

Appraisal of audio-visual system for Holy Ascension, Hyde.

- We currently have a screen, which is cumbersome, but can be put up anywhere. It is very useful and often used in the church centre, where it can easily be put up in a good position. In the church it is a different matter; the best position for it is in the pulpit from where it can be seen by the congregation (but not the choir). However, it is difficult to manipulate into the pulpit and, of course means that the pulpit is out of use. When we use it in this way we have to use it with our projector, which is also commonly used in the church centre. To use it in the church we have to set it up using an inconvenient and possibly unsafe system with tables balanced on pews.
- We have investigated the use of monitors. There is nowhere in the church where they would be easily seen and where they could be permanently positioned, so fixed monitors are not an option. We have also thought about movable monitors, but they would need to be put away securely and we have nowhere to store them. Furthermore there is no position in the church from which they would be easily seen by all except at the top of the steps to the chancel, where they would be exceedingly inconvenient and even there they would not be high enough to be easily seen from the back of the church.
- We have looked at various positions for a fixed screen and again this has been very difficult because of the nature of our building. A screen fixed at the side and mounted on a boom would have nowhere to be at rest except over one of the stained-glass windows.
- We eventually decided that the only realistic option was a screen which was mounted above the chancel arch and the one we are proposing is a dual-motor screen which allows a drop of the cassette to a suitable height for everyone. It can be remotely operated so can be retracted during the service as necessary. It works with a projector, which can also be remotely operated. We have discussed this with the “Benefice of the Future” representative, and he is very supportive, because it enables us to develop services, which we hope will encourage those who do not come to the traditional services.