

**Disability Champion**

**Role description**

**Purpose**

The Disability Champion is appointed as part of our intention to become a church that is fully open to the presence and belonging of disabled people and invites and celebrates the gifts and perspectives they bring amongst us.

**The person**

The Disability Champion will be a person who has lived experience of disability themselves or has demonstrated a commitment to disability issues through a caring relationship with a disabled close family member or friend. They will have a ‘liberatory’ attitude, seeking to see disabled people set free to be fully the people God has created them to be and to contribute their unique gifts to the life and ministry of the church.

**The role**

The Disability Champion will be the named contact for the congregation to raise issues about disability, access and inclusion and will bring issues raised to the attention of the vicar and PCC.

The Disability Champion will be a member of the Disability Working Group and the PCC and will be embedded within our church leadership structures in order to ensure that access, inclusion and belonging for disabled people is always a priority.

The Disability Champion (with the Disability Working Group) will be key to our ongoing accessibility audit process and will play a significant role in drawing up and implementing an action plan

The Disability Champion will take an interest in strategies and developments within the Diocese of London that support and promote the ministry and involvement of disabled people in the life of the church.

The Disability Champion will be familiar with the provisions and requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and will be a reference and provide guidance as to the PCC’s legal responsibilities under the Act.

The Disability Champion will attend training that might be offered by the diocese and encourage PCC and congregation members to undertake disability awareness training.

The Disability Champion will encourage and promote the involvement of disabled people in every aspect of the life and ministry of the local church.

The Disability Champion will regularly check that resources offered to increase accessibility – hearing loop, large print, cushions, chairs with arms, wheelchair spaces, provision for assistance dogs etc – are readily available.

The Disability Champion will encourage the acceptance and involvement of children and young people with additional needs in the children and youth work of the church and, along with the Childrens Champion, will act as an advocate for families if the need should arise.

The Disability Champion will make sure that disability and inclusion issues are regularly included in news sheets and communications and ensure that noticeboards and signage around the church are disability friendly and accessible.

The Disability Champion will exercise a pastoral ministry to disabled members of the congregation and encourage the wider church to recognise how disabled people can feel marginalised and ignored within the social life of the church.

The Disability Champion will challenge the leadership and PCC and ask the difficult questions that are needed if disabled people are to find a place of full belonging and participation as equal members of the Body of Christ.