

Sharing of learning on Communion Online- Rowan Zeelie

So we did Holy Communion online and it worked. There were at least 41 of us gathered together on Facebook Live for Holy Communion (but we think that is only people who have Facebook accounts) and there has been very positive feedback about how it went.

So here is how I did it:

- I had it set up in our dining room using my iPhone in landscape orientation.
- I tried to install an extension onto my chrome browser on my laptop, called "Facebook Screen Sharing" that allows sharing screens from my laptop as I wanted to share words that those watching could say as part of the liturgy from PPT, but I couldn't get it working properly. It worked okay until I tried to go live (I did a couple of test runs in the afternoon). So I used my phone instead.
- What I did instead was put the words for everyone to speak on a PPT presentation and set my laptop up behind my phone.
- This then allowed me to broadcast me from the front camera of my phone and then, at the right time, Rachael switched cameras on my phone and people watching could see the words they needed to say on my laptop. When they had spoken their words, she just switched the camera back to the front camera.
- Obviously this took a bit of lining things up and books being stacked to get everything at the right height, but it worked very well.

One learning so far has been that I could have explained things better about taking the bread and the wine – when exactly to share it and perhaps if people should be saying anything as they do it.

There is also about a two minute delay between me saying anything and people seeing it on their phones or tablets, so I waited about four or five minutes before actually starting the liturgy, which gave me time to say hello as people joined and wish people happy birthday and stuff.

But all in all it went well and there have been some very positive comments coming back. People enjoyed the sense of togetherness because they could see who was joining and were able to say hello to each other before we got things started.