

# The Post-Covid Theology Project

## Worship and Church Life

### Further Resources

**T**his document offers a few additional resources you may wish to use to help you think through some of the questions in deeper ways.

In October 2021 the [Church Times](#) reported on research from the University of Chester and Manchester Metropolitan University that [the move to online worship was a loss not a gain](#). Earlier in 2020, after the first significant lock down, [The Evangelical Alliance published research in 2020 based on a survey of 900 churches](#). They suggested 10 key points. The first being that 59% of leaders had noticed an upsurge in of people interested in finding out about Jesus and the Christian faith. A large majority of churches were working to care for the most vulnerable, but many had concerns about long term financial sustainability and loss of income.

Pete Phillips, Premier's Head of Digital Theology, and academic at The University of Durham and Spurgeon's College on Digital Theology wrote (and continues to write) a number of blogs. One deals with [what is hybrid church](#) and another on [digital theology, covid 19 and research outputs](#). Peter is also the author of the Grove Booklet [MEv 131 Hybrid Church: Blending Online and Offline Community](#).

Benita Hewitt from [Dot 9 research](#) published research entitled [Church Going: What next? Which](#) drew on interviews from May 2021. The research explores how people fared during the lockdown in terms of engagement with technology. "The pandemic provided a catalyst for shift in emphasis from church to personal. Those with a more fragile faith needed supporting more."

Although not exclusively focussed upon hybrid worship, some of the findings published in [The Mixed Ecologists: Experiences of Mixed Ecology Ministry in the Church of England from May 2021](#) by have some application.

Quaker responses to the pandemic are helpful. An article by Pink Dandelion and Rhiannon Grant entitled ['When two or three are gathered' in a Zoom Room: The Theology of Online Unprogrammed Quaker Worship](#) picks up on the complexity of Quaker worship in a online setting.

For those interested in creative liturgical responses to the pandemic Jonny Baker's work with [Grace](#) is useful for those exploring virtual church community. Baker's blogs include using [Gather as a social interactive space to connect communities via labyrinth](#).

Baker also shares how he wrote liturgy that named the moments [time to grow some gills](#) and on communion liturgy in response to the church's control around [communion and post George Floyd's murder](#). A helpful [Easter vigil that blended online and doing things with physical objects with those at home](#) and the [suggestion to go for a walk!](#)