

Love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control,

Accessibility & Inclusivity at

The logo for St Matthew's Church Elburton features a stylized black silhouette of a church roof with two gables. Below the roof, the text "St Matthew's Church" is written in a serif font, and "Elburton" is written in a smaller serif font below it, separated by a horizontal line.

St Matthew's Church
Elburton

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Just as God has included us in his family, so we are to welcome others to join us too. While we must not condone what God does not condone, we must work hard to be accessible, inclusive and generous.

Here are some ways we can do this;

1. Make our groups, activities, services and buildings as accessible as possible.

Can everyone get in the door? Can every one see, hear, access and understand the activity, in a helpful way to them? Can everyone use the facilities e.g. toilets?

2. Be mindful and respectful of adults and children, they may be living with a hidden disability.

e.g., dementia, sight or hearing impairment, autism, learning disability etc.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:3-4

3. Be Interested, curious and open to learning from others

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance” Proverbs 1:5

4. Be mindful and respectful of differences and otherness.

We don't always recognise what it might be like "to walk a mile in another person's shoes"

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mind-set as Christ Jesus. Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage, rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death -even death on a cross" Philippians 2:5-8

5. Be kind, understanding and compassionate to everyone.

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience " Colossians 3:12

6. Be courageous - don't be afraid, step forward in faith to support, care and include.

"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" 2 Tim 1:7

7. Be encouraging about even the smallest things.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" Ephesians 4:29

8. Be a good collaborator - work together for good outcomes for others.

“We ought, therefore, to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.”

3 John 1:8.

9. Be willing to change and adapt to support the growth of others as new challenges arise.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”

Ephesians 4:3

10. Remember that each of us is a part of the Body of Christ and as such all have a role to play. Let's support and help each other to be inclusive.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.”

1 Cor 12: 4-6

Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord