

How to organise a virtual Christian Aid Service



Florence Muthiani holds her hands together in prayer in Kenya.

Everything you'll need...

With the joys of technology, this Christian Aid Week you'll have the opportunity to gather with your church and community once more on a virtual platform.

There are plenty of platforms available that can make your virtual service a success. Whichever platform you decide to use, we hope this 'how to' guide will help you join in prayer together.

1. Choose a platform

For some of you, this may be the first time you are embarking into the virtual space as a church or group. So, the first thing we'd recommend you consider is which online platform is the most accessible to you and your church. If you've been holding online services already, then you should be able to follow the same format to use our worship resources.

We have sermon notes that you will help you prepare for the service itself. You can find these at:
caweek.org/virtualresources

If your church already has a website, check this first to see if there is an existing function for an online service. The easiest tool to host a virtual service is Facebook as they already

support live streaming, so all you need to do is set up a page.

Once you've set up a Facebook page, you will find the 'Live' button from your page.

2. Spread the word

Make sure to let everyone know you will be hosting a live service.

Whether it's through an email chain or a WhatsApp group, contact people to let them know what time the service will be and where to find it.

3. Be prepared!

Make sure the device you use to record your service is fully charged. Whether you use your mobile phone on a tripod or the camera in your laptop, make sure you're charged up with a good connection to the internet.

4. Don't forget to record...

Make sure you find a good spot to record your service, somewhere quiet and where your position can be seen well on the camera.

Why not try a mock service and go live to talk to your congregation before the service? This will allow you to check for any technical glitches and get you used to preaching in the virtual world.

Alternatively, you could pre-record your service and release the video at a set time, like the usual time for your service. This way, your congregation can still come together at a set time to watch it and will be able to share it with their loved ones.

5. 'Hand out' your service sheets

If you like, you can include a link to the resources for your congregation to download beforehand.

The link to the resources can be put into the comments section and is helpful for your congregation to have a read or follow through as they are tuned into the service.

We have tailor-made resources for you to use during your service, including an Order of Service and prayers, available at caweek.org/virtualresources

6. Include a collection

Coronavirus impacts us all, but love unites us all. Making a donation is a wonderful way of sharing love with our vulnerable neighbours living in poverty. You could encourage your congregation to hold a virtual collection.

People could donate money to a JustGiving page at the end of the service. The great thing about having a JustGiving page is that you can promote it every day of Christian Aid Week too! This means all donations will go directly to Christian Aid.

You can set up a page here : www.justgiving.com/campaign/CAWeek2020 and share this with your contacts.

Finally...

Make sure you save your recording of the service and make it available to download or to watch later. You can do this whether you hold a live stream or a pre-recorded service.

We hope you find this guide useful and have a successful live stream of your Christian Aid Week service.

Whatever platform you decide to use, make sure you keep an eye on our website for any resources that will be helpful to you.

You can find all the resources you need at: caweek.org/virtualresources

Contact us

Unfortunately under the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, there is a delay to processing donations by post.

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