

Hearing in Church

Our church building is full of hard reflective surfaces, many at odd angles. As we progress with the building works, the way that sound travels around the church, the echoes and reverberations, will keep changing. Such reverberations also differ according to the location of the speaker, and the size of the congregation. Adjusting the sound system to compensate is a lengthy and complex task, which we hope to undertake at key stages, and following the completion of the building works.

The complexity of the building means that the listener's experience will be different in different parts of the church. It will also differ according to your personal hearing range, whether you use hearing aids, and whether you use the loop. We are aware that un-aided sound seems poor in the North Aisle and loop-aided sound poor in the South Aisle – so choosing where to sit can be important.

Unfortunately, none of the speakers, the musicians and singers, nor sound operators, can experience the audibility of the sound where you are sitting. Neither do we have the ability to monitor the effectiveness of the loop where you are sitting.

To help us better understand your experience, we have developed a feedback form overleaf which you can also complete on our website or collect from the AV Operator's Desk. We hope that your feedback will help us make small but effective changes to help improve your experience, and also inform the tuning of the AV upgrades once the main building work has completed.

In the meantime, thank you so much for your patience, your understanding, your feedback, and your support during this tricky transitional period.

Chris Holloway
August 2022

St Nicolas Bookham

Did you have difficulty hearing the church service?

Feedback Form

Date and time of service	
Date	<input type="text"/>
Time (e.g. 10:00 service)	<input type="text"/>
Where I was sitting (please tick):	
Central nave – front (between the two sets of pillars)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central nave – rear (between cross-aisle and church tower)	<input type="checkbox"/>
South aisle (looking at Lady Chapel)	<input type="checkbox"/>
North aisle (looking at organ pipes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part of service that I found difficult (please tick)	
Welcome, liturgy, notices, preparation, etc (from chancel step)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading (from lectern)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intercessions (from lectern)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sermon (from chancel step)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communion liturgy (from the Holy Table)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	
About me	
I use a hearing aid(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
My hearing aid(s) use the church hearing loop	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments (optional)	
My Name (optional)	

Please return your completed form to the AV Operator

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