

Planning your event – Sound, Vision and Recording

Sound

When you are planning your event, you should pay attention to the unique characteristics that St Mary's Church offers by way of its acoustics. The church is large and its acoustics are both wonderful and challenging. We would encourage you to think about your event as a whole production and consider the various possibilities before you arrive for the event itself.

The church is large and whilst for some events no sound at all as people enter is wanted or needed, for others the use of music in appropriate style can add to the atmosphere and preparation for what is to come. We are able to supply a wide range of music and of course play anything that you bring with you.

There are usually announcements to make and very few people have the capacity to even make announcements without the aid of the PA system. The use of the PA system is essential if there are to be any introductions, readings etc.. Again, in our experience those who rehearse these things, albeit briefly, deliver much better performances at the event. The PA system also feeds the loop system ensuring that sound gets to those who use devices to assist hearing. This also ensures that this element of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) has been met.

There is a range of microphones available for use with the system including radio microphones four of which are lavalier microphones for attachment to a lapel or outer clothing. Microphones for readers and choirs and support to groups on stage can also be provided. To best support your event we need to know in advance your likely requirements and we will be pleased to plan these with you.

If you are bringing your own sound system to the event you should know that there is the basic infrastructure of a multicore from four points on the stage to the back of the church already installed. This can provide up to 24 channels from the stage with four channels of foldback although we would advise the least use of on stage open speaker foldback as possible because of its interference with the general acoustics of the venue. The venue's own sound system can also be used to deliver sound on an already established delay to those in the Gallery - if you expect your audience to be seated in the Gallery.

Vision

We are equipped with a Data Projector and large rear projection screen for the addition of any visual images or presentations that you want to incorporate into your event. We are able, given suitable briefing and advance notice to prepare presentations for your event. We can also project images and clips from DVDs and have the capacity to mix visual data from a variety of sources. If you are preparing your own material then we would ask you to make that available in advance of the event so that we can ensure that it is compatible with our systems well in advance of the event itself.

Recording

We have a growing relationship with our local Hospital Radio and many of the events that occur in the church are very suitable for those who are hospitalised. If our team consider that your programme might be one of these, we hope that you will not be offended if we ask for your permission to record it for these purposes. We understand that there are circumstances where permission will not, or cannot, be given – in our experience mostly this is agreeable and greatly appreciated by those in the Horton Hospital.

We do have the capacity to record an event and produce a CD for you, although this does need to be agreed and set up in advance of the event. Responsibility for dealing with permissions and copyrights, in this instance, remains with you.

The Equipment

For the technically minded, the equipment that is available for use is:

- 4 Audio Technica lavalier microphones (wireless)
- 2 Audio Technica hand held microphones (wireless)
- 2 SHURE MX412/C goose neck stand mounted microphones
- 2 Rode NT6 Compact Condenser microphones
- 2 AKG C 3000 Studio Condenser microphones
- Yamaha MG32/14FX series 32 channel Mixing desk
- 2 InterM QD 4480 amplifiers
- Behringer Ultragraph Pro FBQ6200 Graphic Equaliser

The projector is a Sanyo with premixing enabling most sources of visual material to be projected and the screen is 4 metres wide by 3 metres high