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## Using Projectors and Screens in your Church

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### Why use projected text and images?

The printed word is no longer the most familiar means of communication for the majority of people in the community. Video projection offers an economical way of selecting from the wide choice of graphical and textual materials available as visual aids for the liturgy. It also provides a means of illustrating and explaining the concepts and ceremonies of worship. Projection also allows for a wider range of hymns and songs to be introduced into worship.

### Things to bear in mind from the start

Before embarking on a project to bring such equipment into the church, it is essential to gain some background information. Suggested people to contact are:

- Your church architect or surveyor
- Audio-visual experts (if possible)
- Potential suppliers of the audio-visual equipment

It is extremely important to be aware of the architectural importance of the building, and of the tradition that church furnishings should as far as possible enhance the building through the quality of their design.

### Permanence of Fixture

Generally computer equipment will be brought in as necessary but not stored in the building. Do not treat the projector and screen as permanent fixtures either. With presentation technology (as well as styles of liturgy) developing so rapidly, it is necessary to look at the proposal as something which could well be overtaken by other styles or methods in the coming years or otherwise fall from favour. Therefore, it is important that the proposal should be capable of removal from the church without detriment to the fabric.

First, experiment with moveable projection screens. If possible, introduce the projector and screen only when they are in use and remove them at other times. The screens should be designed and placed to minimise their intrusion into the visual composition of the building. Other matters to consider are the impact of a screen (whether in use or not) in the context of a wedding or funeral and the effect of other light sources, particularly sunlit windows. If a floor standing arrangement is used for a screen, it may be necessary to fix a single retaining bolt into the adjacent wall for stability. Although such a fixture is not strictly reversible, effective restoration should be possible.

After experimenting, if it is not feasible to have a removable screen, you will need to consider the following factors in positioning a screen permanently:-

(i) The screen in the Chancel arch position

- The visibility when the screen is not in use
- The screen not cutting off the east window
- Any problem of light behind the screen
- Any sense of intrusion in services focused at the chancel steps

(ii) The screen floor-mounted or on a column

- Screens can be mounted on columns and fixed permanently to the floor, with a single fixing to a column or pier.

(iii) Positioning of the projector

- A projector can also be mounted on a column or a wall or pier.
- There could also be the possibility of a suspended fixing for example, from the top of a capital.
- The projector and its support should not be visible from the majority of seats either in the nave or the aisles. However, its casing should be coloured to match its background.
- The route of wiring for the projector and any associated computer equipment should be determined in consultation with the church architect or surveyor to be as unobtrusive as possible.

(iv) Making the screen unobtrusive

- The colour of the screen and fixings should match the background.
- When not in use, the projection screen should be rolled away so that it cannot be seen from the nave.

## **Security**

A permanently installed projector and screen, together with any computer equipment, need to be fixed and preferably hidden when not in use. This type of equipment is a particular security issue for churches open to the public during the day. It should be noted that the presence of a screen implies to an outsider, the presence a projector, which in turn implies a computer.

## **Permissions**

The introduction of fixed screens, projectors, computers and wiring will require authorisation by Faculty. You will also need to notify your insurance company.

## **Listed Churches**

For Grade I or II\* churches, English Heritage will need to approve any fixings or permanent installations as well as a faculty being required.

## **Content/use of copyright material**

The brief for any liturgical material and for material supplementary to the liturgy should be prepared by the ministerial team. The preparation of the visual material can be in the hands of lay members of the congregation. Non-liturgical use of the screens should always be subject to ministerial oversight. The need for permission to use material under copyright and performing rights legislation should always be checked in advance. Separate advice is available from the Diocesan Office on this matter.

## **DAC Visits**

Members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) are always willing to advise on particular schemes and to visit the church to discuss proposals at an early stage.

## **Additional information and advice is available from the DAC team:**

Jim May, Pastoral and Advisory Secretary,	<a href="mailto:jmay@stalbans.anglican.org">jmay@stalbans.anglican.org</a>
Judith Calvert, Assistant Secretary,	<a href="mailto:jcalvert@stalbans.anglican.org">jcalvert@stalbans.anglican.org</a>
Debbie Cochrane, Group Secretary,	<a href="mailto:dcochrane@stalbans.anglican.org">dcochrane@stalbans.anglican.org</a>
Emma Critchley, DAC Assistant,	<a href="mailto:ecritchley@stalbans.anglican.org">ecritchley@stalbans.anglican.org</a>

Diocesan Office, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1HE  
Tel: 01727 818138 Fax 01727 844469