



Guidance for the Administration of Holy Communion in Both Kinds

Following the PCC Meeting of 31st May 2022 it was agreed to reinstate the anointing with oils, and the offering of holy communion in both kinds i.e. both bread and wine. This is in complete agreement with the advice given by the Church of England.¹

This will begin on 19th June 10am Family Mass (serendipitously, the Feast of Corpus Christi!)

Given the unavailability of the sacrament in its fullest form over the past two years, and on-going concerns the following advice is given so we can begin to return to 'normality'.

As a PCC we are profoundly aware that there is very understandable nervousness, as well as clinically vulnerable people. Thus, we want encourage people to receive holy communion as they feel most comfortable, confident that receiving in one kind (bread only) is still truly receiving the Eucharist.²

Against that background the following protocols will now be adopted:

Holy communion will now be received from the High Altar (altar rail) as per pre-COVID days.

There will be two chalice administrators.

The altar party will receive holy communion, followed by the choir and then the congregation.

The procedure for communicants will be as follows (see picture below):

- Communicants will proceed in single file up the centre of the central aisle.
- A gap of 1 metre being kept.
- No intincting of the bread into the chalice/wine.³

¹ "holy communion should now be offered in both kinds unless there are clear and objective reasons not to do so,...".
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/COVID%2019%20Guidance%20v3.1_0.pdf>

² It may be helpful to view the sacrament as not quantifiable e.g. you do not sacramentally get more 'of Jesus' simply because you have received both bread and wine. Otherwise by a similar logic the more bread or wine you eat and drink the more 'Jesus' you get. Clearly, that is not the case. We have both bread and wine because that is what Jesus told us to do in remembrance of him. His presence within the sacrament is unaffected by the material bread and wine. Sacramentally, bread + wine = Jesus (1 + 1 = 1) as does bread (or wine) alone = Jesus (1 = 1).

³ "We also advise against the practice of 'intinction' - when the consecrated bread is dipped into the wine - as this could represent an infection transmission route." <<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/news-and-statements/guidance-parishes-coronavirus-covid-19>>

- At the end of the choir stalls there is hand sanitiser which should be used.
- The communicants will 'fill-up' from the right (facing the High Altar) to the left two people per altar rail (see picture below).
- Communicants are expected to kneel unless they are unable to physically do so.
- The bread will be administered first.
- Remain kneeling in position if you wish to receive the wine as well.
- If **not**, once the bread has been received rise and move from your position. If you are on the right altar rail leave from the right, down the south aisle, and left down the north aisle if on the left altar rail. Sidespersons will assist with this.

The procedure for chalice administrators will be as follows:

- Come into the sanctuary as per Pre-COVID i.e. after the Lord's Prayer.
- Stand to the right side (if facing the altar) of the sanctuary.
- If you do not wish to receive the wine cross your arms over your chest after receiving the bread.
- One chalice administrator will give the chalice to the complete row i.e. the four communicants at the altar rail.
- As before, please wait for two communicants to receive the bread before giving the chalice. This will allow the communicant an unhurried chance to leave if they do not wish to receive the wine.
- The chalice will be given in the usual manner, and then wiped with a purificator (linen cloth) to remove lipstick etc.
- The chalice will be given a quarter turn for the next communicant.
- After the all have receive from that row (maximum of four) move slowly to the piscina (stone sink on the right (south) wall) of the sanctuary.
- Wipe around the rim using an antiseptic wipe. Then 'dry' using a clean paper towel.
- As this is happening the next chalice administrator begins giving the wine in the same manner as the first. After completing their row they follow the same cleansing procedure as the first administrator. The cycle continues until all have received holy communion.

Main duty of Sidespersons & Servers during holy communion:

- A server and sidesperson will be placed, one at each point, at the end of the altar rail under either north or south arch visible to the communicant to indicate to communicants where to go, and, if needed, give assistance.

