

St Thomas of Canterbury: STREAMING POLICY

The parish approves the use of recording and streaming of services and events in church in order to reach out and serve those who cannot or prefer not to attend the church in person. We see such a facility as being part of our mission, giving us a legitimate interest in streaming and recording services.

For practical purposes, the streaming of video (and audio when the sound system is live) is permanently on, with images able to be viewed from the parish website and from that of our streaming service provider: www.stthomaswoodford.org and churchservices.tv

Some services and events will also be recorded under the control of the parish office, with recordings viewable as above, generally for 30 days. The facility to download a recording will not be routinely allowed. The web camera also contains a backup card to enable the streaming to be accessed for recording or security purposes under the control of the parish office.

We are very mindful of the privacy of those attending. Anyone wishing to attend a service or event whilst streaming is on, and who prefers not to be on camera should speak to the usher and ask to be directed to an area not captured by the camera - this is likely to be in the side aisles towards the back. Similarly, an usher should be approached by anyone wishing to receive communion off-camera.

The written permission of parents will be sought for all altar servers, and verbal permission from anyone asked to participate in a service or event that brings them on camera.

Any objections should be routed to the Parish Office who will ask for the reason(s) and respond formally within 30 days as required by GDPR guidance.

To try and ensure that everyone is properly informed, we will place a notice prominently near the entrance to the church advertising the streaming and saying how questions or objections can be dealt with. In addition, this statement will be posted on a noticeboard in the church porch and on our web site, and a notice regularly inserted in the weekly newsletter.

This policy has been developed after considering templates from churchservices and the diocese, mindful of GDPR guidance and considering our particular circumstances. It has been approved by the Parish Council.