



Live-Streaming worship from your Church Plant

Purpose:

This document intends to outline how you could live-stream worship from your church site. There are a huge number of variables in such an operation including access to technology, strength of internet service, size of building, other audio-visual equipment you have and even access to power in some spaces.

This guide will focus on the simplest means of live-streaming from your church plant – with the use of a computer or phone – directly to the platforms of YouTube and Facebook.

If you wish to offer your services to more than one platform at a time, or with the use of additional cameras, microphones or your church sound system, please make contact directly with Alan Burnett (alan_burnett@hotmail.co.nz). Due to the vast range of adaptors, camera systems, streaming software and levels of technological practice, each situation will be unique to a high degree.

Why this option:

There are many reasons why you may choose to live-stream from your church plant. While many congregations have become use to seeing the inside of each other's homes through online gatherings and videos, our church-plants offer a sense of familiarity, a sense of the sacred and a sense of normality to people in worship. In addition to these, there is a practicality about undertaking worship in spaces designed for worship – particularly true when we are able to move to communion services once again.

While this option is more technologically demanding, the re-occupation of shared space it provides for begins the process of us coming out of our homes, if only in spirit to begin. Much like the disciples leaving their locked rooms on Pentecost, it also helps us to occupy public space with our worship once again.

Use of the document:

This document will not answer all your questions and should be used alongside the recorded workshops provided by the diocese. Throughout the document, there will be required



software, accounts or resources to undertake the live-stream. If you do not have these things, click on them and you will be taken to a walkthrough of how to create, purchase or obtain them.

An Introduction to simple streaming

What you will need:

- A computer with a front facing camera.
 - You could use a phone for this if YouTube allows you to live-stream from a mobile. There are conditions on this. If you are allowed to, instructions are below.
- Good Wi-Fi connection from site of recording.
 - If you are unsure of this, either visit www.speedtest.net or download the speedtest.net app in the Google play store or Apple app store. Once there/downloaded, run the test from where you would like the camera to sit. If it is below 1mbps, do not attempt this process.
- A YouTube account for your church
 - For help with this, [click here](#). As you create the account, remember to make it for your church. With the public nature of live-streaming we highly recommend you do not use a personal account.
- Or, a Church Facebook Account
 - If you are using a phone, you will need the Facebook app from the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.

The set-up:

To plan a live-stream set up in your church plant, you need to determine what you want to do in the service. This option is best if you are primarily remaining static at a lectern, chair or altar-table. Though you could move the camera during the live-stream, this can create an awkward experience for those watching and cause issues with connection.

- Place your camera, whether phone or computer, near to where you are leading worship.



- Because the major issue with using a phone or computer for this is sound quality, you need it close. On your computer, or phone set landscape, imagine three lines running horizontally and vertically across the screen. Try to have your face and shoulders occupy two-third of the horizontal space and at least one-third of the vertical space.
- Your phone/computer needs to be secure where you place it.
 - If you have a tripod for your phone, this would be ideal. If not, leaning it against other furniture or even rubber-banding it to a book will ensure little to no movement during the stream.

Running the Live-Stream

For this level of live-streaming, we suggest streaming through You Tube or Facebook. This is because these are the easiest and most accessible options – not requiring logins from worshippers and with robust capacity. For advice on streaming to multiple platforms at once, [contact Alan Burnett](#)

- Have your worship planned and camera located to capture what you plan on doing.
- Have signs up informing the congregation that live streaming is taking place.
- If you have someone doing this for you make sure that only they use their technology – sterilising a laptop/mobile smartphone is not easy
- Make sure that you have enough power in your smartphone/laptop so it doesn't 'die' half way through the broadcast.
- If using a smartphone disable/switch off all notifications and ringtone. You do not want your silences broken by your unique ringtone.

Streaming to YouTube via a computer.

1. Open www.youtube.com. You will need to be signed in with your church account.
2. Click the live stream button in the top right-hand corner
 - a.  It will look like this on your computer. You will need to click 'Go Live'. Your internet browser may ask to allow YouTube access to your microphone and camera. Click allow (These words may vary depending on your internet browser).



3. This will take you to the Youtube Studio. You will be asked to complete a form giving a title and the general rules of your stream.
 - a. Any title would work, but perhaps include a sense of the date and theme. This will help people know they are watching the right one, and allow for later watching by others beyond your congregation.
 - b. You can make your stream Public, Private or Unlisted. Choose either Public or Unlisted. Public worship means anyone, anywhere can see your worship and watch. Unlisted means you need to share the YouTube address of the video for others to watch. We recommend you choose public, for both missional purposes and simplicity. The following instructions are for public worship.
 - c. YouTube is required to ask if the content is for children. While it is tempting to select 'Made for Children' there are feature limitations that come with this – particularly the loss of the 'Live Chat' feature.
 - d. Age Restrictions are set to all ages by default. Double check this, however.
 - e. YouTube will ask for a description of the stream – You could say something like "Sunday Worship from the Church of X in Y – The Good Shepherd". It will also ask for an overall sense of the content. We recommend 'Non-Profit & Activism' or 'People & Blogs'.
 - f. When you click 'Create Stream' it will ask you to take a photo for the 'Thumbnail' - a small image that represents your stream. If you do not wish for the taken photo to be your thumbnail, you can upload an image from your computer by hovering over the image and selecting 'Upload custom thumbnail'.
 - g. Once you are ready, click 'Go Live'. Depending on your connection, this may take some time – keep an eye on changes, it will eventually say 'You're live'
4. Everything in front on the camera will now be live-streamed onto your YouTube account. If it is 'public' anyone can see it by visiting your account.
5. When you have finished your service, click 'End Stream' and it will complete the video. The recording will remain on your church's YouTube account for later viewing. It can be edited slightly if there were significant issues during the recording.



