



Updated Guidance and Questionnaire Re: Sunday Services / Emergence from Pandemic

Bishop Debbie and Bishop David have recently written to the whole Diocese with the following guidance:

Guidance in relation to Holy Communion and the common cup

Covid disrupted our lives in many ways and its effects continue to shape habits and practices; many agree that it is a disease with which we all now have to live. During the pandemic we were asked not to share the common cup but to receive Communion in one kind only. Since then, restrictions have been removed, and in our cathedral and most of our churches, the Church of England's received practice of distributing Communion in both kinds is now once again in place without any reported on-going problems here or nationally.

The Church of England's guidance states

It is important for churches which are not currently administering Holy Communion in both kinds to keep this practice under active review. Since bread and wine are always offered to communicants unless there is a clear and objective reason (a 'necessity') to do otherwise, churches need to be certain that such a reason exists for the normal practice of administration in both kinds to be disrupted. For some of the last few years, the existence of Covid-19 in the general population coupled with low levels of immunity and high numbers of serious cases was that persuasive reason. With vaccination rates high and serious cases low, ministers need to consider whether that reason still exists, bearing in mind local infection rates and factors influencing transmission in the local population.

If your church has not returned to Communion in both kinds with the common cup, we would encourage you to consider whether it is now time to do so. As ever, where communicants, for particular personal reasons, do not wish to receive Communion in both kinds, the Church's teaching is that to receive the consecrated bread alone is to receive Christ in all his sacramental fullness and this has always been our inherited theological understanding.

May we add a note about intinction. Whilst often done for the best of reasons (e.g., out of sensitivity to others when someone has a cold), we would strongly urge you to discourage intinction, whether by the communicant, priest or another. When fingertips accidentally touch the wine, Intinction significantly increases the possibility of any contamination.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Debbie, Bishop David, Archdeacon Richard Brand, Archdeacon Gary Philbrick

In conversation, they have also strongly advised bringing the peace back to having some greater interaction with others in the church. Both the common cup and the sharing of the peace are deep parts of our Anglican theology that is expressed through the way that we worship together.



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What does this mean for St James Church, Pokesdown?

Our proposal is to reinstate the common cup, and to reintroduce the option to shake hands during the peace from 1st July 2023. The common cup will be optional, you are welcome to continue to receive the bread alone, or to receive both the bread and the wine. (Whilst some churches of other denominations use individual cups, that is not the practice of the Church of England, and we will not be using this. As per the Bishop’s guidance, we will also not be allowing intinction – dipping the bread.)

Ahead of that, we are also asking for your feedback regarding other aspects of our worship that were changed during pandemic. Please do fill in this questionnaire with your own opinions of what will help you with worship, or what impact this would have for you in worship. Please feel free to add comments as well as ticking the boxes. We are expecting there to be a breadth of opinion, and we welcome that. (We can’t promise that we will be able to make everything perfect for every person!) Somehow, we need to work together in this as the body of Christ. We’d value your opinion to help us as we explore this. Please do complete and return the questionnaire by the end of Sunday 4th June, so that your feedback can be included in the PCC discussion on Wednesday 7th June.

Your name:

Communion:

1 – Where to receive communion:

Would you prefer to:

- Continue to receive communion standing at the chancel step
- Return to receiving communion kneeling at the altar rail

Any comments

2 – How do you feel about the reintroduction of the common cup (all receiving wine from the same chalice)

- I’m really looking forward to receiving the wine again
- I feel a bit unsure, and might receive sometimes
- I am likely to continue receiving in one kind only (the bread)



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Any comments

3 – Before pandemic, as well as hymns, we used to sing responses in the service e.g. the Gloria, and some of the words that we currently say during communion. Where would you place yourself on this scale.

I really want to return to singing the responses. Worship just isn't the same without singing those parts of the liturgy

I can't stand singing the responses, and I hope we never have to sing them again

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0

Your response – circle a number from 10 to 0

Any comments

4 – We will be reintroducing shaking hands with each other during the peace, but without extended walking round all the church. Please share with us any comments you have about this:

Any comments

Are there any other comments that you would like to make regarding our Sunday worship: