

Note: Review your safeguarding policies before connecting with young people online. Read app policies, check age restrictions and obtain parental consent.



Connecting to Young People Online ([social apps and more](#))

Video conferencing

Gather young people for online discipleship, contact families and arrange the most convenient time then give it a go! You don't need a big group of young people to get started and you can be creative with fun games and engaging content. Check out our list of games and sample session plans if you are just starting out.

zoom

We have all got used to meeting online, and Zoom is well known and simple. Free account will only allow for a short virtual meeting. There are plenty of others out there but carefully check the safety settings and accessibility first. Play games together, set challenges, read the Bible and pray. Ensure two trained and checked leaders are in any meeting, with action plans and risk assessments reviewed regularly.

Social Media for Young People



Instagram

A great base to share pictures and stories. Young people (13+), particularly older teens are still looking at Instagram and using it regularly. Invite comments, advertise events and share verses. It's a good way to keep a connection or reach out to young people as many are on it already. For inspiration get in touch for some links to see how others are using it.

Social Media for Parents/Carers and families.



Facebook

Connect to parents/carers and families, share encouragement and grow your connections. Set up a group and invite discussion and sharing of ideas. Supporting families is a key part of youth work and keeping busy parents and carers up to date with what you are doing is will help them plan and prioritise young people's attendance at services and events.

Prayer and Devotion

Encourage young people to regularly spend time with the Lord can be easier with access to these apps. Encourage and challenge young people over Instagram and check how everyone is doing when you meet together online or in person.

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Daily Prayer.

Simply displays the morning and evening services of prayer, along with night prayers each day.



Lectio 365

A prayer aid app with Bible studies and devotions.



Version Bible App

Young people can share their Bible studies and promote their favourite devotional content. It allows you to make colourful verse cards and connect to friends but cross-check with your safeguarding first.



LecDeck App

A new app described as “youth specific and versatile discipleship tool to accompany the lectionary”. Helpful for leaders as handy reference and tool for discussions.

<http://lecdeck.youthworkresource.com/>

Community and Connection



WhatsApp

Make a group chat to check-in and encourage young people to look out for each other. It's a good way to connect safely as other leaders can be included in a conversation but think carefully about accountability and safeguarding. Consult with your PSO.



Kahoot

Used extensively by schools for learning through quizzes and other games. Ask a young person to tell you about it and how it can be used for groups.



Spotify

Share playlists. Ask young people to create themed playlists or just share their favourite songs over social media, in group chats or email.



Netflix

The internet browser Chrome allows groups to watch Netflix together. Just make sure it doesn't exclude anyone who doesn't pay for this subscription.



YouTube

Broadcast live or record and upload content for young people to access any time. Share links to worshipful music a Bible study or short message from the vicar.

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Blogging

Getting written content online might sometimes be helpful and many blog builders allow you to base all your social media and other online content in one place. Write a personalised Bible study for your youth or share some personal thoughts and challenges for them each week.



WordPress (but there are many other options!)

Quite easy to get going, with lots of features to build more extensive site.

Productivity and Creativity



Canva

I'm sure you know about this one already! Free and simple way to create all kinds of designs for social media, websites, blogs and more. Really helpful to use with Instagram when promoting an event, posting an encouraging verse or producing promotional content.



Hootsuite



Hoot Suite and Later are examples of online tools that help you to manage your social media posts and save time. Queue posts in advance and discover the best times to post content to reach young people.

Find us on Facebook, join the mailing list and check out our Pinterest board for the latest resource ideas and links.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stalbansdys/>

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/StAlbansDYS/>

Mailing <https://anglican.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=c3d56e531a20b37fbe8d6145a&id=cc6be778ac>