

Chaplain among Deaf People

The Chaplain among Deaf people is the contact point for anyone who is Deaf, deaf or deafened in Manchester Diocese. In Manchester, there are monthly services at deaf clubs, and in Mental health units for Deaf people which are conducted in British Sign Language. There are also Deaf/hearing integrated services at some hearing churches which are conducted in both speech and sign language, visits to Deaf people in prison, hospitals and schools. The Chaplain can also give advice to priests who have a deaf or deafened person in their congregation, or what to do if a Deaf person wants a wedding, baptism or a funeral.

In Manchester Diocese the Chaplain among Deaf people is Rev Cathy Nightingale. Different dioceses have different provision for Deaf people, so if you are not from Manchester, please contact your Diocesan office, to find out what provision is made in your Diocese.

You can contact Cathy Nightingale at:

55 Church Street
Farnworth
Bolton
BL4 8AQ
Fax: 01204 572819

Email: cathy.nightingale@deafclergy.org.uk

If you have a Deaf hard of hearing or deafened person in your congregation, the best is to ask that person what help they need. Each Deaf person has different needs.

For clergy, ministers and those leading worship:

Always ask the person what they want before you do anything

Some practical ideas:

For Deaf people who have good English:

- Do have good lighting on you —don't stand in front of a window, or sit in front of a window. Make sure there is good light on your face.
- Do Provide a copy of sermon or eulogy.
- Do give a copy of readings or give the Bible readings if there are Bibles present, especially if there is a Gospel procession.
- Do give a copy of the prayers—it is better if the person doing the prayers stands at the front.
- Do give service sheets if you have them, they are very useful for weddings and funerals and baptisms.
- Do give printed hymn numbers or visual hymn numbers.
- Do suggest that a person sits next to them to help with books and pointing to which page, and to repeat anything they missed.
- Laptops can be a useful way to communicate in Bible studies or meetings — a person can type in what is being said, and the Deaf person can read what is being said..
- Do make sure the loop is working and is clear, and also make sure it's switched on. If your church doesn't have a loop, all churches by law now should have a loop. Not all Deaf people benefit from a loop.

For Deaf people who use British Sign Language as a first or preferred language:

Check with the person if you will need to book an interpreter. The Diocese of Manchester will not pay for the cost of interpreters at weddings, baptisms or funerals, it is the responsibility of each church to pay. If you refuse to pay, you are at risk from being sued under the Disabled Discrimination Act.

Ask the Deaf person if they have a preferred interpreter. If not there are several interpreter agencies,

Communication Support Services
Manchester Deaf Centre,
Crawford House
Booth Street East
Manchester
M13 9GH

RNID Communication Services North
5 Adair Street
Manchester
M1 2NQ
0161276230
csumanchester@rnid.org.uk

Interpreter Booking Service
Irene Hargreaves
07966694295

You will need to agree the fee/costs and agree with the interpreter or agency who the invoice will be sent to.

The further in advance you can book the interpreter, the better as there is a national shortage of British Sign Language Interpreters.

British Sign Language

Each country has its own sign language and, in the UK, deaf people use **British Sign Language (BSL)**. Like any language, BSL has its own grammar and syntax. People who use BSL also use fingerspelling. Some words - usually the names of people and places - are spelled out on fingers. However fingerspelling alone is not sign language. It is estimated that 50,000 deaf people in the UK use BSL to communicate.

Using an interpreter

There is a national shortage of BSL/English Interpreters, which means that they are likely to be booked up well in advance. Book early.

HOW TO BOOK A BSL/ENGLISH INTERPRETER?

(from www.asli.org.uk)

You should give as much information as possible to the agency or interpreter when you make the booking. What you need to know before contacting the agency/interpreter:

- Date and time of the event including start and finish times.
- Full address of where the event is to take place including directions/map.
- Contact name and telephone number of the person making the booking and the event venue.
- The nature of the event.
- How many people are going to be involved in the event, including the numbers of Deaf and hearing people who will be present and the requirements that they have. This may mean that more than one interpreter needs to be booked

- Any other information that will assist the agency/interpreter, e.g. if a female interpreter is required for reasons of privacy or decency, or if a person has a visual impairment
- Agree fee/costs.
- **COSTS**
- The cost payable depends on a number of factors including:
 - If you book an interpreter yourself or through an agency.
 - The nature of the assignment.
 - The times and duration of the assignment.
 - The qualifications and experience of the interpreter.
 - The mileage/travel expenses occurred can vary.

