



East Anglia District EDI Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to our third East Anglia District EDI newsletter.

EDI Needs Questionnaire follow-up (including a challenge)

In the responses to our EDI Needs questionnaire one example quoted as something that could be looked at was an awareness of dietary needs. We discussed this at our last EDI Committee meeting and thought it probably referred to things like providing good gluten free bread for Communion and, when providing refreshments, catering for people who are gluten intolerant or vegan or have a dairy free diet. Taking the subject of allergies a bit wider, flower allergies can be something else to consider. I can relate to this as I am allergic to some lilies, especially when they have been shut up in a church for a week.

We thought it would be good to challenge churches and so are asking “[What ideas have you had to make your church more inclusive to everyone?](#)” Try to look at your church from the perspective of a person coming in for the first time. I look forward to receiving your responses and being able to share your ideas more widely.

The most inclusive church I have come across recently is Magdalen Way Methodist Church at Gorleston where Revd Judith Bell’s testimony service took place prior to her Ordination. Paper fans were provided for those feeling the heat, there were fidget toys available and everyone was made to feel really welcome.

There are resources available to help with the audit of a church, including accessibility needs. Have a look at this page on the Methodist Church website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/property/making-buildings-accessible/>

Through the Roof (Charity)

The following information is taken from this website <https://throughtheroof.org/>

Through the Roof is a Christian disability charity that:

- Changes the lives of disabled people around the world
- Helps others to change lives too

It says – “We want to see everyone valued equally, fully belong and able to contribute their gifts and skills. We work together with churches and people across all disabilities to advocate the Christian faith globally.”

There is a short video introducing the charity on its website which is well worth a look.

Disability Awareness Sunday is on 28th September 2025 and Through the Roof provide free resources for churches to use. These are designed to help churches reflect, celebrate and welcome all – because everyone belongs in the Body of Christ. These could be used on any Sunday, perhaps when you have a local arrangement (I did this with the MHA Sunday resources – the service was well-received and we raised some money for MHA). It would be good if we could raise some funds for Through the Roof.

Through the Roof encourages every church to appoint a “Roof breaker” – a local disability champion who helps guide the church on a journey of:

- **Access** – everyone to know Jesus, with disabled people fully welcomed into Christian life
- **Belonging** – everyone growing together as the family of God, with disabled people flourishing in community with others
- **Commission** – everyone reflecting the character of Jesus, with disabled people making disciples, to the glory of God

Perhaps some of our Circuit EDI Officers would like to become “Roof breakers”?

You may wish to look at the article in the Spring 2025 edition of the Connexion magazine which is about Through the Roof and Disability Sunday.

Footnote

This newsletter is again being provided in both a Word and pdf format. Please print a copy for those without internet access who you think would be interested in it.

If you have any EDI thoughts or concerns, please get in touch with Revd Jonny Bell (District EDI Champion) or me.

Susan Eldridge
District EDI Officer