening the Eye of the Needle - Access to Church Buildings for People with Disabilities

John Penton, John H. Penton CHP

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk//product-display?isbn=9780715140611>

Price £16.99

Making Church Accessible to All: Including Disabled People in Church Life - Tony Phelps-Jones et al. BRF, 2013

Becoming Friends of Time: Disability, Timefulness, and Gentle Discipleship - John Swinton SCM 2017