
Digital Streaming of Worship at Greenbank

The Kirk Session has been thinking about the digital streaming of Greenbank's worship to the wider world via the internet. This is an exciting project which will spread the story of our local faith community to a much wider audience, spreading God's word to others, and sharing our regular worship services with those who cannot attend church on a regular basis.

The scheme has been under development for some time but has only recently been costed and approved by the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. An investment is needed to purchase and install equipment in the Sanctuary, and we need to recruit and train a larger number of operators than we currently have for the existing projection desk.

Equipment

Live video streaming of worship requires the use of TV cameras and sound equipment, with a video mixer, streaming unit and other controls to send live pictures to the internet, where they can be viewed by anyone with a computer, smart TV or tablet/phone.

In the Sanctuary, cameras will be mounted on pillars and under the gallery balcony, all colour-matched to the church's interior décor. A new operating desk will be located in the south transept and the existing projection desk at the front removed. The recorded sound quality will be improved.

Benefits

Apart from the wider opportunities for spreading the gospel that this work represents, it is also useful for our own congre-



Picture selection will require a control desk in the south transept

gation and community. The housebound will be able to view worship live; those away from Greenbank will be able to see current and recent services from anywhere in the world; new enquirers in the district can see what our worship is like; local care homes may benefit from the service; and, further afield, churches without a minister could hook up to Greenbank's services. All of this potential has been demonstrated in churches already streaming their worship. The separate streaming of weddings and funerals to particular groups of users can also be provided.

Privacy

There are issues relating to privacy and the protection of vulnerable people in the congregation when we stream live material to the internet. The Kirk Session has considered the Church of Scotland's guidance on such matters, and believes that all safeguarding requirements can be met. There will be an area of the Sanctuary which will not be covered by the cameras, and any member not wishing to be seen on the worship broadcasts can take a seat in this space.

Training

Installation and the build-up of the operating team will be underway soon, and there will be a period of testing and development. More information on the schedule taking us to a launch date will be provided shortly.

If you would like to become one of the trained operators on the rota, please make yourself known – age is no restraint, at either end of the spectrum!

Funding

The project will cost about **£13,000**. If you are interested in making a general contribution, or in donating towards a specific piece of equipment, please contact the Minister or David Jack.



About 6 inches tall, two of these small cameras mounted on pillars would blend in with the décor

For guidance, three cameras will be purchased: two of the 'pan and zoom' type (see photograph above) which cost about £1,500 each; and a fixed one at about £500. Other items of equipment range in price from small sums to some hundreds of pounds.

For detailed information and if you are considering a donation please click [here](#).

Conclusion

This is an important outreach project for Greenbank. It allows us to take up our mission in a new way, and is a challenge which we feel we must respond to. The use of new media in the digital age has been likened to the massive impact of the printing press on the wider distribution of the Bible in medieval times. Let us seize the opportunity of spreading the Word in this expansive medium!

David Jack
*Convenor, Kirk Session
Communications Committee*