

St Cuthbert's House

192 Main St, North Sunderland, Seahouses,

Northumberland NE68 7UB

01665 720456

stay@stcuthbertshouse.com

St Cuthbert's House Access Statement

Introduction

Our home is set in the quiet hamlet of North Sunderland, adjacent to the bustling village of Seahouses, in the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It offers six guest rooms.

The house is a former church building, built in 1810. It has been extensively renovated and modernised, and although we aim to meet the needs of all guests, there are some aspects of this Listed Building (which we were obliged – and keen - to retain during redevelopment) which might make access to the upper floor of the building difficult for people with limited mobility. Access to the first floor is by the stairs only; we do not have a lift.

However, we are located on level ground, with level access from our own hard-surfaced car park, and we have two ground floor guest rooms. One of these rooms has been fitted with 'accessible' features such as wider doorways and a 'wet room'. This room can be readily accessed by wheelchair users. All 'public' areas of the house are on the ground floor, with the exception of the first floor landing, which has a sofa and is a comfortable reading or meeting-space.

Pre-Arrival

- We are located on a level road, with good vehicular access to the front and rear entrances.
- The nearest shops are in the village of Seahouses, approximately 1 mile away.
- The local bus stop is about 50m from St Cuthbert's House, and provides bus links to Alnwick, Newcastle, and all areas of Britain! Rural bus services are not frequent however. Timetable can be provided.
- The nearest railway station is Alnmouth, which is approximately 18 miles to the south. It is on the main East Coast railway line from London to Edinburgh so gives good access to all parts of the country. Taxis are usually available at the station but we can book one for you in advance if required.
- There are several local taxi companies; we can make bookings in advance for you.

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- We regret that we are unable to accommodate pets.
- St Cuthbert's House is 'a quiet place', and we have therefore chosen not to accommodate young children. Those over twelve years are welcome, but we ask parents to respect the desires of most of our guests who appreciate the peace and quiet which St Cuthbert's House is so disposed to!
- Menus can be provided in large print if required.
- We regret that we do not have facilities (at this stage) to prepare documents in braille.
- Our website www.stcuthbertshouse.com provides clear pictures of all aspects of our accommodation, and further information about the house and our heart for the hospitality it affords.
- You can contact us by telephone, text message, post, or e-mail. Please see the 'Contact Information' section of this document.

Arrival and Car Parking

- Please advise us of your anticipated arrival time, so that we can be sure we are here to welcome you.
- We'll be very happy to make you a pot of tea or coffee when you arrive.
- To ensure your accommodation is ready, we ask that you check-in from 3pm. However, earlier arrival may be possible by arrangement.
- Parking is in a level car park adjacent to the back door. There is space for six cars. Please park 'nose in' to the fence, at an angle of about 45 degrees, and without leaving large gaps between cars – this enables us to get the maximum number of cars in and out safely.
- To leave the car park, it is best to reverse out of your space, and into the 'turning bay' at the end of the car park, and then join the road in a forward direction.
- Please try not to use your power-steering whilst your car is stationary. We find that this damages the surface of the car park, and it cannot be repaired easily.
- We offer assistance with luggage.

Main Entrance

- There is one step of 6 inches up to the front door and into the front hall.
- The front door has a doorbell approximately 3' 6" from ground level.
- The front door and hallway door is very wide.

Rear Entrance, from the car park

- There is level access to the house from the car park.
- The rear door opens outwards, into the car park.
- The rear door has a doorbell approximately 3' from ground level.
- This door is open almost permanently, but will be locked at bedtime and if we go out. You will be given a brass key which fits the front door when you check in. The front door lock is approximately 4'6" from ground level.

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Guest Accommodation – Public Areas

- All ground floor areas are on level ground. The front and rear entrance hallways, the Cuthbert Room, and the kitchen (not usually accessed by guests) are separated by fire-doors, with self-closing devices fitted. These doors are of substantial construction, and with the self-closers fitted, they can feel heavy to open for some people.
- The front entrance hall has a solid wooden floor; the rear hall is carpeted.
- There are 18 stairs to the first floor; there is a hand rail on one side of these stairs; the stairway has two 'half landings' which each turns the stairs through 90 degrees. The stairs are carpeted.
- We have no toilet facilities in any of the public areas. The only toilets are in ensuite bathrooms.
- We have two guest bedrooms on the ground floor, which open off the downstairs hall. See 'Bedrooms' section.
- The house is centrally heated throughout. Temperatures can be adjusted in each room using thermostatic radiator valves which are fitted to all radiators and towel rails, close to floor level.

