

Christmas on the Cobbles



Visual Story

What happens at Christmas on the Cobbles?



There are two main parts of Christmas on the Cobbles.

The daytime activities are from 12pm until 4:30pm, where there are lots of rides, games, crafts and activities across the town centre, all for free.

Then, in the early evening, there is a busy, loud and fun light parade which ends with fireworks.

I don't have to go to all the parts,
I can choose which bits I go to.

What happens at the daytime activities?

Market Square



There are entertainers walking around. They are different each year. I can stand and watch for as long as I would like or have my picture taken with them.

There will be people singing, talking and doing shows on the big stage in Market Square all day.

What happens at the daytime activities?

Kingsbury



There are lots of fun fair rides, which are free.

It can get very busy and noisy here and I will have to wait my turn.

The queues can be quite long, I might have to wait between 15-45 minutes for each ride.

The rides change each year.

What happens at the daytime activities?

The Exchange



There will be market stalls and music in the Exchange. There are fun Christmas things to buy like gifts for my friends and family.

Bringing a little bit of money is a good idea.
The market and food stalls also take card payments.

There will also be a bar and some music playing.

What happens at the daytime activities?

Friars Square Shopping Centre



I can play the games.

I can make crafts and take what I make home with me.

I can sit on the floor and watch the funny show,
there will be bits where I can join in and shout out answers.

There are also fun entertainers that
walk around in festive outfits.

What happens at the daytime activities?

Friars Square Shopping Centre Lantern decorating



To decorate a lantern, we must book a space before the event.

The sessions take place upstairs above House of Fraser.

I might need to leave my lantern to dry and collect it at the end to take home and/or hold while I watch the parade.

Lantern decorating can get quite messy.

Where can I get quiet space during the daytime activities?



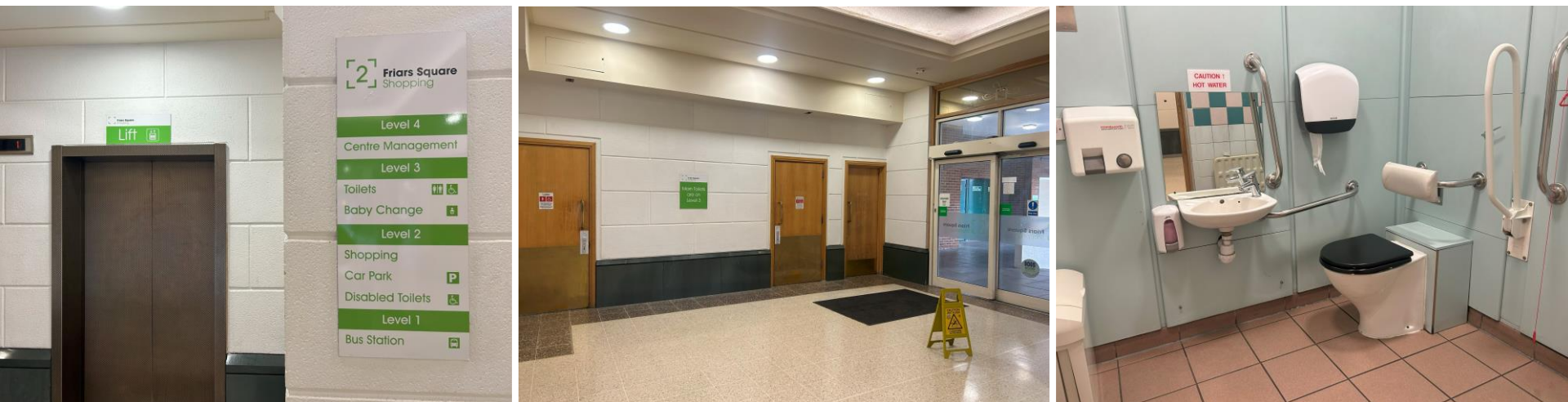
There is a special place that I can go, if everything gets too much for me. Here I can play with the toys and feel calm.

I will find it beside New Look in Friars Square.

They have lots of great things for me to do.

The people who work here can talk to me in sign language.

Where are the toilets?



There are toilets in the shopping centres and restaurants.
There are no temporary event toilets.

In Friars Square Shopping Centre,
the main public toilets are on the third floor.

There are larger disabled toilets on the second and third floors.
These are locked with a RADAR key
which I can borrow from the Meeting Point.

What happens at the light parade?

When should I get there?



People start to wait from about 4pm. The light parade starts at 5pm.

The sky will be dark and it can get rather cold, so I must wrap up warm.

There will be lots of people watching the parade and it will get very crowded, with lots of people standing very close to each other.

I must stay with my family and friends,
and listen to the instructions of the parade stewards,
who keep us all safe.

What happens at the light parade?

Where should I watch from?



The parade will come from the High Street and start outside WHSmiths. The High Street will be a quieter place to watch the parade, without loud music and lots of movement. I can watch the parade here and will still be able to hear the music and countdown.

The parade in Market Square will be very loud with lots of dancing and moving about. From here I will have a view of the countdown.

What happens at the light parade?

What do I do if it feels too busy and crowded?



