**Zoom meetings – why do I need an access code?**

Zoom video meetings are a great way to share together online. Unfortunately, as with so many other forms of IT, some people think it is a good idea to hack in and disrupt things.
Zoom has been a victim of its own success in many ways and there have been many incidents of “Zoombombing” where meetings – even services – have been subject to unwanted interruptions, some of them obscene or racist, but all of them upsetting.

The only way to protect the “meeting” of whatever kind (apart from a password) is to set up a waiting room, and have a facilitator who checks the credentials and identity of everyone who tries to sign in. This is a huge and difficult task.

The communications team therefore decided on the following:

* Services led by Debbie would be shared by video; in this way people can follow at a time which suits them, and this is currently proving very popular.
* Online live Zoom meetings and services would be by invitation only and not shared publicly.

Each Zoom “meeting” therefore has its own access code and password, and this is given to people who request it. It is often shared via WhatsApp which is encrypted, but can be shared by email too. The message could of course be forwarded to someone else, but we are relying on people to act responsibly.

You may like to read this article about Zoom security:

<https://www.wired.com/story/keep-zoom-chats-private-secure/>

So, for each event that you would like to join, you need to pre-identify yourself and request the access codes. But be reassured, the meetings have the same code every week.