

New, old and repurposed: church enhances audio with flexibility and efficiency.



Trent Vineyard, Nottingham, UK

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Setting the scene

Trent Vineyard is a vibrant, contemporary church situated in an edge-of-town location just two miles from the historic city of Nottingham, England. It’s one of approximately 120 Vineyard churches in the UK and Ireland and 2,500 worldwide.

With a central auditorium, capable of welcoming over 1,200 people for Sunday services, talks, and music events, Trent Vineyard is also one of the largest auditorium spaces in the region. Thus when not in use by the church, the venue and its amenities are made available as a conference centre to the wider corporate community.

Establishing objectives

When the church recently expanded and refurbished it turned to leading AV supplier SFL Group to design and install an audio system to meet its various needs, along with those of a fast turnaround corporate conferencing clientele.

Pat Smith of SFL explains, “Trent Vineyard was already a happy d&b customer. So, when it came to designing a new system for the larger, differently shaped space, we had a good starting point in terms of what the outcome should be.”

The expanded auditorium space is the same in depth, but substantially wider than it was previously. The challenge this posed

was key to the SFL system design approach. Smith continues, "Consistent and even sound coverage is critically important, and actually fairly easy to achieve from the stage to the back of the auditorium. The more complex task was extending that even coverage to the far left and right corners of the room."

The solution

As well as using d&b ArrayCalc to model the performance of various designs in the new space prior to the construction being completed, SFL physically configured a number of different installation options for testing to ensure that the ideal audio setup was achieved.

The result is based around four arrays of four Y8 loudspeakers and Vi-GSUBs. Coverage is then enhanced by three newly installed E8 loudspeakers, along with eight E0s and two E3s repurposed from the pre-existing system. Amplification is provided by four installation specific 30Ds.

Smith expands, "Much of the old d&b system was used in equipping Trent Vineyard's purpose built onsite Kids' Centre, itself a new, fairly big space. The rest we were able to repurpose seamlessly in the expanded auditorium. First, we tested those loudspeakers, measuring their performance today against what it was when they were brand new. We found that for the most part, the difference was undetectable, even after fifteen years of hard use."

Particular to an auditorium of this kind is the variety of uses for which the inhouse sound team must cater. James McBrien, Sound Overseer at Trent Vineyard, explains: "Large scale corporate conference events place very different demands on our sound system



compared to those of a wedding with 300 guests. Even for our two Sunday services, there's a wider age range in the morning than in the evening, so we can mix bands differently at the services. The d&b R1 Remote control software allows me to make subtle adjustments quickly and easily. It's not so much a case of being as loud as possible, it's all about being flexible, and as loud as is appropriate."

McBrien concludes, "The feedback I've had on a Sunday and from conferencing clients is that the recent upgrade has massively elevated the level of sound quality. For me, apart from the greater versatility we now have, our sound is also smoother, cleaner and more rounded."

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➤ **System: Vi-GSUB E0, E3, E8, Y8, and 30D**