

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?

St Paul's (Church of England)

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

Holy Communion. Twice a month on Sunday mornings, every week on Thursday mornings, once a month on Sunday evenings.

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

One of the ordained ministers presides at the communion, Readers (authorised lay preachers) share in the leading of the rest of the service and often preach. The ordained minister gives the bread, licensed lay assistants administer the chalice.

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

Bread comes as small rolls (from the Gingerbread Cottage!). The wine is fortified (QC ruby port to be exact!).

5. Who is allowed or encouraged to receive communion?

The norm is for baptised, confirmed adults to receive, but there are some exceptions.

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

We encourage visitors who receive communion in their own church to receive

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

All remaining consecrated bread and wine are taken to the vestry and consumed during, or immediately after, the service.

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

We recently explored whether to allow baptised children over the age of around seven to receive communion, but decided that this raised as many problems as it solved.