The Cuthbert Room

- Guests are welcome to use the Cuthbert Room at any time.
- The Cuthbert Room has four sofas, and 'straight-back' chairs can be moved a short distance from the dining area if required. This room has digital projection and electric screen, DVD, TV, and CD player, all fully remote controlled.
- The Cuthbert Room has five rectangular tables, ideal for working, writing, or using a computer.
- The Cuthbert Room has a wooden floor, with three rugs.
- There are twelve network access points in the Cuthbert Room, giving access to the internet, and wireless access throughout the house.
- A selection of local information, maps, magazines and board games is available in the Cuthbert Room.
- Breakfast (and evening meal, when offered) is served in the Cuthbert Room.

Bedrooms

- All bedrooms are carpeted throughout.
- There are en suite facilities in all bedrooms. Three rooms have baths with shower over, two rooms have walk-in shower cubicles, and one room has an accessible wet room. All ensuite rooms have ceramic tiled floors.
- Facilities for making hot drinks are provided in all bedrooms, as is bottled water.
- Water from bathroom taps is potable.
- We provide a hair dryer and sewing kit in each bedroom.
- Organic, eco-friendly toiletries are provided, along with a shower cap.

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- Our beds are normally made with duvets, with tog ratings to suit the season.
- Our duvets and pillows are made from synthetic material, so as to be non-allergenic.
- We are happy to provide sheets and blankets if preferred. Please specify before your arrival if required.
- There is a wardrobe, chest of drawers and dressing table, and two bedside cabinets in each room. Three bedrooms have 'built-in' wardrobes.
- There are two internet access ports in each room, and wireless access throughout the house.
- Each bedroom has two chairs.
- Each bedroom has a remote-controlled 22" digital LCD television with Freeview.
- There is a Guest Information booklet in each bedroom which contains further information about various aspects of the house, and details of emergency contacts including doctors and hospitals.
- All of our rooms have high quality pocket-sprung divan beds.
- All of the guest rooms can be set up as a 6' SuperKing-size configuration
- Four rooms (including two on the ground floor) can be set up as twin 3' singles configuration.
- All beds can be accessed from both sides.

Outside

- There is a small enclosed area outside the front door which provides a pleasant place to sit. Garden chairs are available on request. St Cuthbert's House does not have a garden.

Additional Information

- There is a fire alarm system fitted to L2 standard, with beacons and sounders in every bedroom.
- There is a fire extinguisher in both entrance halls and a fire blanket in the kitchen.
- The building can be evacuated via the front and rear doors. There is also an exit via the kitchen, which is off the Cuthbert Room.
- We do not permit smoking in the house. If you wish to smoke outside in the vicinity of the house, please ask for an ashtray. Please do not discard cigarette ends carelessly.
- We are happy to do our best to cater for special diets, or any particular likes or dislikes. Please talk to us about this before your arrival.
- We are able to keep any perishables or medication in our fridge whilst you are with us. We can also freeze your picnic hamper blocks for you.
- We are happy to provide ice cubes and iced water from our ice dispenser.
- You are welcome to have some fresh milk in your room for making drinks – please ask.

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- Mobile phone reception in the village is generally good. The substantial construction of the house means that some phones will not get good reception indoors. The rural area does not achieve consistent phone signal in all areas.
- We can arrange reflexology or massage treatments for you during your stay.
- We can make reservations and provide tickets for the whole range of attractions and activities in and around Northumberland.

Contact Information

- Our address is: **St Cuthbert's House, 192 Main Street, North Sunderland, Seahouses, Northumberland, NE68 7UB**
- Our telephone number: is **01665 720456**. When we are away from home this number is diverted to our mobile phone. We do not have fax facilities.
- Mobile phone: **07771 665401** or **07786 336008**
- E-mail: **stay@stcuthbertshouse.com**
- Website: **www.stcuthbertshouse.com**
- We are open all year - but we do take an occasional day off now and then...

Future Plans for St Cuthbert's House:

- We plan to add a 'vibrating pillow' alert system in the accessible bedroom during 2009.

If you require further details or have any comments about St Cuthbert's House, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jeff & Jill Sutheran

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