**Extending Broadband Reach – June 2023**

Your church may be connected to the internet, but in many cases thanks to the complexity of the building or connected buildings that signal may not cover all your needs. It’s common for a church to have a good signal near a vestry router, but struggle for connectivity elsewhere in the building. Those big stone walls and pillars may be historic and beautiful but medieval architects cared little for your Wi-Fi needs. So how can you extend your reach?

The very simplest option is to move the router, finding a spot that allows the signal a better reach around the church. We know though this isn’t always possible. So, a relatively simple and inexpensive option is a wireless extender. Placed within the existing WiFi signal, but closer to where you’re lacking WiFi, these plugin devices extended your wireless reach to those difficult spots.

A similar option is the use of powerline adapters – these send your internet signal around the setting through the mains cables – you just need one at the router end and another where you want the connectivity. Powerline adapters work great – but they do require both source and destination to be on the same mains circuit, which can’t always be guaranteed in a church setting.

That being the case, and in the right setting, just running ethernet cable from the router to a point where you can connect to your device(s), or place a wireless access point, is a very reliable approach. Running cables is not always convenient but in those where it is, it’s the most reliable solution.

The best and most future-proof option for many locations is a wireless mesh network. Here a router and several mesh devices all communicate to create a wide network across your site. Each node intelligently hands-off your device to a closer node as you move around. It’s the best choice if you’re willing to invest in such a system. In most cases a mesh system is more reliable and powerful than the alternative of extenders. There are budget two-node options for under £100 available or larger more expensive systems with many more nodes.

If you’re struggling with connectivity at your church contact the Giving Team and we’ll do our best to improve the internet access at your location.