



## Project Case Study

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### St. Mary's Church, Hardington Mandeville, Somerset

**| The Challenge...**

To modernise facilities within an historic church building

**| The Solution...**

A PA and induction loop system from Gordon Morris Ltd.

**| The Benefits...**

Clear sound throughout the church, for those with and without hearing impairment



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Many churches face a challenge in bringing their facilities up to date. On one hand, they need to maximise participation and strive to better serve the needs of the local community. Yet also they are guardians of our heritage and must be sure not to compromise the atmosphere and history that make these buildings special.

Jim Adlam kindly gave us this report of the works that Gordon Morris Ltd. have completed:

“St. Mary’s is a Parish Church and our function is to provide a peaceful place that is “user friendly” for worship and prayer besides being the venue for the special services of baptism, marriage and funerals. St. Mary’s is a beautiful medium-sized church with a tower built in dating back to the Normans. It was rebuilt by the Victorians in around 1860 and its’ main structure remains robust. Within the church the interior is rather delicate.

The maximum congregation for St. Mary’s is approximately 120 people, and we usually only reach these numbers on occasions such as weddings or funerals. As the average age of our congregation is becoming greater it became obvious that a significant number of these people used hearing aids. However, because of the church acoustics, people’s hearing aids were not performing effectively for them and many could not hear the proceedings of sermons and speeches. As a result, many church members were aware that we needed an induction loop system to improve our service and ensure the congregation could hear every word.

We chose Gordon Morris Ltd. for two main reasons. The first was because of a recommendation from Bath & Wells Diocese. The second reason is the high standard of the initial survey and the subsequent excellent way in which the proposal was presented. A national charitable institute failed miserably in comparison in this respect.

To overcome the inherent problems of church members not being able to hear the sermons; of soft-voiced or fast-paced speakers; and of echoing background noise, the suggestion was to install an induction loop system and supplement this with a PA system to overcome other

poor acoustics. All of this was set up in a very discreet manner. The two technicians who installed the system gave the relevant people clear instruction on the workings of the equipment on the last day of installation.

The services provided by Gordon Morris Ltd have added value to St. Mary's as the hard of hearing no longer feel excluded from any of the activities within the Church. The equipment has performed well and those involved with the system are becoming more and more relaxed when operating it. We have added a CD player, which has given us a further dimension, improving the service we provide for our congregation to an even greater extent.

The comments we have received from hearing aid users regarding the equipment have been "*good*", "*very good*" and "*so much better*". It was a pleasure dealing with your company and the staff that made the project possible.

Gordon Morris Ltd would like to thank Mr. Adlam for his kind cooperation with this article and wishes everyone at St. Mary's Church the very best for the future. If you would like to find out more about or visit this idyllic church, go to  
<http://www.hardington.net/hardington/General/Church.asp>