

SENSORY PROFILE



SPRING HARVEST

Venue Name: Big Top
Location: Skegness

Used for morning Bible teaching and evening celebration. This is a large venue that can hold a huge number of people.

It is very close to the Skyline through doors that are not automatic. If you struggle with heavy doors you will need some help to get through them.

Layout

Seating is fixed to the ground, and the seats are close together. They are shiny plastic, therefore slippery and a little cold to touch. The seats flip up when you stand up, making slap bang noise, and have to be flipped down before sitting on them.

It is possible to find areas of seating that are less crowded. Some people bring a cushion for their seat. Seats near the doors can feel a little chilly when it's windy. If you feel the cold it may be more comfortable for you to sit away from the doors or bring a blanket.

There are slightly raised areas for wheelchair users that have rails around them, with space in front of these raised areas on ground level for more wheelchairs or buggies. These are positioned on the left and right of the stage in front of the raised seating closest to the stage. This means, if you are a wheelchair user you will be closest to the lights, sound, and movement. If you are sitting with a friend or relative who is a wheelchair user, you will be given a standard plastic seat, but we may be able to find a chair with arms if it helps you feel more stable. Storage for wheelchairs and buggies is to the right of the stage (as you look at the stage from the front) so if you need to park and walk, you will need to come to the accessible entrance nearest the parking area. (Go to the right as you come out of the Skyline).

There is a small amount of space for dancing or moving around during worship near the front this means it may be very noisy and busy. Please ask a steward to point these areas out if you want them.

There are two accessible entrances to the Big Top on opposite sides of the venue. As you walk round either



side you will see them clearly marked. These are not just for wheelchairs, but for all with disabilities or additional needs, including sensory issues. They are opened slightly before the other entrances and have a slower flow of traffic at that point. (Although they do get busier towards the start of the worship and at the end of meetings). If it is easier for you to use one of these entrances, please arrive early and chat to the steward. The stewards at this entrance are specially trained.

The nearest toilets are in the Skyline. The air freshener smell in these toilets can be quite strong.

Being a large tent, the sides will move and flap in the wind. The level of noise it creates is dependent on the strength of the wind. Rain can be heard easily and heavy rain can sometimes interfere with hearing people clearly. When the Big Top has lots of people in it, it can feel noisy and closed in.

Lighting

The lighting is always on in the Big Top, but even so, it can still feel dimly lit. The lighting may sometimes be lowered for a drama, but it is rarely totally dark. If this is a concern, please speak to a steward at the accessible entrance and they can find out what you need to know.

A 'smoke machine' is used to help those controlling the stage lights to position them correctly. It isn't smoke that comes out of them, but a fine water based vapour. This has slight odour which may be noticeable to those sitting at the front.

There will be bright/coloured/moving/sweeping lights on the stage. They do not strobe. We try not to allow these lights to sweep into the seating areas, but we can't guarantee that it won't happen at all.

Screens

There will be a large screen at the back of the stage, and a repeater plasma screen near one of the raised wheelchair areas. If you would find this useful, the stewards will be able to guide you to where to sit.

The words to songs mostly appear at the top of these screens, but will occasionally be in the centre. There are often either slow moving graphics around the words, or a live video shot of the worship under the words. We try to make sure this doesn't interfere with the ability to read the words.

These screens also have live video when someone is speaking on the platform, and will have video clips to do with the over-all programme.

You can request the song words on paper if this is easier for you, or have them emailed to a reading device. Just let the staff know on the Spring Harvest stand and they will tell you what to do.

Sounds

This venue will have loud worship, with a full band. Some find it more comfortable to use ear defenders. The band will have drums and base that can be felt as well as heard. Sound levels are set lower than the recommended top decibel level, but it is still loud.

The Big Top has a small echo, normal for large venues. It is more noticeable with speaking than with music. If someone is speaking from the platform, there will be a larger or smaller amount of echo depending on where you sit.

We try to keep sudden noise to a minimum, but cannot guarantee there will be no sudden noise from guests, or a child crying out. These sounds either deaden or amplify depending on where you sit and your level of sensitivity.

Be prepared for sudden noise from videos if there is a technical difficulty getting them started. Audio feed back from the sound system is extremely rare.