

Chapel Tower Access – Visitor Briefing Sheet

St John's College Chapel Tower is 163 feet high with 190 steps. It is the highest building in Cambridge, 6 feet taller than Cambridge University Library.

St John's College has taken all reasonably practicable steps to mitigate reasonably foreseeable risks associated with a visit to the top of the Chapel Tower. To further reduce risk, please read this briefing sheet. Once you have read it, you will be required to sign to indicate that the conditions of entry to the Chapel Tower will be adhered to.

If the porters have reasonable cause to believe that any of the below conditions are not or will not be adhered to or that individuals or groups present an unacceptable health or safety risk for some other reason, then access to the Chapel Tower will not be permitted. The Chapel Tower cannot be booked, and visits are limited to half an hour.

Remember:

- One person to give their mobile phone number to the porters in case of emergency or incident. The porters telephone number is 01223 338671.
- A maximum number of 8 people are allowed at any one time.
- Access is permitted for a maximum of 30 minutes.
- One adult to be at the front and rear of any group which includes children (no under 10s).
- No smoking inside the Tower or on the roof.
- No food or alcohol are to be consumed.
- Floor surfaces are uneven and the stairs are steep and winding, so only suitable footwear is allowed – i.e. no high heels or flip flops.
- Report any health or safety issues you encounter to the porters lodge on your return e.g. light not working.
- Once inside the Chapel Tower the party leader is to lock the Chapel access door from the inside. The key must be kept on the hook by the light switch at the bottom of the staircase.
- No hand baggage (except rucksacks) is to be taken up the Tower. This is to enable the stairs to be negotiated with both hands free. Leave items at the lodge or at the bottom of the Tower stairs.
- Do not attempt the climb if you have mobility issues, vertigo, claustrophobia, breathing difficulties, high blood pressure or a heart condition.
- Before you leave, turn the lights off and ensure the Chapel Tower access door is locked.

Chapel Tower Staircase & Roof

- Turn on the staircase lights if not already on – bottom of staircase on the left.
- The stairs are narrow, steep and winding. There is no handrail, so keep both hands free and use the centre post to help with stability.
- Take care when opening the doors to the Chapel roof and the Tower roof. The door opens towards you and the handles are positioned low down to make it easier to pull open. The doors are secured by a bolt. When descending make sure the doors are closed and bolted.
- Comply with the sign and do not walk around the outside of the Chapel Roof.
- Take care on the Tower roof that any items (including telephones and cameras) are securely in your possession at all times. This will reduce the risk of anything going over the side of the Tower and causing injury to anyone below.
- Take care on the Tower roof as some surface levels are uneven and other trip hazards exist.