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St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church in the UK city of Canterbury boasts a particularly unique Funktion One sound system, as **James Ling** discovers

FOR THAMES AUDIO DIRECTOR

Peter Cox, St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church in Canterbury has been an ever-present feature in his life. Growing up in the city, this was his local church as a schoolboy. Then as his career in the audio industry grew and flourished, he was called back to help the church solve some of its audio troubles.

'Originally the whole installation was in a cupboard at the back of the altar. Unfortunately there is quite a lot of rodent activity. They were constantly chewing through the microphone and speaker lines. We tried lots of solutions even cat pheromone!' recalls Mr Cox. 'We did lots of remedial work, we put in lots of new cabling to try and solve it but eventually the decision was taken to reinstall the cabling on the surface and at the same time bring the system up to date.'

His knowledge of the church meant Mr Cox knew exactly what would work well in the space and set about the search for a replacement. 'It's mainly



St Thomas' church in Canterbury has a unique solution from Funktion One

speech, so clarity is key. I listened to various speakers and I just couldn't find anything I liked. The standard church installation of a short column on a pillar wasn't going to work in here because of sight lines and cable runs.

'I wanted a speaker that behaved like a column so it had a controlled vertical pattern, but also a speaker with a curve at the bottom so you



A Symetrix ARC-2e panel has been installed by the curate's chair

could get some down-fill as we had to mount them quite high,' continues Mr Cox. 'My business partner Graham Simpson and I took some of Funktion One's 5-inch drivers and tried various baffle combinations and found one that worked. We took it to Tony Andrews at Funktion One, and he said "okay, I see what you're trying to do, I'll work with it". He changed the angles and refined it - originally we had gone for six drivers, but we found that four actually worked better.

'With the facet angles Tony has chosen, we actually get pretty good vertical coverage. It's quite tight pattern control at the top and nice and open at the bottom and in the Church it works really well.

'We had some input to the final design of the cabinet as well,' continues Mr Cox. 'It's designed so it can fit flat against a wall with all the hanging hardware hidden by the speaker at height, that's why they are this shape.'



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