



How to ...

Livestream in-building services

The following information and advice taken from a diocesan webinar hosted on the 21 July 2020

Church online has presented us with a number of new opportunities, and some technological challenges. As church buildings prepare to host services with congregations once more, a new set of opportunities and challenges present themselves to us.

It is highly likely that a proportion of those who attend our churches will be unable to do so long after church buildings open due to ongoing health concerns. We also recognise the positives this season has brought; among others many who otherwise might not have attended church, have found that church online can be more accessible and less daunting than walking through the door of the church.

Research has also indicated an increased interest in prayer and matters of faith at this time. Online Alpha courses run by churches in the Diocese of Bristol are being well attended. Providing accessible online worship opportunities is a missional opportunity for the church and a new shop window through which to welcome people into God's church.

In this webinar we considered together some of things we have learnt about digital provision during this time and also how we might integrate this into digital provision for the next phase. (Please click the blue links for additional information and sources)

Adrian Harris: Head of Digital; Church of England

- [Digital is here to stay; supporting congregations in the next phase](#)
- [Information on installing AV kit in churches](#)
- A list of recommended suppliers for AV installations should be available through [Parish Buying](#) in August.
- [Downloadable hymns for use in services](#) are available through A Church Near You
- [Music guidance including licensing information](#)
- Follow the Star will not be used as the Christmas campaign this year.

Chris Priddy: Head of Parish and External Relations; Diocese of Bristol

What are the missional possibilities for future online offerings?

[Bob Jackson: Everybody welcome to the future](#)

- **Digital provides our new front window** – people will check you out online before they walk through the door. This removes some of the barriers, they know what to expect, what it will look like and who the people are. Be open and welcoming to those engaging with us online in the first instance.
- **Digital can engage the fringe** – For those on the fringe of church, online church may be a new first stepping stone. Services are also no longer only accessible to those who are free at 10:30 on a Sunday morning – shift workers, families playing sport, grandparents away visiting family – all could now worship, online, on demand.
- Joining you digitally is not a lesser thing, to turning up physically. Joining in digitally builds connection and relationship and ultimately a desire for a stronger connection, which for many will be realised when they can attend physically.

- **Online Alpha / prayer course / bible course / marriage course / Talking Jesus.**
These all appear to have gone really well and represent new possibilities. Courses and small groups are no longer only accessible to those who can turn up at 7:30pm on a Wednesday evening. Equip the believers for whole life discipleship – gather online, receive some input and be inspired to go out into the rest of life.
- **Accessibility** – Alice Kemp; Diocesan Accessibility Adviser wrote an excellent paper called [How to... Make your church more accessible during the pandemic](#). An excellent guide about how digital has opened the doors for of church for many who were previously excluded, but also recognising some of the barriers we can still put up in the digital world that prevent full inclusion.

An online or telephone service as an additional service in the benefice

- How to record Zoom and post online: [Record and Download using Zoom](#), *Edit using Windows Move Maker or iMovie and [upload to YouTube](#). Alternatively stream [live from Zoom to YouTube](#).*
- How to flip from Zoom as the main point of gathering to Zoom as a ‘mop-up’ for the benefice? *A question worth considering as approaches change.*
- How to engage children online?: *Many churches running separate pre-recorded content for children/families. Alternatively offer a ‘follow along’ downloadable sheet, or [Church@Home](#) resource. Engaging children and young people and holding their attention online is hard.*
- Will there be a quick drop off from online church?: *This might depend on what the ongoing online offering looks like.*
- Is online the solution to physical limitations of staffing services?: *Offering an area wide online service across a benefice or benefices could help to continue provision whilst sharing the workload.*
- Telephone – dial-a-sermon: [How to set it up here](#).

Connecting with the community online

Facebook is a great place to connect with community, simply advertising activities taking place at the church and responding to enquiries is a great start. Posting interesting things and photos from events and activities helps to build interest in future activities.

If you are building a special community activity or event, then connecting with people online is likely more effective than putting a poster in the church foyer or an advert on your website. Go to where people are, engage with local community Facebook groups and advertise your information there.

Twitter and Instagram are great additional online spaces, but capacity may limit your ability to engage across multiple social media streams. Find out where your ‘audience is’ and engage with them there.

If posting services live to Facebook or YouTube, do respond to people's comments or invite them to comment along. This engagement builds a sense of connection with those who are part of your online congregation, or have just come across you online.

It can be helpful to use a planned calendar for social media with different posts each day built around a range of subjects from upcoming events, to prayers and bible quotes.

