

DISABILITY IS NOT A CHOICE **OUR ATTITUDE IS.**

It is estimated that one in five people are disabled. Add to that statistic, carers and family members who provide support to the disabled person.

How does the church welcome the disabled person and/or carer to services and other church activities?

The church, of course, is more than the building and even the institution itself, it is the members themselves.



1 John 3 v 18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

BEATITUDES

FOR THOSE WHO ENCOUNTER DISABLED PEOPLE

BLESSED ARE YOU:

- who take time to listen to difficult speech, sometimes it is difficult for me to put my thoughts into words - for you help us know that if we persevere, we can be understood.
- who walk with us in public places and ignore the stares of strangers - for in your companionship, we find havens of relaxation.
- who never bid us "hurry up" and more blessed, you who do not snatch our tasks from our hands to do them for us - for often we need time not help.
- who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures, who with a smile encourage me to try once more - for our failures will be outweighed by times when we surprise ourselves and you.
- who ask for our help - for our greatest need is to be needed.
- who help us with the graciousness of Christ - for often we need the help we cannot ask for.
- who see me as a whole person, unique and complete and not as "half" and one of God's mistakes; who don't expect me to be saintly just because I am disabled, who forget my disability of the body and see the shape of my soul.
- who respect me and love me, "just as I am", and not as you wish I were and without wondering what I might have been like.

Then, by all these things you assure us that the thing that makes us individuals is not in our peculiar muscles, not in our wounded nervous systems, nor in our difficulties in learning but in the god-given self which no infirmity can confine.

REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDINGLY GLAD, and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words, FOR you deal with us as Christ dealt with all His children.

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