

Try Our New Hearing Loop!

Hearing Aid Wearers Won't Believe Their Ears!

St Anne's Church has added a Hearing Loop, which is the only system that sends the



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

voices of the clergy and readers from our microphones directly into a hearing aid. The system provides the clearest, cleanest sound imaginable and does not require a headset, as it works with the Telecoil that most hearing aids come equipped with.

The system is available to anyone sitting in the congregation's pews.

A T-coil is a tiny wireless receiver inside hearing aids. It is accessible via the programming button on your aid. If you have never used your T-Coil, consider consulting your audiologist to confirm it is activated and to learn how to access it. If you

cannot access your T-coil or do not have hearing aids, please ask an usher for a Loop Receiver with earbuds which you can use to listen in at our worship services.

You will be amazed at how much more you can hear and understand, given the clarity of sound!

Spearheaded by Rev William Bell, we have been working toward this goal since last May. Duartek, Inc. installed the system which should be active by December 1, 2016. Amy Richter, Mark Grimes, Bill Wilbert, Steve Fisher and the Vestry provided ongoing support and oversight.

Parishioner Alicia Spoor of Designer Audiology, LLC, served as a tireless consultant, support and educator to us. Alicia is an audiologist who served as President of the Maryland Academy of Audiology in 2010. She also has experience as a legislative advocate for people with hearing loss. Alicia is married to Josiah Dykstra.

Hearing loops have been around for over 30 years, but the technology matured in the last 10 years, meaning prices are falling. In 2001, 37% of hearing aids included telecoils. Now, that figure is more than 90%. The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra installed their Hearing Loop last winter. And you will find them increasingly in theaters, trains, subways, and churches in our metro area. They are also useful in homes to help with television and other sound systems.

The loop itself is a magnetic induction device that acts in a similar way the sound pickup on an electric guitar works.

Today, 57% of people over age 60 have significant hearing loss in one ear (43% in both ears). Unfortunately, only about a quarter of people who could benefit from hearing aids use them. Hearing aids work well for amplifying normal conversation. But they are not great for settings like a church. Reverberations, distant loudspeakers and ambient noise interfere with hearing aids. On telecoil mode, the hearing aids become in-the-ear speakers for the sound system.

Hearing loss is an invisible handicap. It isolates people and is associated with a variety of emotional and cognitive issues. However, as anyone who has loved a pet, such as a cat or dog knows, elderly pets become deaf. The same for beloved humans. And for those of us with military service, rock concert histories, or other loud environments—it may happen sooner and faster.

The St Anne's Hearing loop is a way for us to care for anyone with hearing loss. Please pay attention to our awareness efforts. In addition, if you know someone discouraged from coming to church because of hearing loss, let them know. We may have the answer for them!