

## COVID-19 Livestreaming Worship

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8 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	1.1	The House of Bishops Recovery Group
Document checked and updated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Text streamlined</li> <li>- Link included at the end of this document to regularly updated page on the Church of England website. This is now the key point of reference for this topic area.</li> </ul>		

*The Recovery Group has been set up to support the Church of England as government guidance changes through the COVID-19 pandemic. This document has been prepared with information available by the issue date. It will be kept under review and updated as the situation develops, with each update issued as a new version. The current version will always be available to download from the Church of England website via the [Coronavirus FAQs page](#).*

Many churches are now accustomed to streaming and recording services and events through Facebook, YouTube, Zoom and other platforms. As church offerings at home through online or other means become embedded in our activity, it is worth considering the best provision to reach members of your congregation and wider community.

Churches have a range of options available to share content online either by livestreaming or by recording and sharing afterwards. Platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter can support both live and recorded services and conferencing tools such as Zoom allow multiple users to converse and contribute to an event from different locations. A key question is what you wish to share. Is it a portion of the service, perhaps the sermon or prayers, or the whole service?

There are number of ways in which you can film the service or event:

- Filming using a smartphone or tablet – [read this blog](#) for more information on where to position the device and inexpensive microphones and lighting that can be purchased to significantly improve the quality. If you do not have Wi-fi or 3G/4G that enables you to livestream a service, then recording and then uploading after the service or event may be a preferred option.
- Bristol Diocese produced very [helpful guidance](#) for churches on equipment options from a supplier.
- For more permanent installations in church buildings, it is worth considering the overall AV installation in your church. There is [more information here](#). A supplier selection is in progress at [Parish Buying](#) with video and audio-visual suppliers who can provide guidance and a quote to recommend equipment, installation and ongoing maintenance. For installations as part of your response to Covid-19 there is guidance on permission for [temporary permissions](#). This will enable you to get started quickly.
- Record audio of the service or event using a smartphone and inexpensive microphone (a list can be found in [this blog](#) and share through free platforms such as [Soundcloud](#)). If your service or event will be featuring more than one person (such as musicians) ,the equipment suggested in [this blog](#) may be preferable. This will be significantly less expensive and could also rely on AV equipment your church may already have in place.
- [This blog](#) explores how to schedule content on the different platforms.

A regularly updated [guide to getting started with livestreaming](#) is available on the Church of England website. This is the best point of reference for ongoing streaming and recording advice.