

PLEASE COMPARE THE USABILITY (AND ACCURACY) OF THE TWO WRITE-UPS ON ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS BY TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The first one is that by *Access Project (PHSP)* as part of the text for *Access in London*
We assume that it will be used with other information about opening times and entry costs etc, as this is more likely to change with time than the access data
We make separate write-ups in the book on parking and getting around.
We have never been there when the outer doors have been closed, and there is always someone on hand to welcome visitors, and to open the second doors.

The second write-up is by *DisabledGo*, and was stated as having been updated in September 2013.

One way of making the comparison is to imagine that your grandmother (or your younger cousin) is visiting you, and would like to go to St Martin's to do some Brass Rubbing (for a wall hanging), or to go to a concert Both are wheelchair users and may need to use the toilet during their visit.

Which guide write-up is clearer and more useful ?

The Access Project (PHSP) write-up in Access in London

in the context of write-ups on *Getting around*, and where to stay etc.

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ Tel: 020 7766-1100

website: www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org e-mail: info@smitf.org

On the northeast corner of Trafalgar Square, at the bottom of St Martin's Lane. Often called the *Parish church of London*, it has a fine spire and portico, and dates from the 1720s.

Its facilities have been extensively modernised, and wheelchair access has been greatly improved. In the main church building there are box pews, which limits the number of places a wheelchair user can be accommodated. The gallery can only be reached using about +30 steps.

While the main west entrance has a minimum of +5 steps, there is a permanent ramp on the north side of the building (off St Martin's Place) leading to two heavy doors controlled by a large 'push' button at the top. The doors then open automatically. Just inside these doors there's a platform lift (D80 L160), which bypasses the ±28 steps to and from the crypt.

Alternatively **there's a new circular lift (D100 diameter200) outside** under a glass cupola and near the ramp. This leads to the **crypt** which contains a licenced café, a shop, a brass rubbing centre and two **wheelchair toilets (D80 ST80)** both with BCF. In the café the surfaces are slightly bumpy as the flagstones and memorial tablets in the floor are very old. Brass rubbing is done on low tables which would be suitable for most chair users.

There's a second lower crypt area, accessed by another platform lift.

St Martin's hosts numerous concerts and events, in addition to the church services held there regularly. There are usually at least four wheelchair spaces at the concerts, at the front of the nave.

Abbreviations used

- BCF baby change facilities
- D door width (cm)
- ST side transfer space (cm)

The screenshot shows the website for St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The page features the disabledGO logo with the tagline "Providing independence and choice". A search bar is located at the top right, and a navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Places to Go, Shop, Financial Services, Jobs, News, and Events. The main content area displays a photo of the church, a 5-star rating, and icons for wheelchair access, dog-friendly, hearing aid, and fax. Below the photo are buttons for "Add To My Trip" and "View the Access Guide". A map on the right shows the location in Trafalgar Square, London, with a red pin. Contact information includes the address, phone numbers, and email address.

e-mail: info@smitf.org

website: <http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org>

Access Guide

Opening Times

Monday 08:30 - 13:00.

Monday 14:00 - 18:00.

Tuesday 08:30 - 13:00.

Tuesday 14:00 - 18:00.

Wednesday 08:30 - 13:15.

Wednesday 14:00 - 17:00.

Thursday 08:30 - 13:15.

Thursday 14:00 - 18:00.

Friday 08:30 - 13:00.

Friday 14:00 - 18:00.

Saturday 09:30 - 18:00.

Sunday 15:30 - 17:00.

Comments

St Martin-in-the-Fields is open throughout the day.

All are welcome at church services and concerts.

The above opening times are for visitors who would prefer to wander around the church.

If the church is closed for a special service the details will be available on www.smitf.org.

Location

The venue is situated within the centre of the city.

This venue is situated in London.
The nearest mainline station is Charing Cross.

Comments

The nearest bus stop is 50 metres away with further stops within 100 metres.
18 buses include this area in their routes.

Parking

The venue does not have its own car park.

Other Car Parks for Public Use

There is a car park for public use within 200m (approx).
The name of the car park is Trafalgar Square.
Car park website <http://www.123-car-parking.co.uk>.

Comments

On street marked Blue Badge bays are available on nearby streets including St Martin's Street, Charing Cross Road, William IV Street and Trafalgar Square.
Please visit parking on the Borough of Westminster site for further information.
It is possible to drop off visitors on Duncannon Street adjacent to the church.

Outside Access (Main Entrance)

There is not level access into the venue.
The main doors open away from you (push).
The doors are double width.
The doors are heavy.
The door opening is 140cm (4ft 7in) wide.

Second set of doors

There is a second set of doors.
The doors open towards you (pull).
The doors are double width.
The doors are heavy.
The door opening is 140cm (4ft 7in) wide.

Level Change (Main Entrance)

There is a ramp or slope to access this service.
The ramp or slope is located adjacent to the entrance.
The ramp or slope is moderate.
The ramp or slope is permanent.
The width of the ramp or slope is 140cm (4ft 7in).
There are steps to access this area / service.
There is / are 8 step(s) to the area / service.
The steps are not clearly marked.
The steps are medium.
The steps do not have handrails.

Inside Access

There is level access to the service.

There is a hearing assistance system.
The system is a fixed loop.
Staff are trained to use the system.
This venue does play background music.
Lighting levels are bright.

Restaurant Bar Internal (Cafe)

Once inside, there is not level access to the service.
Full table service is not available.
Food or drinks are ordered from the service counter.
Food or drinks cannot be brought to the table.
No tables are permanently fixed.
No chairs are permanently fixed.
The distance between the floor and the lowest table is 73cm (2ft 5in).
Menus are not available in large print.
Menus are not clearly written.
Menus are presented in contrasting colours.
The type of food served here is hot snacks.

Other Floors

Steps
The floors which are accessible by stairs are LG-G.
There are 15+ steps between floors.
The lighting level is low.
The steps are clearly marked.
The steps are medium.
The steps do have handrails.
The steps have a handrail on both sides.
There is not a landing.

Other

The services on the floors which are not accessible are the cafe, the bookshop and the gallery.

Lift

There is not a lift for public use.

Additional Info

Registered assistance dogs are welcomed.
Plastic cups are not available.
Plastic cutlery is not available.
Drinking straws are available on request.

Comments

The photo shows the ramp leading to the main entrance.