If an interpreter is cancelled fees within 2 weeks of the booking cancellation fees are normally charged, this should be checked when the booking is made.

For weddings, funerals, baptisms and Church services, a registered-fully qualified (MRSLI—Master of register of Sign Language Interpreters) or a TI or JTI (Trainee or Junior Trainee) interpreter should be booked. Failing that, a qualified CSW (Communication Support Worker) can be booked, but their quality can greatly vary.

Tips for communicating with a Deaf person (from www.rnid.org.uk)

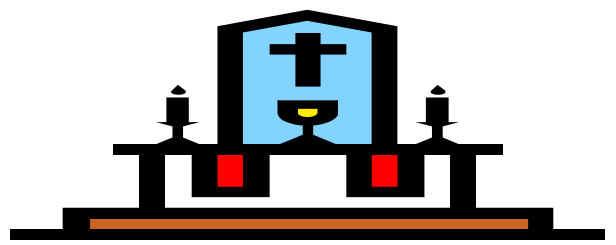
- Even if someone is wearing a hearing aid it doesn't mean they can hear you. Ask if they need to lipread.
- If you are using an interpreter, always remember to talk directly to the person you are communicating with, not the interpreter.
- It is important to make sure you have face-to-face or eye-to-eye contact with the person you are talking to.
- Make sure you have the listener's attention before you start speaking.
- Speak clearly but not too slowly, and don't exaggerate your lip movements.
- Use natural facial expressions and gestures.
- If you're talking to a deaf person and a hearing person, don't just focus on the hearing person.
- Don't shout. It's uncomfortable for a hearing aid user and it looks aggressive.
- If someone doesn't understand what you've said, don't keep repeating it. Try saying it in a different way instead.
- Find a suitable place to talk, with good lighting and away from noise and distractions.
- Check that the person you're talking to can follow you. Be patient and take the time to communicate properly.
- Use plain language and don't waffle. Avoid jargon and unfamiliar abbreviations.

If you are Deaf or hard of hearing: (from www.rnid.org.uk)

Good communication is a partnership

- Be open. Tell the person you're speaking to that you lipread before you start a conversation.
- Ask people to get your attention before they start talking to you.
- Don't stand too far away from the person who's speaking to you.
- Make sure you can see the speaker's face and lips. Their gestures and facial expressions will help you to understand what they're saying.
- Try to keep calm and don't panic. If you become anxious or flustered, it might be harder for you to follow what's being said.
- If your hearing isn't the same in both ears, try turning your better side towards the person speaking to you.
- If you don't catch what someone says the first time, don't be afraid to ask them to repeat it or say it in a different way.
- If necessary, ask people to slow down and speak more clearly.
- Don't be too hard on yourself. No one hears correctly all the time.
- Important to tell people leading worship what your needs and preferences are
- Ask for a meeting with the priest or a representative to explain how they can support you. Questions you can ask are: Is there a loop system? Is it switched on? Would it help to have a reserved seat? Do you want a copy of the sermon in advance?
- You could have someone to sit next to you who is easy to lipread to repeat what is said or to write down what you've missed, and to show you which page in which book.

Church Services for Deaf people



Ashton

Tameside Deaf Club, 225 Mossley Road, Ashton
12.45, usually second Thursday of the month.

Atherton

Leigh and District Deaf Society, The Orchards, Chatham Street,
Atherliegh
7.30pm on a Wednesday evening four times a year.

Bolton

Bolton Centre for Deaf People, Bark Street
12.45, usually on the first Tuesday of the month

Bury

Bury Metro Deaf Society, 8 Tenterden Street
2pm usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month

Manchester

Manchester Deaf Centre
1p,m usually on the 3rd Monday of the month

Manchester Cathedral

Evening prayer for both Deaf and hearing
5.30pm (4.30pm on bank holidays) on the first Monday of the month

Oldham

Oldham Deaf Society, 165 Park Road, Oldham
11am on Sunday, four times a year

Joint Deaf/hearing services are held throughout the year at:

St. Matthew's Stretford

St. John's Farnworth