Streaming to YouTube via the YouTube app on phone.

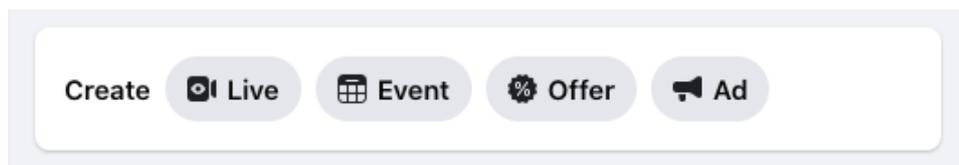
It is highly likely YouTube will not allow you to stream via a phone. This will only be available to you if your YouTube account already has a number of subscribers. If it does not work for you, use a computer, as above, or check out the instructions for Stage Two and streaming through a piece of software.

1. Open the YouTube app on your phone.
2. Click the 'Live Stream' button
 - a.  It will look similar to this on your phone. You may be asked to allow YouTube to use your camera and microphone. Follow the on-screen instructions to allow this.
3. Fill in the details regarding title and description, as when streaming from a computer.
4. Click 'Go Live'
5. In time, it will tell you that 'You're Live'. From here, everything in front of the camera will be broadcast publicly.
6. End the stream by clicking the 'End Stream' button.

Streaming to Facebook from a computer

Why Facebook you may ask – outreach would be the answer. Live video to Facebook has a significant organic reach (unpaid spread) that cannot be matched by many other platforms. If you stream to the Church Facebook site, if it is public, many more people will be able to share and watch than just those who like the page. Live video is an excellent way to extend your digital reach, especially among those in the 30-50 age demographic.

1. Open www.facebook.com. You will need to be signed in with your church account.
2. Go to your Church page and look for the following panel – it will likely be below the location to post to the page.



You will need to click the 'Live' button.

3. This will take you to the 'Live Producer' section. If it is your first time, there may be a short tutorial.
 - a. When asked 'Choose how you want to start setting up your live video' select the 'Use Camera' option. You may need to allow camera and microphone use in your browser to do this – you will be prompted to do this if you are required.
 - b. In the new window that opens, make sure 'camera' is selected in the top, middle of the screen.
 - c. Now you need to detail where you are streaming and what you want to say about it. On the right-hand side, there will be options to select your Church Facebook page and to write a post to accompany your stream. Something along the lines of 'Join us for our morning worship, live from (your church) in (your town). As with other Facebook posts, you can also add emojis and location tagging if you would like.
 - d. Below this, you need to select your camera and microphone. These will likely have been correctly auto-selected, but if you do not see yourself or the camera is not working, double check these settings.
 - e. Finally, you are asked to write a title for your stream – perhaps "Morning Worship on Sunday (date) from (your church).
4. Now that the stream is set up, you need to make sure your computer is in the right location to stream the service. This is where your thoughts on what you are going to do become important – try to maintain the computer within 2 metres of where you are speaking from.
5. Once in the right location, click the 'Go Live' button. It will count you in from 3 second. Once that has counted down, you are live to your church Facebook page



6. When you have finished your service, click 'End Stream' and it will complete the video. The recording will remain on your church's Facebook page for later viewing. It can be edited slightly if there were significant issues during the recording.

Streaming to Facebook from a phone

1. Open the Facebook app on your phone
2. Navigate to your Church Facebook page
3. In the 'Create Post' section, you will find a button that says 'Live'. Click this.
 - a. You may be asked to allow Facebook to use your camera and your microphone, click allow.
4. On the screen, you will have options of which camera to use (front facing or rear camera – rear is default) and whether to use your flash.
5. At the bottom of the screen, you may also write a description – something like 'Sunday morning worship from (your church) in (your town)' would suffice.
6. Once you are happy with that setup, place your phone within two metres of where you will predominately be speaking and leading worship.
7. Once comfortable with the location and proximity, click the large blue button – this will take you live.
8. Once you have finished the service, click the 'Finish' button. This will end your stream.
9. Once your stream is complete, you will have several options. By default, these options will post the video to your church Facebook site and do so in HD. Both of these are positive actions, as they give latecomers access to the service as well.
10. You may also save the video to your camera if you wish with the 'save' button.
11. To continue, tap the blue 'Share' button.

Congratulations, you will (soon) have successfully live-streamed your first service.