



Are you being heard?

What is a loop system?

A loop system consists of one or more microphones and a small amplifier which acts as a transmitter to an 'aerial' or loop of wire which is placed around the outside of the area to be covered (e.g. fastened to the wall of the nave and chancel). The signal which is transmitted by this loop is picked up by each person's hearing aid when switched to the 'T' position, and the hearer then hears the sound exactly as it is heard at source, without any extraneous noises from elsewhere. This is the main problem with hearing aids – they pick up sounds from many different sources.

Things to consider when installing a loop system

All loop systems should conform to British Standards B56083 Part 4 (1981) which lays down the strength of the magnetic field in audio induction loops for hearing aid purposes. Make sure your contractor knows about this.

All installations require a faculty, so be sure that you submit the exact specification to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in the usual way. They will need information on siting and security of the amplifier and the position of any speakers.



When you have fitted your loop, it won't be obvious to the congregation, so don't forget to display the Hearing Loop sign in a prominent position. You can obtain this sign from RNID or your contractor.

Other things to remember:

- Not every deaf person can benefit from a loop system. Profoundly deaf people rely on other means of communication. Make sure that those leading services are well illuminated and in good view so that lip reading can take place.
- Even when a loop system is installed, it still helps to have a written order of service which includes references to the readings so that they can be followed. A screen with an overhead projector enables a deaf person to read and watch at the same time.
- Remember that the visual aspects of worship is much more significant to a deaf person than to those who can hear. Consider how things **look**, not just how they sound...

How much do loop systems cost?

The cost of loop system installation varies and if an amplification system already exists, the loop can often be incorporated for less. VAT is not payable on loop systems, and a certificate of exemption should be obtained or the tax reclaimed from HMRC.

Contractors prices vary and it is worth getting more than 1 estimate for the work. RNID (Royal National Institute for the Deaf) has a helpline and if you look in Yellow Pages or online you will see that some firms claim to be RNID listed. A list of local firms is provided below.

Don't let your contractor go without a thorough test of the equipment preferably by a deaf person in your congregation!

Some firms operating locally

This list is for information only and does not constitute a recommendation by ODCD!

DM Music for Churches

<http://www.dmmusic.com/>
01582 761122
support@dmmusic.com

The Sound Company

<http://www.oxfordsound.com>
01608 659025
info@oxfordsound.com

SFL Ltd

<http://www.sflgroup.co.uk/>
(0118) 969 0900
info@SFLgroup.co.uk

Nurse Electrical Ltd

<http://www.nurse-electrical.co.uk/>
01635 200295
office@nurse-electrical.co.uk

George Henry Relay Ltd

<http://www.georgehenryrelay.co.uk/>
01993 880302
info@georgehenryrelay.co.uk

Keith Monks Sound Systems

<http://www.keithmonks.co.uk/>
020 868 23456
info@keithmonks.co.uk