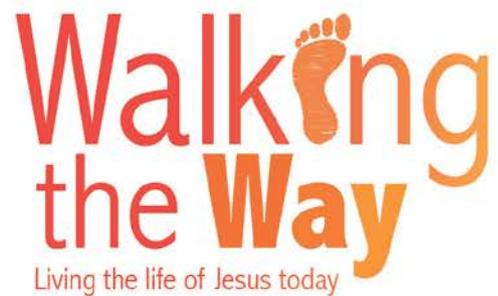Updated: 26 August 2020

# Building Disciples Online

**During the Covid-19 crisis, especially in lockdown, it has been very encouraging to see local churches engage in worship and fellowship online. However, what about discipleship? How can we ensure that our interactions online are helping us to live out our faith in everyday life? Here are some resources to help:**

- URC Information Guides – A collection of helpful guides on a range of issues, including building online presence and community, safeguarding and making the most of digital tools. Begin with *Doing online Differently*.

- Mersey synod – Lots of innovative advice and responses focussing on online church and community building, including webinars and video tutorials about living as disciples online.

- Sanctuary First – An online church based in the Church of Scotland's Falkirk Presbytery to provide a safe space for people who are outside the Church or 'clinging on by their fingernails' to explore and grow in faith. It uses its own platform to share audio, video and text content, which is produced mainly by volunteers, which participants are encouraged to discuss and share about on social media pages.

- Church of Fools (St Pixels) – An experimental online church from Christian satirical magazine, 'Ship of Fools' which gave users a cartoon-like avatar which they could move around a virtual church building, talk with others in the space, engage in prayer activities and share in regular, short, accessible worship services as they wished. With the backing of their local church or denomination, people could become 'wardens' who could help with the leadership of the church, including pastoral care, ensuring safety and leading worship.

- Mijn Kerk (My Church) (in Dutch) – An online church originally set up for young adults on the edges of the church to provide ways for them toc continue exploring and deepening their faith together. Uses its own platform to deliver audio, video and text content developed by a mix of volunteers and paid contributors. The site is split into different sections (e.g. my life my time, my children, etc.) to help people find what they're looking for, and forums allow people to comment and discuss content, as well as engage in activities such as lighting a virtual candle.

- Churspacious (URC) and D Church – Growing online communities offering inspiring questions, thoughts and ideas about living out faith in everyday life.

- Yourchurch – A group of people mainly connected with local URCs who wish to use online technology to be more of an intentional community supporting each other in living out faith in everyday life, beginning with weekly worship services on Sunday evenings using Zoom. Click above to sign up for the latest news and updates.

- Disability and Jesus – an online church building a community of disciples with a focus on disability, accessibility, inclusion and welcome.

- CPAS Everybody Welcome – Resources to help plan, begin and develop online communities of disciples safely and well.

For more information please email wtw@urc.org.uk
or visit www.urc.org.uk/wtw

- [Bex Lewis](#) – Specialist in social media and online communications with a focus on church, communities and families.

- [DM Media for Ministry](#) – Dan Morell, former URC Youth moderator offers advice, resources and training to help you make the most of online tools in developing you and your local church's ministry.

- [Centre for Digital Theology](#) – Pioneer research and innovation from scholars based at Durham University. Pete Phillips of the centre also promotes good resources on his [twitter](#) account, such as *Always On*, a book by Angela Williams Gorrell on practicing faith in a new media landscape.

- [Radical Presence](#) – A short programme of conversations from [Green Christian](#), in which participants listen for God's word in this time between worlds, online or by telephone, with thoughts from contemporary writers reflecting on the Coronavirus pandemic.

- [World Council of Churches webinar](#) – Very engaging session about online ministries with important findings for all denominations. The *Distanced Church* book spoken about in the session can be found [here](#).

- [Worship in Cyber Church](#) – A new book by Phebe Mann and David Wong, worship leaders at St Andrew's URC, Frognal. Although it has a primary focus on worship, the book also has relevant content for online church and community development.

- [Creating Church Online: Ritual, Community and New Media](#) – A rich ethnographic account of the diverse cultures of online churches, from virtual worlds to video streams. This book also outlines the history of online churchgoing, from its origins in the 1980s to the present day, and traces the major themes of academic and Christian debate around this topic.

- [Ctrl-Alt-Del Church](#) – A series of online video conversations hosted by Stewart Cutler, URC minister, looking at online church growth and development.

- [We are Making Disciples](#) – a physical and online resource for making disciples, particularly useful in these times.

- [The Liturgist](#) – A podcast which is now transforming into an online community of disciples.

- [Youth for Christ](#) – Youth organisation very much rooted in online faith and discipleship development.

- [Premier Digital](#) – Brach of the Christian communications organisation looking specifically at online development. Holding a series of seminars at the moment, including one coming up on discipleship online.

**If you have reviews to share or other resources to recommend, please e-mail [wtw@urc.org.uk](mailto:wtw@urc.org.uk) or call us on 020 7520 2718. Remember to check back regularly for the latest suggestions.**