



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Digital Giving

SUPPORTING PARISH MINISTRY

Connecting your
church to the internet

Creating a wifi hotspot in your church using a router and mobile data

An alternative solution to broadband

Purchasing a router from eg Currys or Argos, could be the solution to getting connected in your church.

- A simple Pay As You Go SIM card can be inserted into the router.
- Activate the SIM with the mobile provider who provides a good service in your area
- The router converts the mobile phone signal *outside* the church into a wifi hotspot *inside* church



Short video showing how to put a SIM card in a router
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E623iC7ZGJM>

Wifi hotspot

The wifi hotspot can be used simply to work a contactless card reader (*pictured right*)

Or if you top up with more data, for more general internet uses like:

- Streaming services like weddings
- Scanning QR codes (for history or donations)
- Offering free wifi for visitors



What signal strength is required?

For contactless giving you are looking for anything above 1 or 2mbps

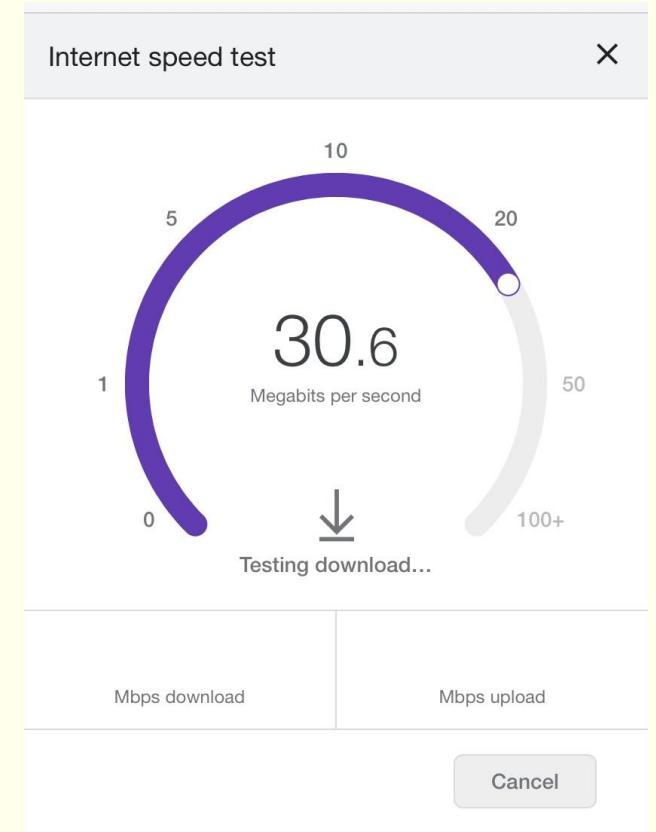
For actual general internet usage, realistically, want around 10-15mbps, or higher for high quality streaming

It is important to purchase a Pay As You Go SIM from the mobile provider with the strongest signal strength.

In Situ Speed Test

Find out how strong your mobile phone signal is by doing an In Situ Speed test

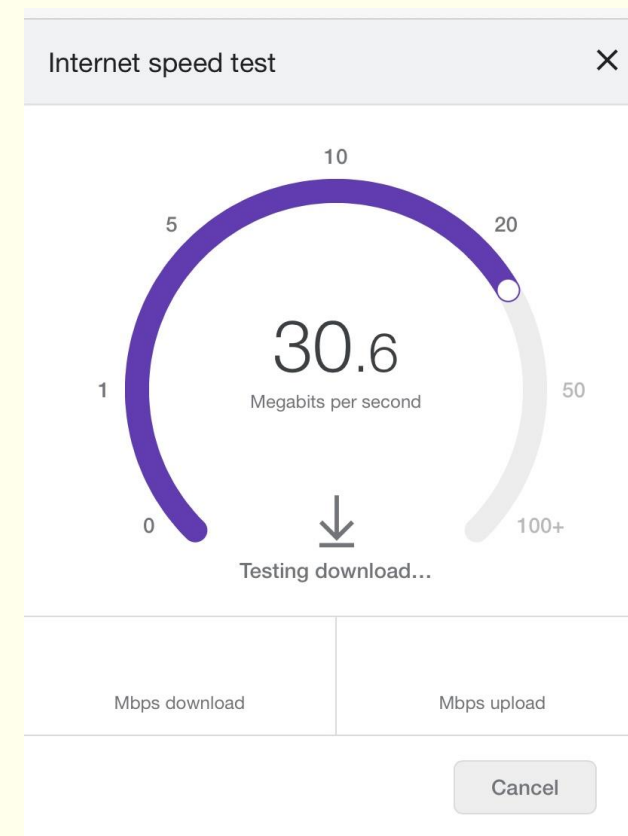
- Turn of Wifi on your smart phone
- Google 'Internet Speed Test'
- Your own mobile provider might not be the best one in your location, so make sure you try this on different networks (EE, Vodafone, O2 and Three)



