

# Case Study

St. Leonard's Church,  
United Kingdom

## Summary

Nestled in a picturesque Somerset village, St. Leonard's is a charming rural parish church commanding beautiful views over the surrounding countryside. The site and some parts of the structure are believed to date back to the 14th century. It has been designated by English Heritage as a grade II listed building. As part of a project to modernise and conserve the building, it was decided to upgrade the existing PA and install an induction loop system for hearing aid users.

## Challenge

The challenge to modernise historic facilities, regardless of what part is to be modernised, is to do so without ruin the ancient atmosphere of the place. 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



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compromise the atmosphere and history that make these buildings special. The acoustic challenge for this particular church was, as with many old churches, the echoes and reverberations from naked middle age stone walls which are particular difficult for hard of hearing persons.

### Solution

Technical staff at Gordon Morris Ltd took the time to ensure the brief was clearly understood by all parties before designing a solution to work in harmony with the rest of the PA system. The simple but yet so effective solution was a Univox PLS-100 amplifier and a standard perimeter loop configuration. The proposed system was given a trial at the church, to ensure it met the needs of the building and improvements were made to the initial set-up.

### Conclusion

The hard of hearing visitors to St. Leonard's Church have easy access to a perfectly calibrated loop system that provides crystal clear sound as it operates according to the IEC 60118-4 specifications. All wiring were completely concealed, keeping the middle age atmosphere of St. Leonard's church intact.

### Products used

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PLS-100

Responsible company in United Kingdom

Gordon Morris Ltd, Somerton

