

St. John's Jerusalem Access Statement

St John's Jerusalem, Sutton-at-Hone, Dartford, Kent, DA4 9HQ

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Introduction

1. This rare surviving chapel is the only remaining structure of the Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John of Jerusalem formed in 1113. The chapel is adjacent to a now privately occupied and much altered house, dating from the 16th century. The chapel and tranquil gardens are surrounded by a moat, one arm of which is the River Darent
2. Please note that this property is occupied as a private residence and is maintained and managed by a tenant on our behalf. Visitors have access to the chapel and the gardens only on selected days of the year
3. The chapel is reached via a series of 11 steps and is not accessible to wheelchair users
4. Mobile signal is available and volunteers will be on site to help make emergency calls
5. Dogs are welcome in the garden on short leads but not in the chapel. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout

Arrival & Parking Facilities

6. There is a sign at the entrance to the driveway on the main road through Sutton-at-Hone
7. Parking is on the grass and is not designated; there are spaces for approximately twenty cars
8. Visitors can be dropped off nearer the property; follow the main drive to the house and then park in the car park after dropping off
9. The car park is 80m (262ft) from the Chapel
10. The paths from the car park to the Chapel are surfaced with gravel

WCs

11. There is a single non-accessible toilet at the rear of building with one step up to the threshold
12. The door is 79cm wide – it is manual and opens inward
13. There is good natural light but no electricity (as such there is no automatic hand dryer)

The Chapel

14. There are 11 steps ascending to the Chapel entrance; 7 external, 4 internal (covered with coir matting). The height of each step does not exceed 20 cms
15. There is a handrail on both sides of the external steps, although there is no handrail on the inside steps
16. The entrance and exit door is 70cm wide – it is manual and opens inward, but is not closed when the Chapel is open to the public
17. There are no alternative entrances or exits and as such the Chapel is not accessible to users of wheelchairs or mobility vehicles

18. Pushchairs are to be left outside the Chapel



Above: Entrance to the Chapel



Above: Entrance door open with steps leading up



Above: The interior of the Chapel



Above: The Visitor's toilet

- 19. The Chapel has a wooden floor and plastered stone walls – there are no soft furnishings in the room, so there may be sound echoes
- 20. The welcome table, manned by volunteer Room Stewards is located in the Chapel
- 21. A braille guide is available on the welcome table
- 22. There is good natural light and 2 small electric lights (no fluorescents)
- 23. There are chairs available in the chapel for visitors to use in an emergency
- 24. Wheelchairs are not available for loan

Catering

- 25. There are no catering facilities at the property

Retail

26. Post cards and guide books are available for purchase from the Room Stewards at the welcome table in the Chapel

Garden



Above: Grassed pathways in the garden



Above: Grassed pathways next to the river

27. Welcome maps of the property and grounds are not currently available but a booklet explains the different features of the garden
28. There is a route around the garden which avoids steps, stiles and other features that may be challenging for people with mobility difficulties
29. The paths are mostly flat and surfaced with a mixture of paving and grass – please note they can be slippery when wet
30. There are no steps or slopes on the paths and there are no gates on the route
31. There are six benches in the garden
32. The River Darent flows either side of the property (please note it is not enclosed)

Date: March 2024