

Audio-Visual Team



The audio-visual team provides a vital ministry ensuring that services and events are accessible to everyone. Although we are unseen, we like to think that things wouldn't happen without us! We work closely with the service leaders, worship bands, building owners and IT team to ensure that everything comes together.

In the regular services, there are two sides to this:

1. The sound desk – operating the microphones and mixing the band instruments together.
2. The screens, where we show notices, readings, PowerPoints and words for songs. This also involves operating the cameras for the livestream of the 10:25 service to YouTube.

Don't forget you can find the 9:15 talks on APC's website under 'Resources' (you may need to log in using ChurchSuite). The 10:25 recordings are on our YouTube channel – search for Aldridge Parish Church and click the 'Live' tab. We operate the hearing loop in both buildings too.

Over the past 12 months the AV team have also supported some special events:

- Outdoor band and PA equipment for the 2023 Palm Sunday service on the school field
- Outdoor PA system for a band to lead the singing at the (rainy) Remembrance parade
- We lit up the church for the Light Party and Christingle services
- Outdoor PA system for carol singing in the shopping precinct
- Many more like the Big Quiz, fireworks night, Easter bonfire and AYF events including Camp and Whitemoor.

We also maintain the 'volunteer systems' which are used for external groups hiring the Large Hall, Beacon Room and Croft Room.



To make all of this happen, we need two volunteers per service, that's four per week. Wednesday Worship also need AV operators. There are 8 people serving on the Sundays AV rota, and **we are very short of people to run AV at the 9:15 service**. If you think you could help, please contact Heather Ford or the Church Office. If you want to know more about what it involves and what we do, just catch someone at the back before a service. We'll provide all

training and won't ask you to run a service on your own until you are comfortable with everything. The presentation software for words and slides is easy to use, and you can download it at home to practice! The words and slides are loaded up before the service, which reduces the workload for Sundays.

We've spent a lot of time over the past few years upgrading our AV systems to make them easier to operate and, hopefully, last longer. For example, both buildings now have digital sound desks which can be set up for a service by pressing a single button. In the Centre, we have built a permanent AV desk in the back corner of the large hall, so there's less setting up to do before a service.



We've also future-proofed our systems, for example upgrading the cabling to the Church projectors to the latest standard, so it can be used with new systems that may one day be installed. Our next project is to replace the camera in church.

Following that, we need to address an ongoing challenge in the Church Centre which comes as a result of setting up the band equipment twice a week (for AYF and then for the 10:25 service). Every time a microphone, signal box, cable or instrument is unloaded from the cupboard, plugged in, used, unplugged and put away again, it causes wear and tear. Over time, this equipment needs to be replaced. We're looking for ways to reduce this, but with having to set up before each service or event, we won't be able to eliminate it altogether. The approach that we currently take also requires the worship band and AV operators to arrive early for the service to set up.

It takes the dedication of a small team of people to run the AV systems in two buildings, for two services a week, plus maintain the systems and support outdoor events. My personal thanks to those who put unseen time and effort in to carrying out this ministry.

Danny Fleming

with Heather and the AV team.