

## Microphone Technique

### Speaking Technique

If you wish to be heard by the congregation (and I hope that you have something to say that is worth hearing) then remember the *Law of the Microphone*: *The loudspeakers cannot deliver a louder, or clearer sound to the congregation than you deliver to the microphone.* We cannot amplify very quiet and indistinct speech so that it can be heard clearly by the congregation. Excessive amplification will always result in feedback and a loud howling from the loudspeakers, however loud or quiet the (human) speaker's voice.

**Speak up:** I estimate that if you can be heard clearly without the sound system by those 3 meters (10 feet) away, you will be heard by all the congregation when the system is in use.

**Don't drop your voice:** Native English speakers commonly drop their voice at the end of a word or a sentence. Even if most of your words can be heard clearly, the loss of vital syllables or words can cause difficulty to your listeners.

**Speak clearly:** As folk get older they lose the ability to hear higher frequencies; and it is these which are of vital importance for distinguishing consonants clearly. Background noise will also add to the difficulties of hearing quiet and indistinct speech.

**Speak slowly:** Ebenezer Chapel has lots of hard surfaces, and sound echoes freely. The result is noticeable reverberation, which gives music and singing more presence, but which makes the spoken word less distinct. Speak more slowly and clearly than normal to be heard by everyone.

### Lectern Microphone

This is a cardioid microphone, designed to reduce feedback from the loudspeakers. It has excellent pick up as much as 80 degrees on either side of the main axis. Avoid constantly moving around the pulpit. Avoid addressing the piano or the flowers: speak instead to the congregation. Mechanical noises are easily picked up by this microphone, so avoid bumping the lectern or podium, and turn your pages quietly.

### Freestanding Microphones

Ensure that the microphone is pointing towards your mouth, and about 15 cm (6 inches) away. Do not turn your head from side to side or bend your face downwards when using the microphone. If you need notes, hold them in your hand. Do not move around while speaking.

### Lapel Wireless Microphones

Clip the microphone to lapel, tie or shirt about one palm's width below the chin. Allow the microphone to face downwards, as this will reduce the loudness of the implosive plop sounds accompanying the letters B and P, and perhaps reduce the distinctive clicking sounds that some preachers produce. You will observe that most television presenters have their lapel microphones facing downwards. Try to avoid turning your head sideways when speaking. Try to avoid bumping into the table or the lectern when using the microphone. To ensure a good radio signal, allow the aerial to hang free.

### Handheld Wireless Microphones

Hold the microphone by the stem, so as not to cover the antenna with your hand. Keep it aiming at your mouth and about 15 cm (6 inches) away; do not wave it around when speaking.