

# Stanley Spencer Gallery Access Guide

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If you have specific questions or wish to discuss your proposed visit please contact our Access Volunteer by either email [dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk)

or telephone 01628 471885 and leave a message for Dennis

## Covid Access Statement



### *Good to Go Logo*

## Entrance to the Gallery

Please ring the bell to the left of the door to alert the Custodian if the door does not open outwards automatically.

There is a perspex screen between visitor and the Custodian's desk. The Custodian may be wearing a mask. Visitors are encouraged to wear a mask unless exempt should they feel it appropriate.

**Contactless cards are accepted for all payments and are currently the preferred means of payment.**

### **Changes to our normal service**

**The audio video presentations have been suspended. Nor are audio guides available. Children's activity packs may not be available**

## Pre-Arrival

### Exhibition Guides

To assist you in deciding whether to visit the current exhibition you can download an accessible version of the [Labels and description of exhibits](#)

**Unfortunately, we are not able to provide toilet facilities (other than for visitors with bladder cancer), refreshments or mobility aids.**

- **Toilet facilities for visitors.** The public toilets are located around the corner in a small car park. The toilets include disabled facilities, and the Gallery holds a RADAR key. Visitors who have cancer and may urgently need to use a bathroom can gain access to the volunteer toilet in the Gallery on production of the Macmillan or Bowel Cancer card.
- **Refreshment facilities.** We do not have refreshment facilities but there are a range of options in the village High Street.

- wheelchairs or other mobility aids. For visitors who wish to bring their own mobility aid, the entrance doors are 103cm wide, the lift is 79cm wide and the fire door is 93cm wide. Visitors using the lift must be able to use the stairs to exit the Gallery in the event of a power failure or fire.

## **Getting to the Gallery**

### **Public Transport**

The Gallery is approximately one mile from Cookham Station, which is on a branch line between Maidenhead to and Marlow. The train service is operated by First Great Western with the principal station being Maidenhead. There are taxis available at Maidenhead and some vehicles are designed for disabled passengers. Taxies from Cookham Station can be booked on 01628 777400

There are several taxis licensed by the Local Authority specifically for wheelchair users and other disabled passengers from the taxi ranks in Windsor and Maidenhead. To book, please call:

Windsor: 01753 862020

Maidenhead:01628 634311

A bus service (Bus 37 towards High Wycombe Bus Station) runs from Bridge Avenue, Maidenhead to Cookham. The bus stops at the Memorial in Cookham which is approximately 400 yards west of the Gallery.

The route to the Gallery from public transport is generally flat and tarmac / paved but the pavement is very narrow adjacent to some terrace houses about ½ mile from the station and wheelchair users would probably have to use the road.

### **Car Parking and arriving on foot or bicycle.**

- Car parking including Blue Badge parking is available in a small public car park close to the Gallery on Sutton Road (A4094) and on-street parking on the High Street is also available for two hours. Our postcode is SL69SJ.

The on-street parking is on the north side of the High Street and the Gallery is on the south side. There are designated spaces for Blue Badge holders.

- Although there is a traffic island in the middle of the road in front of the Gallery, the most accessible place to cross the High Street is opposite the Kings Arms public house located in the middle of the High Street because the kerb is lowered at that point. Kerbs in the village are normally higher than normal.

- There is also a large National Trust car park on Cookham Moor to the west of the village High Street. Unless you are a National Trust member, there is a charge. The car park is uneven grassland and may be muddy during wet weather.
- Car parking in the village and its car park is free, but traffic wardens do patrol. Visitors are advised to check the time limits when parking.
- The approach to the Gallery from the small car park and on street parking is flat, even and generally tarmac.

## Group visits

- If you would like to discuss arranging a visit for a group of people with disabilities, please email [dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk) and one of our volunteers will contact you.

A volunteer from the Gallery will accompany all Group visits to support the organiser, and if requested, provide a guided tour of the Exhibition.

