



CHURCHES TOGETHER

in St Albans

Churches Going Online

Sadly, we have had to cancel public meetings whilst the covid-19 virus is a threat. Some churches may be well equipped with this with sophisticated installed video streaming systems. This brief paper is how to get the best results cost effectively.

Status

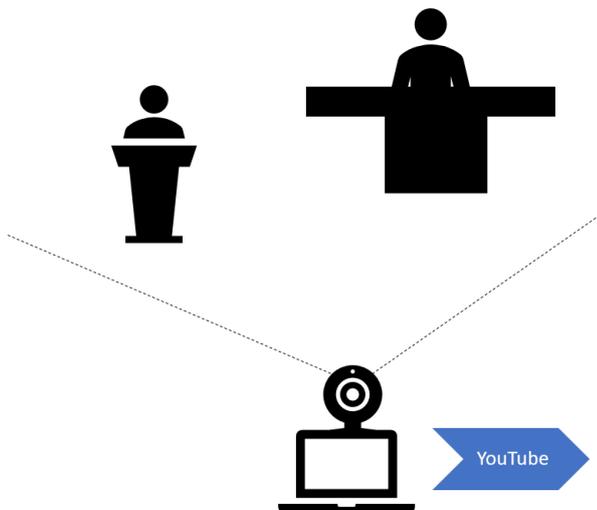
This is an early draft document for discussion. Not every option here has been tested. We hope to know more after the CTSA Online Forum.

How to live stream

Simplest Approach

Live streaming your church service is free and not that hard to do. You need a mobile, either WiFi or good mobile data and a YouTube or Facebook account. Below are links with instructions. Remember to have your mobile in landscape (sideways) orientation when recording.

If it's just the minister, the simplest thing might be to use a laptop with a webcam positioned to take in everything: say both the altar and the lectern. The laptop will be facing the minister. The minister can then start streaming at just before the service starts. This does not require anyone other than the minister to enter the church.



YouTube: [create a channel](#) if you don't already have one

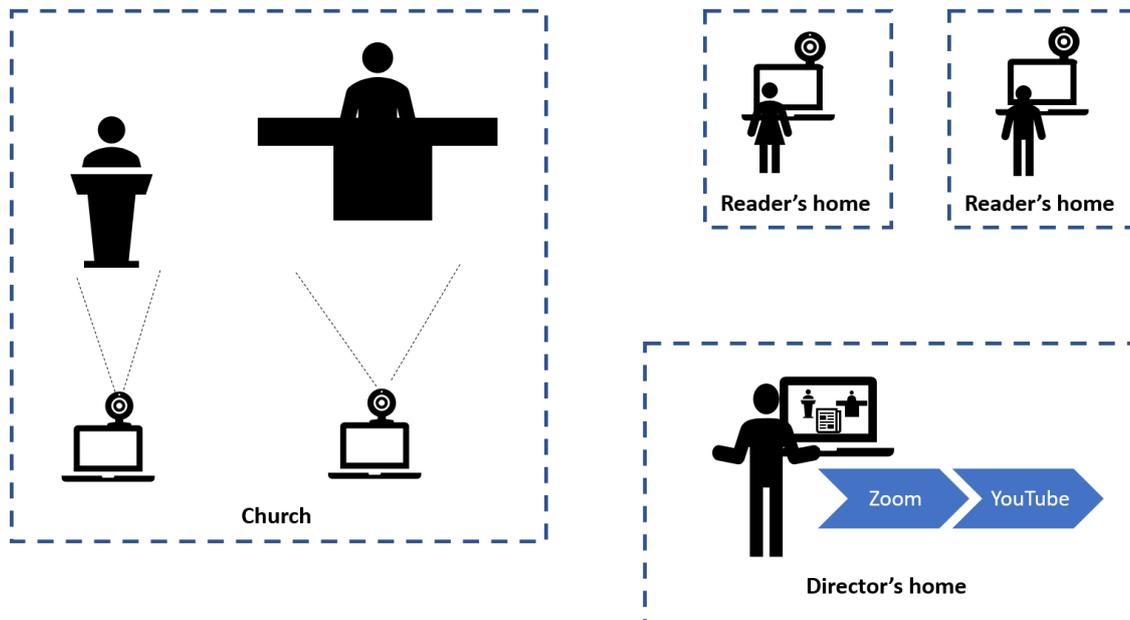
Livestream:

YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2474026?hl=en-GB>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/help/799185466881268/?helpref=hc_fnav

Multiple Cameras and Locations

To have a livestream where you can choose who people can see from sources chosen by a director who can be at a remote location.

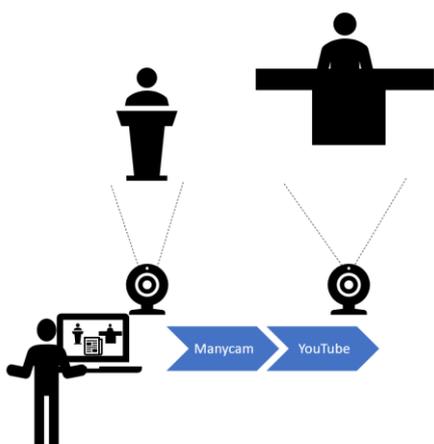


All that needs to happen in church is for a laptop or two, or even phones or tablets to join a Zoom meeting hosted by the director. The meeting can also be joined by other participants, such as readers and intercessors. The director uses Zoom's spotlight feature to choose which cameras are streamed to YouTube. The director can also choose to input from their computer such things as power point slides. Chat can be used to co-ordinate participants. When the minister is not speaking, they should keep an eye on the laptop to see the remote reader. Note that only the minister need enter the church.

A more polished solution would be to subscribe to the Zoom Webinar which cost £32 per month.

Manycam

Manycam is software which allows one person to switch between cameras, including mobile phone cameras and add captions and other effects. This is interesting software, and can be combined with Zoom or streamed straight to YouTube.



However, it requires a director to be on hand. It can be used in combination with Zoom, but in tests this could be a bit tricky.

Live meetings

There are a number of technologies that allow you to have effective and fun meetings. Given that face to face meetings, though preferable are not an option at this time, now is a good time to get going with online meetings. Skype, Google Hangouts and Zoom all provide free meetings.

Most people have found that [Zoom](#) is better than Skype or Google Hangouts. It allows much better quality and control over large meetings. It is limited to 50 participants and 40 mins in the free package, otherwise one person needs to have a £11.99 package for up to 100 people and long meetings.

Tips

- It is best to use a laptop or a desktop as a larger screen will help you to see more people.
- If you are using a mobile, have it in portrait orientation
- Do not have the camera too close to your face, it is better to see you in your surroundings.
- Try to have a meeting off the hour and half hour as there can be high traffic at these times. Go for times like 6:50 or 8:10
- If you've not used Zoom before, have a test meeting with someone first. Not absolutely essential: Zoom set up is straight forward. Use our [Contact Us](#) page to set up a meeting with me if you like.

Key Considerations

Child Protection

Any possibility of a child being seen online requires child protection policies to be observed. Consult your child protection officer.

Privacy and Security

Note that any meeting or service advertised online could be joined by anybody.

Licensing

If copyright material is to be used you probably require a license if it is to go online. This may be in addition to licenses such as CCLI.

"The CCLI Church Copyright Licence is a prerequisite for the Streaming Licence. You may also require a Limited Online Music Licence (LOML) from PRS for Music if you are hosting the stream on your church website. We refer you to www.prsformusic.com"

<https://uk.ccli.com/streaming/>

Finally

This document is a work in progress and the views expressed are only opinions. It may all seem daunting, but in these times of isolation it seems to me that we need to make the extra effort. Please give feedback on the [Contact Us](#) page.