



Your livestreaming kit in a box

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Cost:

£400 - £900, depending on options chosen

Livestreaming can be a challenge to resource for multiparish benefices and also churches in rural areas. This how-to guide shows you how to specify an affordable, portable livestreaming kit that you can take from church to church. You don't even need a broadband connection in your building!

The camera

Several churches in the Diocese are using the Mevo Start camera, including the team at Church House. The camera is an all-in-one solution for live streaming that's compact and easy to handle. It has a built-in microphone, 6-hour battery life and will stream wirelessly in HD (up to 1080p) to YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.

It's small enough not to get in the way, and controlled via a tablet or mobile phone. This means it's easy to position the camera on a microphone stand in the aisle, or attached to a pew, and control it from elsewhere in the church.

£400 from mevo.com

The tablet and app

For the Mevo camera to work, it must be connected to a smartphone or tablet via the Mevo app, free to download from the App Store and Google Play. Though a dedicated device is always a good idea, if you already have a compatible device it can help keep costs down.

It's hard to create a compelling live stream with a static camera. Using the Mevo app, you can create different shots to cut between, zoom in and zoom out. You can even use it to add an additional microphone. Visit uk.mevo.com/pages/mevo-camera-app to see the app in action.

We use an iPad mini for Church House streams, but the Mevo will work on Android devices such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab A.

£200 (Galaxy Tab A) to £380 (iPad mini)

The Wi-Fi router

If you don't have broadband installed in your church building, then a Wi-Fi router is a great way to solve the problem at a low cost (and without involving the DAC!). You'll need to sign up separately for a 4G data SIM card, inserted into the router – just like the SIM card in a mobile phone.

We recommend either the TP-LINK Archer MR600 AC1200 4G+ router, or the slightly cheaper TP-Link Archer MR200 AC750 733Mbps Dual Band

4G LTE model. We're getting great results from EE and giffgaff 4G data SIM cards, but which SIM you use is dictated by coverage in your area. Visit checker.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-coverage to find out more.

£90 to £130

Accessories

You'll need a tripod or microphone stand for the camera. Mic stands often work best when the camera is in the aisle or in front of the congregation (c. £40)

A 'SmallRig Super Clamp' is a great little accessory for attaching the Mevo Camera to pews, rails and lecterns - see picture (£12)

For peace of mind during long services, an external battery pack attached to the Mevo camera. We use the Anker PowerCore 20100 pack (£35)

If you're moving equipment between locations, then a case is a good investment. We use an AmazonBasics Hard Camera Case, Medium, but any hard case will do. (£40)

Help and support

The Diocese has a support group for anyone involved in livestreaming or recording church services. Search 'Online Worship Discussion Forum' on Facebook to join.