There is a special viewing area next to the stage.
I will be able to see the countdown well from here,
but it will be very noisy.

If I need more space I can stand in the middle of Market Square,
but I won't be able to see everyone in the parade.

The best view of the fireworks is on the right hand side of Market Square,
on the same side of the road as Hale Leys shopping centre

What happens in the light parade?



Everyone in the parade walks slowly up the High Street once and around Market Square one and a half times.

Music will come from speakers around Market Square, this will be very loud.

There are children and adults in bright and fun costumes, they will be waving, dancing and smiling.

Everyone in the parade likes it when I wave and cheer as they go past, especially Santa Claus.

When are the fireworks?



At the end of the parade, some people will get onto the stage to celebrate the end of the parade. They will play a song that I can sing along to, or I can just stand and watch.

All the crowd will count backwards from 10 down to zero. This is rather loud.

When we all get to zero, the tree light decorations will come on and fireworks will go off to the right of Market Square, towards the train station.

They last for about seven minutes.

Will I need any money?



There are some market stalls, where I can buy different things.

They will take cash and card payments.

All the shops will be open in the daytime.

At the parade there will be flashing things to buy.

All the rides, games, crafts, activities and shows are free,
I don't need to pay for any of these.

What do I do if I need help?



I can ask the people in green t-shirts or coats if I need any help.
These people are called the Event Crew and are very kind.

The people wearing the special sunflower lanyards will be able to help me do all the things I would like too.

Who else can help me?



There will be lots of parade stewards.
They all wear hi-vis jackets. They are there to keep us all safe.

Security people and parade stewards will always help me,
I just have to ask.

What special things are available for me?



There are ear defenders I can borrow.

They need a £10 deposit, which I get back when I return them.

There are special bands I can wear on my wrist,
we can write an emergency contact number on them.

These can help me, and my parents feel safe.

All of these are available at the Meeting Point, which during the day is inside Friars Square and during the parade it's at the top of Market Square by the war memorial.

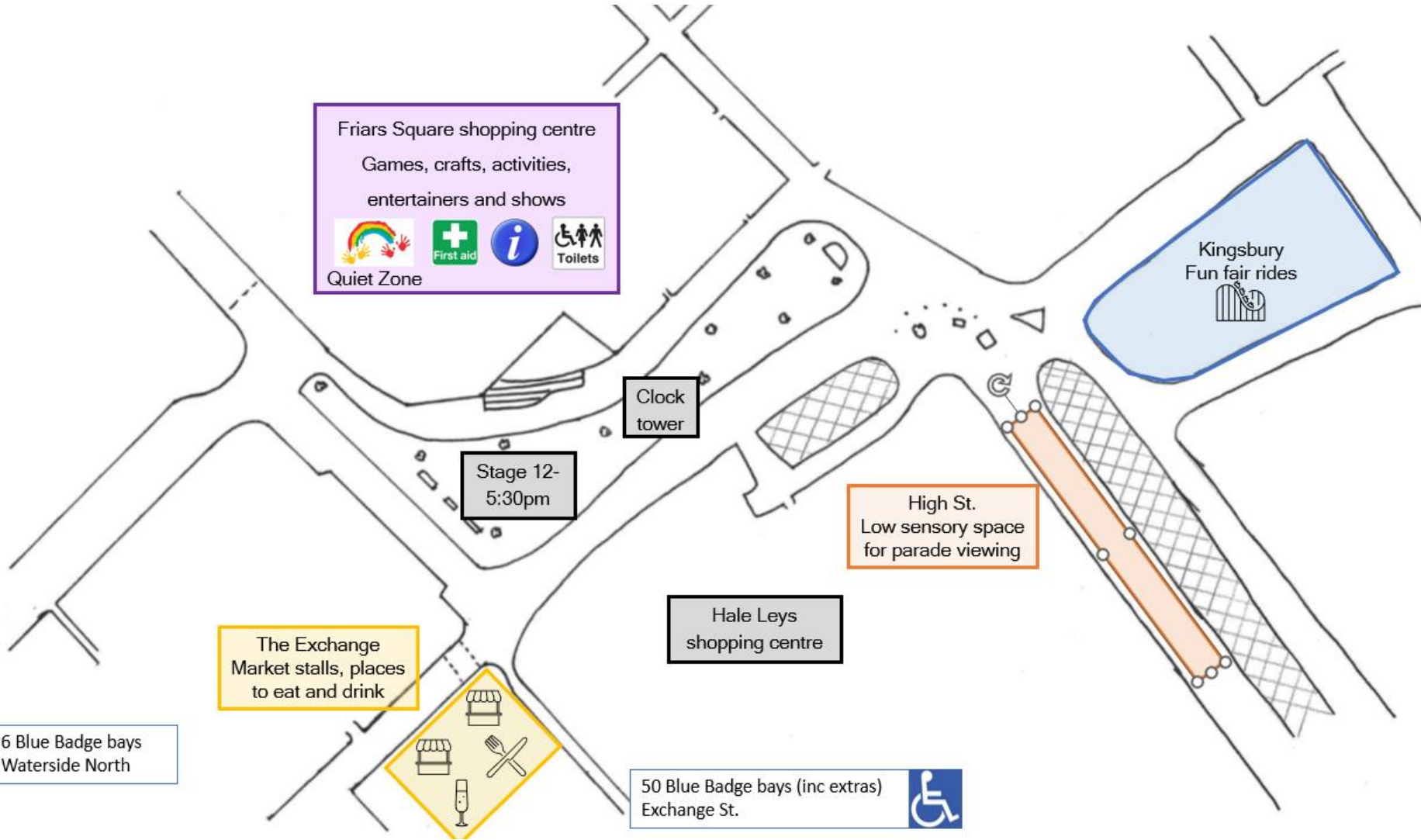
What do I do if I need some space during the parade?



