

ChristChurch London

Each Sunday, ChristChurch London holds services in four venues, with 30 volunteers involved. *Worship AVL* learns how the logistics are managed



Dan Langridge, head of sound

CHRISTCHURCH LONDON 'STARTED

in a small room in a hotel, and then we moved to a large theatre in London called the Picadilly Theatre,' chronicles Dan Langridge, head of sound. 'When we outgrew that theatre, we then moved to our current main location, which is the Mermaid Theatre in Blackfriars.' The Mermaid, home to ChristChurch London (CCL) Central, is a convention space with multiple breakout rooms. The 600-seat theatre typically hosts 400 to 500 worshippers each Sunday. In January of last year, CCL began services at three additional sites. The Swiss Church in the West End (CCL West) is a 150-seat venue with attendance of around 100. Platanos College in Stockwell (CCL South) is a 150-seat space drawing 100 to 150 worshippers, and St Johns Church in Bethnal Green (CCL East) can seat 200 and also draws 100 to 150 worshippers each week.

'Each service adapts its needs to the congregation demographic that attends,' says Mr Langridge. 'For example, our family services in the South and Central have areas for kids, crèche and feeding mums, with a relay of the main service in the auditorium.' Services are staggered throughout the day, allowing one preacher to physically move between sites.



A volunteer runs CCL Central FOH

At CCL Central the church provides, 'the whole sound system, except for the speakers,' shares Mr Langridge. 'They're using Bose Roommatch for their left-right line array in the venue, but we'll bring in our own audio consoles.' The desks are DiGiCo SD9s at both FOH and monitors. 'We'll bring in a DiGiCo D2 stage rack and we link that with BNC Madi. We installed a BNC line from front of house to stage, so we can just roll in our desks to the FOH and monitor positions.' Backline, consoles and mics are stored onsite at the theatre. 'The main theatre's got a lighting rig which we use with the in-house lighting board, an Avolites Tiger Touch 2.'

'For the other three venues,' Mr Langridge continues, 'we tour a complete system. We have DiGiCo SD11s, which do front of house and monitors from the same console. We put in d&b Y series speakers.' The d&b audiotechnik loudspeakers are rolled in ready each week in a groundstacked configuration.

Across all four venues, lighting operation is 'very static,' says Mr Langridge, 'our worship scene, an entry scene and one with all the band lights off, just focusing on the preacher.' Twenty ADJ Mega TriPar Profile Plus LED par cans are toured for the smaller venues, 'to put colour in the room.' Video projection is used

is part time, working on Sunday and in the office/workshop one day a week. Worship pastor, Rich Butt, oversees services at all four sites, personally leading worship at two of them, with another worship leader covering the other two. Mr Langridge and a freelancer both serve as tech lead at two sites each. Hired local crew and drivers bring gear from offsite storage, move cases and rig speakers. The rest of the Sunday tech and performance staff is made up of volunteers. All of the sites will have an FOH engineer, with a monitor engineer at CCL Central and an assistant sound tech at the other venues. Each venue will also have a video tech, lighting tech and a worship band (there are two bands, also serving two venues each).



CCL DiGiCo training



All of CCL's congregations gathered at CCL Central across two services for a Christmas homecoming

primarily 'to put words on the screen,' via ProPresenter software.

A half-dozen Sennheiser EW500 wireless mic systems are in use for the smaller venues, with seven Shure SLX channels at CCL Central (due for replacement with Sennheisers soon). Wired mics across all four venues include a cross section of Shure and Sennheiser, with Audix and AKG models in use as well at CCL Central. Radial DIs are used universally for bass and keyboards. Monitoring at all venues is via wireless IEMs, 12 Sennheiser G3 E300 units at CCL Central, 10 in the mobile rig.

CCL has 30 people on staff on Sundays. Nate Sence, head of operations, 'oversees everything operational about a Sunday, and during the week as well'. Mr Langridge's role

The DiGiCo consoles get a nod as Mr Langridge's favoured kit. The sound, the matrix mixer, the preset capabilities and the 'quick to learn' work surface are cited features. He is also pleased with the adoption of 'tour ready' multipin VEAM connectors for rack connections, 'to speed up setup and pack down and to avoid any mis-patching.'

His favourite part of the job is 'definitely training'. Mr Langridge says he learns himself when the volunteers ask questions. He praises their hard work, and says that team members can achieve professional competence. 'I really enjoy getting into the nitty-gritty training with the volunteers,' he concludes.

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