Live streaming in building services

Full advice and considerations [here](#).

For information about faculty permissions, please see Appendix 1 (below).

5 things to consider when setting up to live stream in-building services:

- Internet connection
- Camera equipment
- Streaming service
- Operator
- Considered content

Test your internet connection. Wired better than WiFi. Sometimes a router upgrade will help. As a back up £30 unlimited 4G home broadband unit.

Stream to 1 place (YouTube or Facebook) not multiple, or stream to [RESTREAM.io](https://restream.io) which then forwards to multiple providers but limits the bandwidth you need.

Camera equipment.

Multiple options:

- Multiple cameras, mixing desk, Computer to output – could be £4k plus with the computer. Installed and mounted.
- DSLR as a webcam is an option (remember to switch off the on screen display information from your output feed).
- Use an iPhone and [LiveNow](https://livenow.com) app to go direct from the iPhone to YouTube. (1000 subscribers), or Facebook.
- [MEVO](https://mevo.com) is a clever single camera all in one solution. £400.
- NOTE: You could..... Connect a DSLR to a laptop as a webcam, start a Zoom meeting using that camera. Set Zoom up to broadcast the 'meeting' to YouTube. That way people will see the service in decent quality. The added benefit is that people could telephone in and listen to the service.
- Be aware of audio quality – use a feed from your sound desk or an external mic fitted to your camera or a wireless mic especially for the live stream. [Mic option wired](#). [Mic option wireless](#).

Streaming provider

YouTube and Facebook Live appear to be the most open options. Using Zoom requires people to 'step over the threshold' so is less accessible to the fringe or newcomers.

[FaithOnline](https://faithonline.com) is a service which can supply camera hardware for livestreaming alongside taking the feed from your camera, outputting it to a streaming provider whilst also sending the audio to a dedicated telephone number.

[Church Online Platform](https://churchonlineplatform.com) was highlighted because people don't need an account to be able to comment and the website address you go to is the churches, this increases accessibility and confidence for those who are less internet aware.

Operator

The ministry of the tech team. Someone to set it up and click Go. Someone to choose the camera shots. Someone to reply to comments as people comment along. Value, include, train and support these people.

Consider content

What we don't want is people at home to feel like they are watching a static CCTV feed. It's not engaging. As service leader, you need to acknowledge the home people as much as those in the building. Welcome them as if they are there. Do post-service coffee 1hr later on Zoom so everyone joins in together. Be creative, but people at home need to feel included; Don't say "Sorry folks, this bit of the service will only work for those who are here, or "Sorry you can't see this at home"

Be aware of safeguarding and data protection considerations – information [here](#).

Faculty Advice for Live Streaming from church buildings

July 2020

The **temporary** installation of cameras to stream services can be authorised by the Archdeacon under an Archdeacon's Temporary Licence. This would cover the installation of camera mounts, with holes drilled into mortar as per <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/COVID%2019%20Permission%20for%20temporary%20changes%20to%20cathedral%20and%20church%20buildings%20v.1.1.pdf>

To apply

To apply for an Archdeacon's Temporary Licence the applicant needs to log into [Faculty Online](#) and select "Start a new TMRO Application". Applicants should include the following information in their application:

1. Photo of where the camera(s) will be installed;
2. Details of fixings and cabling;
3. Details of type of camera to be installed; and
4. Quote for equipment.

Archdeacon's Temporary Licences can now last up to 24 months; however, the guidance from Church Buildings Council (CBC) suggests that temporary works to help churches handle COVID-19 should be limited to 12 months, with the potential to apply for an extension if it is needed beyond 12 months. If, at the end of the Archdeacon's licence, the PCC decides that it wants to make the change permanent it will need to apply for a full faculty.

Initial applications for an Archdeacon's Temporary Licence will be reviewed by the DAC with a view to offering some general conditions for these works which will assist the Archdeacons in granting Temporary Licences.

If an extra plug socket needs to be installed to facilitate the introduction of a camera this is allowed under List A rule A1 (6) (c) "works of maintenance, repair and adaptation (not amounting to substantial addition or replacement but including rewiring) to existing— electrical installations (including lighting installations) and other electrical equipment". As this comes under List A the PCC does not need to consult anyone before carrying out this work; however, any work to an electrical installation or electrical equipment should be carried out by a person whose work is subject to an accredited certification. In addition, the PCC's insurers should be notified.

If more substantial electrical works are required, for example the introduction of a new circuit, this would **not** come under List A and advice should be sought from the Secretary to the DAC (emma.bakewell@bristoldiocese.org).