

All Saints Church, Leek Wootton

Admission of Children to Holy Communion before Confirmation: Guidelines

If you as parent(s) and/or your children have questions or concerns, then please ask me to come round to talk to you as a family.

If you are happy for your child(ren) to have this opportunity, ask your child(ren) whether they would like to start sharing in the Communion. They should want it for themselves, not because of what others choose to do.

REGULATIONS (Edition 1: August 2010)

Baptism is a pre-requisite for admission to Holy Communion. Baptised young people who regularly attend Sunday Worship and the teaching group appropriate to their age will be considered as potential communicants.

With parental permission, each child who would like to start receiving the sacrament should make a personal request to the Vicar.

At the Vicar's discretion, after consultation with the parent(s) and teaching group leader, the young person will begin a preparation course which will include the following topics:-

- The life of Jesus
- The death and resurrection of Jesus.
The story "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is used to help explain the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. It is important that the child is familiar with the story through either the book or film.
- Baptism
- Prayer and The Bible
- Loving God and loving our Neighbour
- The Church and the Communion Service.

The teaching will be undertaken by members of the fellowship with a recognised gift of teaching ministry to the young, under the authority of the Vicar. Initially, the course leader will be Nicola Perryman.

If, at the end of the preparation, the candidate and their parent(s) wish to proceed and the Vicar in consultation with the course leader is willing to exercise his 'absolute discretion' (see General Synod Regulations in the "We Welcome You" booklet), the young person will begin to receive the sacrament.

It will be stressed that by taking this step the young person is making a declaration of intention to remain a regular worshipper and active participant in any relevant teaching group so that nurturing in discipleship can continue. Eventually (probably between 16 and 20) young communicants will be expected to present themselves for Confirmation preparation so that they can make an adult commitment to life-long discipleship.

CONFIRMATION:

The ceremony of Confirmation remains an important moment in the life of discipleship within the Anglican Church. It is a declaration of commitment to Christ and his worldwide Church, together with a commissioning for active service in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bishop (as representative of the whole Church) will lay hands on the candidate (as a sign of the authority of the Church through the ages being passed on) and anoint them with oil (as a sign of the Holy Spirit coming upon them).

Those adults and older children who wish to be Confirmed; making their declaration of faith, affirming the vows made at their baptism and receiving this commissioning by the Bishop; are welcome to contact the Vicar who will arrange to prepare them for this and then present them to the Bishop at the earliest opportunity.

Normally, the Vicar would expect candidates to be at least 16 before taking this step, though younger candidates are welcome to consider this. Those younger than 14 would be encouraged to become regular communicants and to consider Confirmation when they were older.