

## **Livestreaming or recording services to upload**

This note is designed to offer a brief idea of the practicality of livestreaming and/or recording services to upload in the Camelot Parishes. However, I am by no means an expert in this area, so if you can think of alternatives not listed below or ways of overcoming the issues, please do get in touch with Tristram.

### **Livestreaming**

In relation to livestreaming, first, a good WiFi or data signal would be essential (I am not sure what the situation is in the churches in the Camelot Parishes, but I would guess it is not especially fast).

If we wanted to livestream direct to Youtube, unfortunately, we would need over 1000 subscribers to our Youtube channel in order to livestream from a mobile (which would be the easiest option). As we don't currently have a Youtube channel and are unlikely to get 1000 subscribers if we did, the other alternative is to livestream from a desktop or webcam, and this would be reliant on good WiFi signal.

Facebook allows livestreaming, under what is called 'Facebook Live'. In order to do this, we would need to set up a Camelot Parishes page or group, which people would need to join or follow, and then we could livestream. I believe people would need to have joined Facebook in order to follow the page or group.

There may also be an issue in relation to sound quality, many of our churches are designed to amplify sound in a beautiful way, but this can make it difficult to record on a phone or laptop, especially without microphones that are being recorded directly to a device. It may be very frustrating for those watching at home if they are not able to hear properly.

### **Recording services to upload**

An alternative to livestreaming would be to record a service (on a phone or video camera) and then upload afterwards, either to Youtube or maybe even to the Camelot Parishes website (if this is possible).

The issue with this is the time required (as well as possibly sound quality being a problem as with livestreaming). During the initial lockdown, I was making short collective worship videos for North Cadbury School, and while these were only five minutes long, they often took at least twenty minutes to upload. So uploading a full length service could literally take hours, and of course, would rely on a good internet signal throughout the upload period.

### **Other experiences in the deanery**

Below are some comments from another church in the deanery who have been attempting livestreaming and uploading services (I've removed place names):

"Livestreaming is not possible from our village, and we found that even in the village with the strongest WiFi, the signal would drop out at peak times when everyone wants to be online (Easter morning was a painful example of this).

After that we began recording services and uploading them to our Facebook page and also to YouTube for non-Facebook people. This means driving to [the village with the best WiFi] to upload which regularly takes over 50 minutes to each platform for a 20-minute recorded service.”

### **Some options for the Camelot Parishes**

It would seem sensible to gauge the level of interest among regular attendees as well as those who may have been receiving Cutting Edge Camelot but who previously have not attended services. What would they appreciate?

It appears that livestreaming from church is not really an option, which leaves the option of recording services and then uploading them later, but this would take a significant period of time and may also require recording equipment that we don't currently have, so it would be important to gauge whether this was of interest.

It may be possible to livestream from someone's home, if they had good enough WiFi, so we would need to determine what people would want. For example, would people appreciate seeing Ron and Pam's Sunday home communion service? This could be done via Zoom, which would just require individuals to click on a link (though I found Zoom works better if you download the free app).

Or, it would be very easy to simply offer Zoom coffee times at one or more points in the week, if the primary desire was for a sense of community. Since lockdown, we have been having Mainly Music chats on Monday mornings via Zoom when we would have been having our Mainly Music sessions, and these have enabled people to stay in touch.