

Have You Heard the Latest? 2004

Over the years I have written several articles about acoustics in the Church, answered several questions from people who have been 'hard of hearing' and have answered numerous questions about availability of appropriate equipment for such people. It is time again, for me to inform you of my recent quest.

Standing at the Church rooms door after 'coffee' recently, I heard someone say the old, familiar words: 'I have to leave because the background noise of all the people chattering is just too loud for me. You see, Garvin, everything and everybody is amplified through my hearing aid! 'Do you know of anything which would selectively amplify only speech'?

I replied: 'I believe there is but leave the question with me and I will investigate for you.'

As my last investigation, for an elderly person about 'Mobile Phones', revealed a wealth of new technology now available, I decided to contact the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, enquiring of the same. This organisation I found excellent. Somebody actually spoke to me in person and was instantly able to help me about my exact question with useful information for me and our Church.

I was informed about the excellent local Organisation recommended by the Borough Council: 'DEAF ACCESS'

Community House (Opposite the Fire Station)
South Street, Bromley, Kent. BR1 1RH
Tel: 020 8315 2552 Fax 020 8315 2554
deafaccess@fsmail.net

Duly, I made an appointment and visited 'Deaf Access'. The staff were most obliging and helpful. They offered me a personal service. Showing and letting me try numerous pieces of equipment that would suit my individual need.

As a registered charity, I was amazed at the variety of easy to use, smart, useful and appropriate equipment available including, wireless door bells with flashing lights, speaking clocks, TV audio monitors and personalised systems for individuals requiring a variety of unique applications. Further, I was surprised to be informed that you, the client, could try all the equipment in situ. There was no charge for this service and also I was informed that Social Services are able to help financially, in some cases, towards costs of some equipment. The latest technology is smart, discreet and generally inexpensive.

Deaf Access offers this service without bias to any 'Individual Company'. They are there to help you! With equipment from several companies that work for you!

For your interest I have put several relevant leaflets and booklets at the back of the Church, which I ask you to return, after use. These I obtained from Deaf Access.

Finally, if you have any questions, I am only too pleased to spare some time for you. I have seen the latest equipment available for the hard of hearing and I am extremely impressed. Please take advantage of this information.

Garvin Shorter