



Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

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Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson

STREAMING POLICIES

Background

As part of our outreach to a wider audience and with the full support of the Church Council, since March 2018, we have been live streaming our 10.30am services. This is by means of a fixed video camera provided by The Sunday Service, a Christian charity funded by the Joseph Rank Foundation. Each service is kept on the website for about six weeks. Accessed via the Streaming button at the top of the Home page, services can be seen by anyone with an internet connection. Services can also be accessed on the www.thesundayservice.org website and on YouTube.

To maintain a welcoming and safe environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, we have adopted the following policies. They are designed to ensure that the only people seen on screen are those who have given their permission to be filmed.

Policies

1. To safeguard children and vulnerable adults, the only camera shots used will be on the sanctuary side, rather than the congregational side of the communion rail, apart from the choir. This creates a 'virtual safety curtain'.
2. All children and young people asked to take part in a service by, for instance, reading a lesson, lighting an advent calendar, or singing, will each need to have written parental permission to do so.
3. The Senior Church Steward is responsible for ensuring that 'Known participants' in a service who will be in camera shot in the sanctuary area, such as preachers, worship leaders, readers, sketch participants, baptismal parties and others, are informed of our live-streaming policies beforehand. Thereafter, participation signals permission to be filmed.
4. 'Unknown participants' in a service, such as volunteers from J Team invited to help a preacher in the sanctuary area will not be filmed. This is because it is neither possible nor desirable for the camera operator or youth leaders to ensure only those with parental permission forms can respond.
5. Whilst we will make every effort to ensure a safe environment for all, given the widespread use of mobile phones as cameras, the church and most other public places are not 'camera-free zones.' Nor can we always avoid the potential for some toddlers and/or a retrieving parent to creep into camera shot.
6. The church Leadership Team ensures that a common permission form on church letterheading is approved, reviewed annually, circulated to, and used by all youth groups and church stewards. Completed forms are kept in the church office within safeguarding and data protection guidelines.
7. A succinct message about our live streaming is included in the Welcome slides shown before the start of the service and in the weekly notices.

Peter Green
May 2023