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| **360 Accessibility Audit**  **Section 10 – Use of language** | |
| Completed by |  |
| Question | Comment and action |
| Do you think about the level of literacy and/or understanding that your services are demanding? |  |
| Note: Does your worship connect with people across the range of abilities that might be present? Or are you expecting people to engage with a largely Cerebral, intellectual experience and leaving out those whose minds do not function in this way. | |
| Have you thought about how appropriate your use of metaphor and illustration is for people who are not like you? |  |
| Note: Many people think and understand very literally, tangential metaphor and illustration might easily confuse rather than aid understanding. | |
| Do you think about your use of the language of disability? Scriptural references can convey negative stereotypes. Do you take steps to explain/mitigate this? |  |
| Do you think about the way you use the language of disability in liturgy and sermons? Are you careful to make your language as inclusive as possible? |  |
| Note: It is very easy to use the language of disability negatively as it is often used in the Bible. I.e. referring to being ‘spiritually blind,’ ‘Deaf to the Word of God,’ ‘having minds that do not understand’ or ‘ears that do not hear.’ All these have a negative impact on disabled people. | |
| Do you look at the language used in hymns and songs? Often this can be negative or put an unhelpful emphasis on a connection between faith and disability. |  |
| Do you take care to use inclusive language in all your communications? |  |
| Note: For a guide to the use of disability language see:  Christa Ewert and Roy McCloughry, Disability language and diversity – a guide for the perplexed.  [Disability Language and Diversity.pdf (churchofengland.org)](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Disability%20Language%20and%20Diversity.pdf) | |