

In Touch



Church Service Planner

Church Service Planner is a free to use website that helps Churches create and share online services.

Using the drag and drop editor resources from across the internet can be assembled together into a coherent and easy to follow online church service.

Embed videos from YouTube or Vimeo (including live feeds), share songs or testimonials. Include text such as notices, prayers and readings. Link to other resources such as websites, articles or even Zoom meetings. Once created, services can be shared using the unique URL each one is assigned via email or social media.

This tool provides a way for church families to join together and share in teaching, praise and prayer. Many smaller churches simply do not have the capacity to live stream full services - but their members still want to encourage one another.

Church Service Planner was built by Jack Barber, a member of Whitby Evangelical Church. When the lockdown came into effect their church did not have a plan in place for taking our services online, so the first weekend their minister pre-recorded a sermon and shared it via YouTube. The following week Jack constructed this website ... [Take a look via this link.](#)

Stories of Hope

We have been hearing some great ways in which Churches have been responding to the Covid-19 Lockdown.

Berkeley Congregational Church in Gloucestershire put Palm Crosses on its railings on Palm Sunday and all were taken. They then place a cross on the railings on Good Friday, and decorated with wonderful spring flowers on Easter Day. As Mary Skuse said: "On Easter Sunday we like to make the cross bloom vibrantly showing that Christ has risen and that he lives."



Angela Robinson writes: I was invited to join the ZOOM 9pm prayer meeting from **Wivenhoe Congregational Church** recently and was impressed by what **Justin Lunniss** and co. are doing in the town and being

much appreciated for it by all and sundry and the effect on non-church-goers was quite considerable. He is considered very much part of those, along with the NHS, who need clapping for keeping life going ... Yes, Justin! I am telling on you!

To which **Justin** replied:

I said today in my sermon that when people say "when this is over I just want to get back to normal" I said my reply is "why would you want to do that, normal wasn't the right way. The way people are working together and caring for each other, showing love and congregating, albeit by the internet should be the way we are". When we can use the building again I can envisage a revival! This has bought us as a community together like never before. This dark time has bought much light and is shining like a beacon and prayer is working. We had two new people join Zoom today for the Good Friday Service and it's happening every day.

Tell on me as much as you like if it encourages others.

South Chingford Congregational Church have a wealth of events going on to sustain

Coronavirus and Christ

In his new book **Coronavirus and Christ**, John Piper invites readers around the world to stand on the solid Rock, who is Jesus Christ, in whom our souls can be sustained by the sovereign God who ordains, governs, and reigns over all things to accomplish his wise and good purposes for those who trust in him. Piper offers six biblical answers to the question, What is God doing through the coronavirus? — reminding us that God is at work in this moment in history.

The book can be downloaded as a PDF, as an eBook for Kindle or Kobo or Apple iBooks, or as an MP3 Audiobook. [Follow this link to download.](#)

YourNeighbour.org

[YourNeighbour.org](#) is a network of over 1000 churches from over 40 denominations in the UK.

They are coordinating a UK church response to the Covid-19 crisis working with churches, the Government and the NHS. They run a national call centre and email support line, Monday – Sunday, 9am – 5pm.

They are an initiative of the Good Faith Foundation (GFF), a new charity seeking to combat social exclusion by bringing people together. Visit their website for more information.

their church life - from Bible Studies to Prayer Meetings, from Worship Services to Gospel Playlists. [Check them out on Facebook.](#)

Joy Howell, Children's Worker for the South West Midlands Area, has put together some great resources for Children and Young People. Her church has a Thursday Special Group which now puts its session on YouTube and are worth a view. [Take a look here.](#)

ASecludedPlace2020

The journey continues ... 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.