

## Simon Eves explains how to use Zoom video conferencing.

As a church we've been looking at various ways we can continue with much of what we always do in new ways. We've therefore been looking at video conferencing software and whether that can be used to allow growth groups to meet remotely. The basic idea is that we find a way so that as many people as possible are still able to meet up digitally even though we can't currently gather physically.

Clearly there are many options and some of you will be well set on this already. But as a church we're finding Zoom very helpful already.

(Those who already comfortable with the technology- you can skip this paragraph!).

**What is Zoom?** Most simply put, zoom is an app/ piece of software which each member of the growth group can download onto their smartphone/ tablet/ laptop/ PC. Once it is downloaded and an account is made then people can all join a 'meeting' and everyone can hear and, if they have a camera, see, everyone else.

**What about those who aren't technical?** I am very happy to help people get set up on this, especially if they're struggling. But there are a number of people in the congregation who are already used to using zoom so hopefully together we can work out most of the teething problems and get people set up on whatever devices they have.

**What about those who don't have any device?** I'm just learning about the whole system myself but I think it is possible for people to call into the meeting from a landline. Clearly they would only have audio capability but hopefully that would be an option that would allow people to still join the conversation.

Many growth groups, I'm sure, will be more than capable of sorting themselves out on this kind of stuff but if you need any help- drop me a line ([simon.eves@stmarysmaidenhead.org](mailto:simon.eves@stmarysmaidenhead.org)). I also have bought a pro account on behalf of the church so I can 'host' meetings which are able to run for more than the standard 40 minute limit- so if you'd like me to host any meeting let me know - obviously I wouldn't actually be joining every growth groups conversation!!!

The most important thing right now is that our growth groups continue to support one another- if that can include meeting digitally, then that would obviously be fantastic. As I began by saying zoom is just one option but I'd imagine it could well become a tool we begin to use for other things at church and not just for Growth Groups. In short any questions about using zoom- let me know and I'll do my best to support. Otherwise, keep going and I'm very much praying for you all as you support your groups at this time!