

Many of us have found being unable to meet together difficult.

I want to introduce a new opportunity **gathering together on the phone for worship**. This will in no means make up for not being able to be physically together, but is an opportunity that is accessible to all who have a phone, and therefore includes those who are not on the internet.

After a trial run on 11<sup>th</sup> May (Thanks to those who took part) 16 people from across our 3 churches connected to a telephone conference call successfully. There is no compulsion that anyone has to come, but I hope that for those who are interested, it may be a positive step towards being able to gather together – at a distance!

So on a trial we're going to trial holding a short service on the phone for the next 3 weeks (17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May), based on the worship at home sheets sent out in worship packs and available to download from [www.revdanbasldon.com](http://www.revdanbasldon.com).

This will be at 10am on Sunday mornings, which last between 20 and 30 minutes. To allow time for all to connect, the call will be open from around 9:45am each week. I will lead initially, but my intention is that others will also lead week by week.

## How to connect to the telephone service

1. Call **0333 011 0616** from a mobile or landline.
2. Enter PIN: **9805080** and press **#** (it will ask for £, but press #!)
3. You will be invited to speak your name, then press **#** again.
4. You will be connected to the call.

*NB: The call will cost the same as a local rate number would on our phone contracts. The service is provided through an American company so don't be startled by an American accent, it's part of the automated system.*

## Controls when in a call.

Get the attention of the host by pressing **\* 2**

Mute/Unmute by pressing **\* 6**

The host will also be able to control mute/unmute of all those connected to the call. At 10am, I will mute everyone, give a brief introduction, and then lead the service through.

## Guidelines

This will be a very different way of gathering, so I ask us to seek to be disciplined in the call. We will learn as we go, but initially my pointers are:

1. **State you name** at the start of anything you say so that all know who is speaking.
2. **Be patient** when waiting to speak, and while others are talking, avoid as much as possible responding until they have finished (e.g. avoid the 'hmmm', 'yes', 'I thought that', that we would usually have in a face to face conversation.
3. **Think** about what you will say before you say it.
4. **Remember this is not a one to one conversation.** Everyone can hear everything you say – if a one to one conversation is needed, please call someone at another time.

My hope is that if this works successfully, we may be able to arrange smaller gatherings at other times of the week – e.g. coffee morning or prayer group.

If you have any questions, please to get in touch.

**In peace & hope, Rev Dan** 01243 823895 | [dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk](mailto:dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk)