

In Touch



Keeping In Touch

We realise that many churches will struggle to keep in touch with their members outside using the telephone or Royal Mail to communicate.

For those who want to explore the online world of meeting up why not take a look at the following providers. If you are using one of these packages let us know your experience:

BT Conferencing

BT Conferencing have a range of products which are ideal for simple get togethers, prayer meetings or even worship. Not only can you arrange video meetings, you can also arrange it so people can dial in via their phone if they don't have internet access. Huge choice, take a look. Please note, BT Conferencing don't offer a free service on any of their platforms. Individuals or Churches will be charged via their BT bills.

Lifesize

With Lifesize you can host free and instant video calls with your friends, your church, your team right from your phone or browser. The video conferencing app works when and where you work. No downloads or sign-ups required — just share the link and go.

Zoom

Very similar to Lifesize – in fact they are both fighting over which service is better! Again, a free service for up to 100 participants, with a maximum 40 minute meeting – which is shorter than the average sermon!

Google Hangouts

We have used Hangouts with our CF Students to good effect – although it is limited to gatherings of up to 10 people. Ideal for small house groups, deacons, prayer meetings. If you have access to G Suite For Nonprofits you can access larger free video calling features.

Join.me

Another similar product to Zoom or Lifesize, which again offers free meetings. The good thing about these three options is that are relatively simple to set up and use.

Facebook Live & YouTube

Another option is to stream live at any time, and these two platforms are perfect for this, especially if you have a dedicated Church Facebook Page or YouTube Channel.

In Touch

In our last edition we asked the question "In Touch — would you like it to continue?" We were very touched by the number of positive comments received and have made the decision to carry it on. If you ever have anything to share please do get in contact with us.



Churches online this weekend

A number of churches are doing their best to overcome the closure of their buildings by streaming, recording or putting together a service online. Among others:

Market Harborough are putting a series of video and audio clips together on their website each Sunday ... take a look at their [Mothering Sunday Service](#).

South Chingford are running a number of initiatives, including small groups on Zoom, and will be [broadcasting live on Facebook](#) Sunday at 11am.

Springhead, Oldham are also streaming a service live on [Facebook this Sunday](#).

West End Congregational Church in Ebbw Vale put together a brilliant video for their

Mothering Sunday Service. [Take a look.](#) They are planning for this Sunday too.

[There are many others too ... why not join them for worship this Sunday?](#)

Communicating with others

The Welsh Area are looking after each other with an email update. Chris Gillham shared this thought which perhaps you might like to think about:

If we self-isolate, our car batteries could become casualties. In the old days, you just disconnected the battery if your car was to be laid up for any length of time, but in these days of complicated electronics, that is not so easy. I consulted our local mechanic. He said that just turning the engine on and letting it run for a few minutes does more harm than good. He suggested that, if you get in the car, take it on a round trip of at least five miles and go straight back indoors, you remain self-isolated. This should happen once a week.



It sounds to me like advice which would be good for both the car and its driver, but please check with Government advice before taking it.

ASecludedPlace2020

Our Lent campaign has received many favourable reviews, and people have commented what an inspiration it has been in these difficult times. Because of this we have taken the decision to continue the daily reflections until the end of May. If you would like to sign up for daily emails [visit the website](#) and fill in your details.

Please note:

All Congregational Federation events are cancelled for the foreseeable future. The Office at Nottingham is also closed, with Staff working from home where possible. If you do need to contact us please use the usual channels and we will endeavour to respond as soon as we can.

Please stay home and keep safe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.