Deaf People in Church;
Deaf Church Spaces

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The Diocese of Southwark

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Southwark Deaf Ministry
Hi, Hello, Hey?  

BSL: same
How are you? BSL: You, well-good?
• Why are Deaf People distinct from people with Disabilities?

• Why couldn’t Deaf People follow Church Services?

• People with hearing losses are “One in Seven” i.e. of the UK Population (currently 70 million = people with hearing loss rapidly increasing towards at least 10 million).

• DEAF PEOPLE ARE THOSE WITH SIGNIFICANT HEARING LOSS REQUIRING COMMUNICATION ACCESS, SOME USE CAPTIONS, SOME USE SIGN LANGUAGE.

• HEARING LOSS IS A FACT: THE WORD “DEAF” IS STIGMATISED.
Contents:

• Basic Greetings
• History of one Deaf Church in London
• Layout of Deaf Church Space
• Why Deaf people are distinct from people of other disabilities
• Why Sign Language is so different from spoken/written language
• Fingerspelling taster
Links to Deaf Church History

- [https://londondeafchurch.com/useful-info/st-saviours-history/](https://londondeafchurch.com/useful-info/st-saviours-history/)
- [https://historyof.place/location/st-saviours-deaf-church/](https://historyof.place/location/st-saviours-deaf-church/)
- [file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/DeafChurch.pdf](file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/DeafChurch.pdf)
- [https://deafchurch.co.uk/](https://deafchurch.co.uk/)
Links to related Deaf Churches & Deaf Christian Organisations

• [https://www.gosign.org.uk/](https://www.gosign.org.uk/)
• [https://www.openears.org.uk/about-us/](https://www.openears.org.uk/about-us/)
• [https://kingschurchlondon.org/lee/#deaf](https://kingschurchlondon.org/lee/#deaf)
• [https://deafanglicanstogether.org.uk/about-us/](https://deafanglicanstogether.org.uk/about-us/)
• [https://christianbsl.com/](https://christianbsl.com/)
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• **WHY IS BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE SO DIFFERENT FROM SPOKEN ENGLISH?**

• **BSL IS VISUAL – HENCE THE EYES-LED APPROACH INFLUENCE THE SYNTAX OF SIGN LANGUAGE.**

• **SIGN LANGUAGES ARE SUMILAR IN STRUCTURE TO TRIBAL & ISLAND LANGUAGES (WITHOUT WRITTEN FORMS): PRAGMATIC & DIRECT.**
FINGERSPELLING: Using your hands!
How do you feel about that?

To get your hands working, try these signs of farm animals!
ANIMAL
British Fingerspelling is believed to have developed from monks in Early Christian Britain at least 1000 years ago.

Close-knit communities cause in-breeding: babies born from close relatives are highly likely to have disabilities, including hearing loss.
Families ‘gave away’ deaf children to monasteries who taught them how to read & write, hence the affinity of fingerspelling with British lettering.

Those young deaf people were likely to have been involved in illustrating & writing Bibles.
- Hello/Hi
- Hello/Good
- How are you?
- I’m fine/good/well
- Alright/fine/ok
- Name you what?
- Name me
- Pleased (to) meet (you)
- Please/Thanks
I await employment status within the Diocese later this year.

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