## **Main Entrance and arrival**

- **The Gallery is the white building at the eastern end of the High Street. It is a former church and consequently it is a distinctive building. The Gallery entrance is flat with no stairs and is located on the High Street side of the building. There are large buttons at the left hand side of the door frame to open the inner doors and the outer door to leave the building. The doors are 103 cm wide and wheelchair accessible.**
- **The entrance and Gallery are well-lit with ceiling lighting. The floor surface is wood and there are no rugs or carpets. Benches are available for seating.**

## **Welcome desk**

- **The main entrance is staffed by the Custodian.**
- **A hearing loop is installed at the entrance.**
- **The admissions desk is low and therefore accessible to wheelchair users.**
- **We are a Gallery run by volunteers. There is normally only one volunteer, known as the Custodian, on duty when the Gallery is open.**
- **On request the Custodian can provide**

- a large print copy of labels,
- a USB stick( usb c and pc) with the Labels and exhibition information you can use on your reader.
- the RADAR key for the nearby toilets,
- a water bowl for assistance dogs
- assistance with the doors and lift.
- a children's activity leaflet if available
- coloured overlays

If you would like additional support than the Custodian can provide, please contact us before your visit on 01628 531 092 and leave a message for Dennis or [email dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk). One of our volunteers will contact you to see if we can make arrangements for an escorted visit.

## Exhibition space

- The building is a converted church with a vaulted ceiling. The exhibition is located on the ground floor, on a wall adjacent to the staircase and on a mezzanine floor.
- The Gallery is uniformly well lit with ceiling lighting. There are no dark areas. The floor is wooden. There are no rugs. There are solid benches to sit on.
- The stairs have ribbed edges and a handrail.

- A lift is available for taking visitors to the mezzanine floor on which exhibits, the video screen and archives are located. However, visitors should be aware that the lift cannot be used if there is a fire or power cut.
- Visitors who use the lift to access the mezzanine floor must be able to evacuate the building using the stairs in an emergency.

## Exhibits

- The Gallery presents approximately 50 paintings and drawings by Spencer.
- Artefacts are displayed in cabinets with glass sides and which can be viewed by adult wheelchair users.
- There are extensive archives which are primarily printed documents.
- For some exhibitions, an audio-visual presentation is available. A set of earphones for use with hearing aids is available. Unfortunately, this is currently not captioned.
- Several paintings /drawings are hung on the wall adjacent to the stairs and, although visible from both floors, cannot be examined closely by visitors who are unable to use stairs without assistance.

## Public Toilets

- Public toilets are in the adjacent public car park. The Gallery holds a RADAR key which is available from the Custodian.

## Additional assistance available.

We hope that the information in this Guide enables you to plan your visit. Below we have added additional information which may be relevant to visitors with specific requirements.

### Visitors who are dyslexic.

We provide coloured overlays and rulers for visitors who are dyslexic . Visitors are also invited to download the [Labels and description of exhibits](#) document onto your tablet or other device to use during your visit to the Gallery.

### Blind or visually impaired visitors

You are invited to download the [Labels and description of exhibits](#) document onto your tablet or other device to use during your visit to the Gallery.

We currently do not have audio descriptions to download but please contact [dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk) and we will try to arrange an audio-described tour.

### **Visitors who have cancer**

Visitors who have cancer and may urgently need to use a bathroom can gain access to the custodian's toilet in the Gallery on production of the Macmillan or Bowel Cancer card.

### **Neurodivergent visitors**

You may wish to read our SEND guid for young people so that you can see how we operate the Gallery.

If you would prefer a quieter environment, we are happy to try to open the Gallery for you before the Gallery is open to the general public. Please email [dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk) to make arrangements.

### **Visitors with mobility impairments**

Unfortunately, it is not practical to access the Archives unless you can evacuate the Gallery in an emergency using the stairs. If you wish to access the Archives and can't use the stairs, please email [dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk) or telephone 01628 531 092 and leave a message for Dennis and we will make alternative arrangements to bring the relevant Archive material downstairs for you.

Unfortunately visitors who cannot use the stairs will not be able to see the items displayed adjacent to the stairs in detail.

## Shop

- The shop is located at the entrance.
- The shop sells, books, framed and unframed prints, postcards etc. Sample books are available for browsing. However, if a book you wish to look at has been shelved so it is inaccessible to you, please ask the Custodian and they will assist you.
- A hearing loop is in place.

## Feedback

We welcome feedback on the information available to you from our website and your visit to the Gallery

[dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleypencer.org.uk)

## Contact Information

**Email:** [dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk](mailto:dennis@stanleyspencer.org.uk)

**Address** High Street Cookham  
Berkshire  
SL6 9SJ

**Telephone:** 01628 471885

**Opening Hours of Operation:** Insert link to web area