In Situ Speed Test

Test your signal inside and outside the church

It is likely that your router will need to be positioned by a window to pick up the signal from outside



OfCom Signal Checker

<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/mobile-coverage>

You can also check with OfCom and the four network providers for their published signal strength

NB they are indicative and not a guarantee – and remember we often have thick church walls









DT102ED [Change Location](#)

CHURCH COTTAGE, DROOP TO LOCKETTS FARM - LANE

Indoor Outdoor

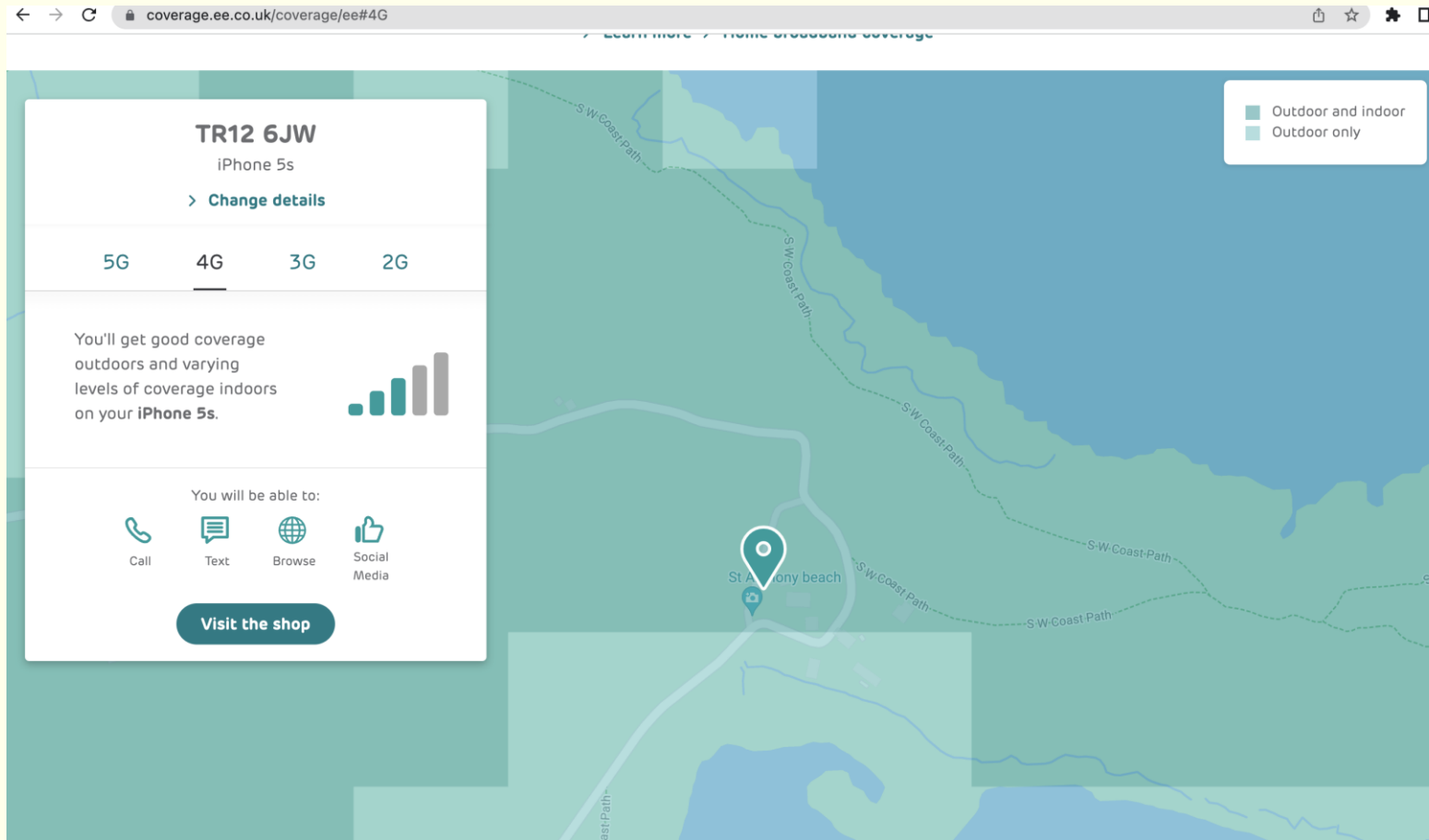
Results are predictions and not a guarantee. Actual services available may be different from results and may be affected by network outages. [More information](#)

This table shows the mobile availability in your area.

