**Checklist – Lighting**

Good lighting is of course important for everyone, but especially for those who are blind or have visual impairment, and also for people with hearing impairment. Lighting levels need to be even and constant throughout the building.

All of us rely to some extent on lip reading when we are listening to people, whether or not we are aware of it. For people with hearing impairment or people who are deaf, lip reading can be an important part of their communication. Good lighting assists greatly with this, and it is important that the whole face of the person speaking can be seen clearly, in good, even light. It is also important to ensure that people who are reading / speaking / leading worship are not standing with their back to the light, as this makes it difficult to see the face and lips clearly, as they will be in shadow.

A person who is lip reading will need to be quite close to the speaker, even with good lighting, so bear in mind that if the person leading worship moves a distance (e.g. going up to the sanctuary at the start of the Eucharistic prayer) this connection may be lost. Not all people who are deaf or deafened can lip read, and that even where people have learnt this skill, it is estimated that only about one third of words in the English language are “readable” by people with reduced or no hearing. Therefore, every possible assistance should be given for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

If you are considering a special service with low levels of lighting, for example a candlelit carol service at Christmas, please consider what effect this will have for people who are partially sighted. For example, ensure that instructions about the service are given beforehand in good lighting and that people are advised to bring lit hand lenses if they wish to use them.

Here is a checklist of things to bear in mind when thinking about your lighting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item to consider | Check when complete/reviewed |
| Is there adequate lighting outside the church so that people can find their way easily in the dark? |  |
| Has consideration has been given to people’s needs for things like lip reading? |  |
| Is consideration given to adequate lighting for those who need it at Candlelit services? |  |
| Does the lighting system avoid unnecessary glare? |  |
| Has consideration been given to the environmental impact of the lighting? |  |

**Further Information**

* A Brief Guide to Lighting in Churches – [click here](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/CCB_Lighting_guidance.pdf)
* Internal Lighting in Historic Building from Historic England – [click here](https://faculty.churchinwales.org.uk/Data/Sites/3/media/guidance-notes/lighting_guidance_v2.1.pdf#:~:text=A%20successful%20church%20lighting%20scheme%20needs%20to%20do,lit%20exterior%20can%20deter%20vandalism%20and%20discourage%20break-ins%29.)