

Data Protection

We are committed to sharing our worship as widely as possible whilst at the same time taking into account issues relating to privacy and data protection. We will protect the visual data and privacy of attending members of the congregation whilst live-streaming our services in the following ways:

Raising awareness. While there is generally no reasonable expectation of privacy in a worship service that is open to the public, it is a requirement to let attendees know that services will be broadcast. This way, they can determine the amount of information they're comfortable providing if, say, they want to make a prayer request or share a health update regarding a fellow member of the congregation. We will accomplish this through regular announcements in services, signs and/or notices in the church's bulletin, newsletter, electronic newsletter and other communications.

Create "no video" zones. Designate specific places or areas within the church building where video does not reach so members who don't want to appear on video can comfortably gather there. In times of social distancing there should be ample space made available in an area where those choosing to sit there are not stigmatised.

When the Order of Service is next re-printed include an explanation of Live Streaming in a prominent place, including details of Video/Non-video zones. Add this information to our Website and Facebook page. Comms Team should produce a brief explanation of Live Streaming for distribution to the congregation.

Get permission. Exercise particular care with children and vulnerable adults (eg those suffering from domestic violence). Avoid putting their names and images on the live stream, or, at the very minimum, proceed only with appropriate authorisation.

Be mindful about personal prayer requests and health updates given out in the Notices – these should only be streamed with the consent of the individual in question.

Safeguarding

Because it is hard/impossible to control who sees images streamed or recorded for broadcast, children and vulnerable adults must be protected. Here are a few ways this will be done, some of which are similar to those suggested above.

- Provide an area of the church which is not visible in the recording/streaming and clearly mark out this area for people and/or provide oral/written explanations.
- All families with children or young people attending will be made aware of this area so that they are not visible on the recording/streaming, unless appropriate permission has been granted for a particular child or young person. Every attempt will be made to ensure consent forms are signed by parents/carers on behalf of children under 13. For children aged 13-16 consent forms should be signed by parents/carers and the children themselves, and children aged 17 should sign their own consent form. This follows Diocesan advice.
- This non-video area will also provide for members of the congregation who may prefer to attend in privacy and may not wish their whereabouts to become known publicly.

- Anyone coming forward to receive communion will also not be visible in the recording/streaming. Cameras will focus on, for example, a flower arrangement or monument, altar etc.
- Filming will begin once everyone is seated and end before the congregation begins to depart. Cameras will focus on the High Altar should we wish to record during the final organ performance.
- Do not mention personal details in Notices without prior permission.
- Relaying or recording sound only is unlikely to cause an issue as individuals in the congregation will not normally be identifiable.

March 2025