

ACCESS INFORMATION

PROCESSIONS EDINBURGH - 10th June 2018

Thank you for taking part in PROCESSIONS! We are delighted to have you with us to celebrate this historic moment.

Artichoke is aware that some participants may require additional support to take part in the event and we have endeavoured to ensure that all participants are empowered to take part in PROCESSIONS on an equal basis.

Artichoke takes accessibility and safety for all participants very seriously, regardless of their special access needs. We understand people have a variety of accessibility requirements and we encourage you to communicate them to us so we can help you as best we can to enjoy your day at PROCESSIONS.

If you have not already done so, please register your attendance by visiting www.processions.co.uk

We have spent time carefully planning this event, liaising with multiple agencies across Edinburgh to ensure that you and your group are kept safe and together on the day, and that it is an enjoyable experience for all.

Please read through this document carefully to help you plan your day.

If, after reading this document and assessing your own requirements, you feel that you would be better suited walking a shorter route on the day, **please ensure you have registered by visiting www.processions.co.uk and telling us about your access requirements.** We will then email you details about our special access point which will enable you to do a shorter route.

This area is encouraged for individuals and groups who have limited mobility and for those who require a safe space in order to attend PROCESSIONS. However, this space is also limited so we would ask you to consider your access needs before deciding whether to use this starting point.

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1.1 YOUR JOURNEY TO THE EVENT

Route location and timing information:

MAIN STARTING POINT	ROUTE END POINT	ASSEMBLY TIME	APPROX STARTING TIME
Middle Meadow Walk, The Meadows, EH3 8GE	Queens Drive, Holyrood Park, EH8 8AZ	12:15 – 13:30	14:00 – 14:15

Distances:

This route is for anyone who is able to walk the full length of the PROCESSION.

If, after reading this document and assessing your own requirements, you feel that you would be better suited walking a shorter route on the day, **please ensure you have registered by visiting www.processions.co.uk and telling us about your access requirements.** We will then email you details about our special access point which will enable you to do a shorter route.

Distance from the starting point (Middle Meadow Walk) to the route end point (Queens Drive) 2.5miles / 4023m.

Please note that PROCESSIONS is taking place on roads in the city centre. We believe the route to be step free, but please be aware that the terrain may be uneven at times.

We will be walking at a manageable, slow pace.

Accessible Public Transport Information:

Please note that due to the nature of the event and the need to close roads for the PROCESSION to take place, the city will be extremely busy, there will be diversions in place and additional congestion on the roads. Participants are strongly advised to use public transport and to avoid driving wherever possible.

Lothian buses will be running on the day and some routes may be diverted. Please use their [journey planner](#) to plan your journey. All Lothian buses are wheelchair accessible.

Edinburgh Waverley Station (step-free) is the closest mainline station to the starting point (Middle Meadow Walk) and a 20 minute walk. Visit [Scotrail](#) for further service and station information.

There are seven Park and Rides services operated by Lothian Buses in and around Edinburgh. [Click here](#) for further location details and for route information.

West End – Princes Street is the closest tram stop to the starting point (Middle Meadow Walk) and a 30 minute walk. Visit [Edinburgh Trams](#) for further service and station information. All trams wheelchair accessible. [Click here for further tram access information.](#)

Accessible Parking:

There is no public parking provided for the event and we expect the city to be heavily congested. For those travelling from out of central Edinburgh, **we strongly advise using the Park and Ride facilities on the outskirts of the city.**

Parking is not permitted at the starting point.

Those who wish to travel by car should make use of public car parking facilities in central Edinburgh, taking the road closure arrangements into consideration and allowing extra time for their journey. You can find information about disabled parking bays in Edinburgh [here](#).

For guidance on Blue Badge parking in Edinburgh [click here](#). Be advised that due to road closures for the event, Blue Badge parking will be limited on the day.

Coach Drop off:

There will be coach drop off points located on Melville Drive, EH9 1JY.

Please look out for stewards who will guide you to the drop off bays. Coaches should move off quickly after passengers have disembarked to make space for more coaches coming in.

Coaches can head to Regent Terrace (EH7 5BS), the coach pick up point, to wait until the end of the PROCESSION event. Stewards will be on hand to direct coach drivers to this location.

1.2 WHEN YOU ARRIVE**Waiting Times:**

Due to the nature of the event we cannot give estimated wait times as it will depend on the amount of people taking part on the day. Your waiting times are also dependent on what time you choose to arrive. It is likely that there will be extended wait times throughout the assembly and PROCESSION.

Though we will do our best to keep these to a minimum, we highly recommend that, if you have limited mobility or find it difficult to stand for long periods of time, you bring some temporary fold-away seating with you. Please use these in safe areas only, within the form up areas and off the route of the PROCESSION.

Refreshments:

You will be free to come and go on the day from the assembly point, and during the PROCESSION also.

There will be concessions stands providing tea and coffee at starting point (Middle Meadow Walk) and at the end of the route (Queens Drive).

There will be no barriers along the route, if you would like to stop for refreshments you can do so at any time by stepping out of the PROCESSION. Please alert a steward or volunteer if you require assistance.

Toilets:

Accessible toilets will be provided at the following locations: the starting point (Middle Meadow Walk) at the accessible starting point (Tron Kirk), and the end point (Queens Drive). Toilets will be sign posted.

These toilets will be stewarded so please present yourself as a participant who requires special access to use these facilities.

1.3 DURING THE PROCESSION**What to Expect:**

When you arrive, you'll be directed to the assembly area at Middle Meadow Walk, where you will be given a green, white or violet shawl to put on. You will be marshalled into three lines of colour with your group and other participants before moving off to start the PROCESSION.

Please be aware that as PROCESSIONS is a mass participation event and is likely to be crowded and noisy.

We will be walking at a manageable, slow pace.

There will be no barriers along the route, though some parts of the arrival point will be enclosed by barriers. If you are feeling unwell or would like to stop walking, you can step out of the PROCESSION and re-join it at any time.

Please alert a steward or volunteer if you require any assistance.

1.4 GETTING HOME

There is no rally at the end of PROCESSIONS.

Accessible Public Transport Information:

Stewards and volunteers will be on hand to signpost you to the nearest transport links and the coach pick up point for your homeward journey.

Edinburgh Waverley Station (step-free) is the closest mainline station to the end point (Queen's Drive) and a 20 minute walk. Visit [Scotrail](#) for further service and station information.

York Place is the closest tram stop to the ending point (Queen's Drive) and a 30 minute walk. Visit [Edinburgh Trams](#) for further service and station information. Edinburgh Trams are wheelchair accessible.

The coach pick up point at the end of the route is on Regent Terrace, EH7 5BS, 15 minutes' walk from the end point (Queen's Drive).