Provider	Voice	Data
EE		
Three		
O2		
Vodafone		

[Find out what these results mean](#) [View map of available services](#)

Provider signal checker



- Vodafone
- EE
- O2
- Three

Whilst there are only four providers – most people now buy through a piggybacking firm.

Piggybacking providers

www.moneysavingexpert.com/mobiles/piggybacking

Once you know how your best provider is, you can look to get a better deal with one of the piggyback providers.

Provider	Piggybacking Firm
EE	BT Mobile, Plusnet Mobile, Utility Warehouse, 1pMobile, Your Co-op (formerly The Phone Co-op), Ecotalk, IQ Mobile, Zevvle, RWG Mobile & To The Moon
O2	Giffgaff, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, Virgin Mobile & Lyca Mobile
Three	iD Mobile, Smarty, FreedomPop, Honest Mobile & Superdrug
Vodafone	Voxi Asda Mobile, Lebara Mobile & Talkmobile

Not Great Signal?

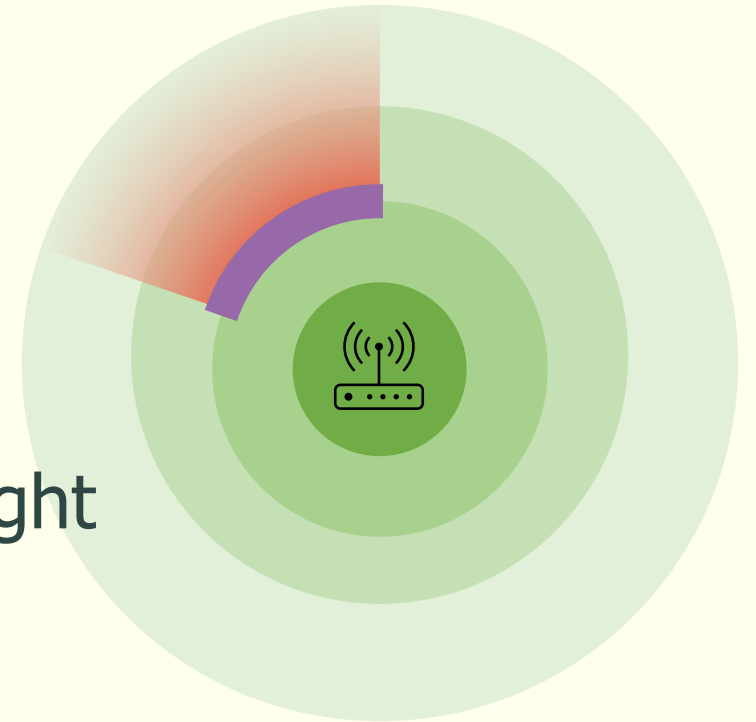
Once the router is in place, you might find you still have patchy signal

Key factors:

- Distance from source
- Line of sight

Solutions:

- Position of router - consider windows and height
- Boosters/Extenders



Not Great Signal?

Consider a multi-network SIM

- Daisy Communications provide a multi-network SIM, which connects to the strongest network regardless of the provider. This is a good option for card readers, but the cost might be prohibitive for general internet use

<https://daisycomms.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/ordering-a-new-sim-card/>

<https://parishbuying.daisycomms.co.uk/bespoke-mobile-solutions/>

Not Great Signal?

Many routers will accept an external antenna via SMA connector (available from eg Amazon). Opt for an omni directional one. Again, elevation and windows are your friend.

If necessary, an external antenna can be placed on the tower and the signal can be cabled down to the router.

NB This requires a B-List faculty: it is advantageous if you can follow existing cabling!



Roll over image to zoom in

Outline Costs

Parish Buying

Always check Parish Buying first



www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/phone-and-broadband

Indicative costs

You will pay more if you use more data!

- For contactless card reader only – 500MB to 5GB is plenty
- For actual internet usage, 100GB to Unlimited, depending on how what you intend to use it for eg streaming video

Shop around

www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheap-mobile-finder/sim-only/

Indicative costs

- Creating WiFi through a 3G/4G router would cost around £30-£100 for the router (available at Currys or Argos) then from around £5 a month for the SIM contract.
- Wired broadband connection might be cheaper than you realise (depending on where the nearest line is) it might come in as low as £25 a month with connection speeds of around 50mbps.
- A device with a built in SIM would use a multi-network card (e.g. Daisy Communications) and would cost around £6 a month.

Contact the Giving Team

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