

Ten top tips for filming a little bit of church

1 Please film in landscape

Widescreen like your telly. (Not portrait like your phone.)

2 Make sure there's enough light on your face

Try not to be a silhouette. The best light is soft daylight (not direct sunlight).

3 Keep your face in the top half of the screen

Your eyes should be about 3/4 of the way up the screen. And your elbows level with the bottom of the screen. Roughly like this...



4 Make sure your voice can be heard clearly

Avoid distracting background sound like traffic, the washing machine, the dog, the telly. And you'll need to speak clearly enough to be heard easily by the microphone on your camera.

5 Keep the camera still

This makes a huge difference. Ideally rest the camera on something steady or use a tripod.

6 Position the camera high enough

If possible the camera should be level with your eyes. If you're filming with a laptop, try resting it on top of a box or some books. Filming with the camera looking up at you from your desk is often not very flattering.

7 Choose a helpful background

It's good for us to see that you're at home – that's where we all are right now – but not helpful if the background is grabbing our attention more than the thing you're saying. Bookshelves are OK – as long as we can't read all the book titles too easily. Plain walls can look a bit bleak.

Definitely avoid clocks – the time won't be right, and any edits will become very obvious

8 Leave a pause at the beginning and end

A few seconds of doing nothing (or looking down at your notes) at the beginning and end of your recording will make it much easier to transition from one item to the next. You won't be left on screen doing nothing – it just helps with the editing.

9 Do one thing well

Simple is good. Don't try to squeeze three ideas into one testimony or prayer. Save the other two ideas for another two opportunities. Do one thing well.

10 Don't be restricted by these suggestions

There will be lots of creative approaches that actually need a silhouette whilst you dance, or a moving camera as you ride your unicycle, or darkness, or a clock or the sound of traffic. These are just tips, not rules. Break them if it enables you to do church better.