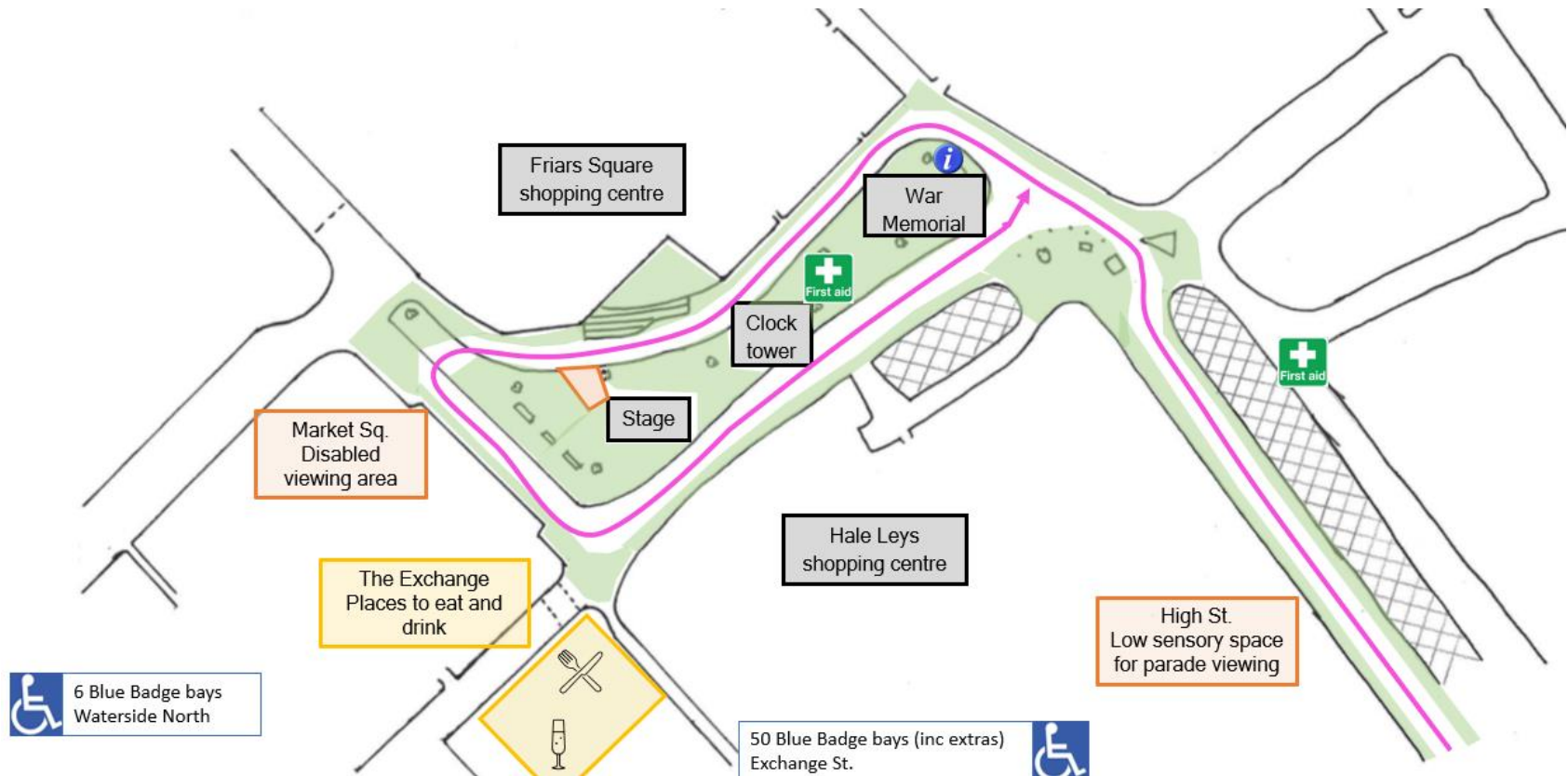
Because the parade and fireworks only lasts for about 35 minutes, there isn't a quiet space for me to play.

But I can go to the High Street, where there will be less people and it's a little bit calmer.

Daytime map 1-5pm



Parade map



You can stand anywhere that is shaded green on this map. The pink line is the parade route. It will be most crowded beside the parade route.

The disabled viewing area will have the best view of the countdown and will be noisy with a restricted view of the fireworks.

Near the war memorial will have the best view of the fireworks, but limited view of the countdown performance.