

Practical approaches to the celebration of Holy Communion

These questions may seem very practical and you may be wondering why we begin here. But practice reveals theology and is a useful place to begin our discussion. Just record what you do, even if you don't fully understand the reasons why.

1. Which local church in Oadby are you describing?

OADBY BAPTIST

2. What do you call the service at which communion is shared and how often is it celebrated?

COMMUNION / LORD'S SUPPER; CELEBRATED TWICE A MONTH - 1ST SUNDAY EVENING, 3RD SUNDAY MORNING.

3. Who leads the worship, or presides, at the celebration of communion? Who assists them? How are they authorised to do this?

ANY COMMITTED CHRISTIAN IN MEMBERSHIP MAY PRESIDE, 4 DEACONS ASSIST; ALL AUTHORISED BY THE MINISTER.

4. In what forms are the bread and wine (e.g. wafers, loaf, alcoholic, non-alcoholic, one cup, many cups etc.)

BREAD - SMALL SQUARES OF BREAD, PLUS A PIECE OF THE 'BROKEN' BREAD, ARE OFFERED ON PLATES BY EACH DEACON.

WINE - NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE, OFFERED IN INDIVIDUAL GLASSES (VERY SMALL!)

5. Who is allowed or encouraged to receive communion?

WE HAVE AN 'OPEN TABLE', AND THE INVITATION IS TO "ALL WHO LOVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THIS OR ANY OTHER CHURCH OR CONGREGATION."

6. How does the church respond to children or visitors at communion?

VISITORS ARE WELCOME; CHILDREN ARE NOT ENCOURAGED TO RECEIVE, EXCEPT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS WHEN ALL IS EXPLAINED AND THEY ARE INVITED TO CHOOSE ACCORDING TO THEIR FAITH IN JESUS.

7. What happens to any remaining consecrated elements? (Is it consumed, disposed of, reserved, used in Benediction or Home Communion etc?)

BREAD IS CONSUMED OR DISPOSED OF; WINE IS RETURNED TO THE BOTTLE - WASTE NOT, WANT NOT!!

8. Is there anything else that you want to say?

OUR PREVIOUS MINISTER (ANTHONY TRAKER) SOMETIMES PRAYED A PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OVER BREAD AND WINE - BUT THIS IS NOT MANDATORY. BOTH BREAD & WINE ARE REGARDED SIMPLY AS SYMBOLS.