



Distribution of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Public Worship

These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Ad Clerum issued by Bishop Michael In January 2018

Following a decision made by General Synod in 2015 which removed the requirement for the Bishop to grant authorisation to distribute Holy Communion, Bishop Michael has decided to delegate arrangements for the distribution of Holy Communion to the Incumbent or Priest in Charge of a parish. This means that, as of 1 January 2018, parishes will no longer be required to obtain authorisation via the Area Bishops' or Archdeacons' Offices, but will be able to make arrangements locally.

However the following **Guidelines** must be followed

1. A person who is entrusted to distribute communion must be a regular communicant of the Church of England.
2. A person may not exercise this ministry unless the Incumbent / Priest in Charge has obtained the consent of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) (unless the person concerned is a pupil of a church school distributing communion at services in the school. In this case the consent of the head teacher is required.)
3. A child may exercise this ministry only after he/she has been admitted to Holy Communion in Accordance with the Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006. Children may only distribute communion in church, and not for home communions.
4. When this ministry is given to people in a parish, this should be marked liturgically in the main Sunday service of Holy Communion.
5. The Incumbent or Priest in Charge must keep under review the arrangements made in the parish and proper records should be kept of those who exercise this ministry. The simplest way to do this is to make appointments time limited. The Bishop expects that people will usually be appointed for 3 years at a time. (The Incumbent or Priest in Charge may wish to present the minister with an appropriate certificate, stating when their period of ministry comes to an end.)
6. In a vacancy, the authority of the Incumbent / Priest in Charge to make these arrangements passes to the Rural Dean.

7. In the case of the Cathedral, the authority to make arrangements rests with the Dean, with the consent of the Cathedral Chapter.
8. As previously, the Bishop expects that all who exercise this ministry will undergo appropriate training overseen by the Incumbent / Priest in Charge.

Home Communion

These rules are for those appointed to administer Communion as part of Public Worship. Authorisation for this purpose does not authorise the individual to administer Communion by Extension in the home, or otherwise to administer communion outside the setting of Public Worship in the Parish Church. Arrangements for Home Communion will continue to be operated under the direct supervision of the Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge and a DBS check must be undertaken for this ministry. Such applications will be made as for a Pastoral Visitor.

These Guidelines do not include permission to conduct a **Service of Communion by Extension**, nor to be the principal administrator of the Sacrament at such a service.

January 2018