

## Web-streaming Church Services and Copyright

*This note carries advice or recommendations. The document is subject to change as our response to COVID-19 develops.*

### Version History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
V.1	01/04/2020	First version of document
V.2	05/05/2020	Information added

## Web-streaming Church Services and Copyright

Live music during worship services is exempt from copyright and does not require licensing. However, if a congregation makes worship services available over the internet, on its own website or otherwise, whether live or as a downloadable file, any music (including music videos) included may be subject to copyright and a licence required for its use.

Copyright is a right given to the creator of original music, literary and dramatic works during the life of the author/composer plus 70 years. Where both words and music were written by an author/composer who died over 70 years ago these are now in the public domain and will not be covered by copyright law. However, if any music where either the words or music were written by a person still alive or who died less than 70 years ago is included in web-streamed services then a suitable licence is required.

Some congregations will hold a Church Copyright License from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) covering the use of a large number of publishers of hymns and worship songs, but this will not normally cover web-streaming church services which include copyrighted content. One option to avoid copyright issues arising is to not have any musical content, but if music is to be included then you need to ensure that you have the correct copyright licenses. **CCLI now offer a Streaming Licence**, and for some congregations this will be sufficient However, the following should be noted:

- The CCLI Streaming Licence covers live music performed as part of services streamed via YouTube or Facebook (including services streamed or webcast via YouTube but embedded into a congregation's own website).
- Whether permission for a particular hymn or song is covered by CCLI can be checked on their website.
- For services streamed or webcast from a congregation's own website, a **PRS for Music Limited Online Music Licence (LOML)** will be required **in addition** to the CCLI Streaming Licence.
- The CCLI Streaming Licence includes the right to show words on screen.
- The CCLI Streaming Licence allows a congregation to make recordings of the services available on its website for as long as the licence is kept renewed.
- These licences cover "live" music, but if commercially available recorded music is used as part of the stream then specific permission from the copyright holder is also required.
- Another Licence, **One License**, is also available, which covers an additional range of church music from certain publishers. While some materials from these publishers may be covered by a CCLI Church Copyright Licence, One License may be useful depending on the music to be included in the stream. However, the same rules about

seeking additional specific permission for commercially available recorded music still apply.

- Congregations using Zoom to stream services require to have both the CCLI Streaming Licence and the PRS for Music LOML. This is because Zoom does not have an agreement with PRS for Music as YouTube and Facebook do.

It is recommended that you contact CCLI to discuss your specific requirements:

<https://uk.ccli.com/streaming/>

<https://uk.ccli.com/ccli-news/recording-streaming-and-podcasting-your-services/>