

# HOLY TRINITY, PRESTWOOD AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE, GREAT HAMPDEN

---

140 Wycombe Road, Prestwood, Great Missenden,  
Buckinghamshire, HP16 0HJ  
rector@htprestwood.org.uk 01494 866530

RECTOR: THE REVEREND DEINIOL HEYWOOD

20 March 2012

**Policy document:**  
**Communion before Confirmation**  
**– the Welcome to Communion**

## **1. Baptism and Communion**

The PCC of Holy Trinity, Prestwood affirm our place within the United Benefice of Prestwood and Great Hampden, the Church of England and the wider Catholic and Apostolic Church. We hold the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist at the heart of our community, to sustain and nurture our fellowship with God and between ourselves as his children. The grace of God's sacraments also affirms and encourages us in our outreach to the society we live in and to the wider church.

We affirm that anyone who has been baptised in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit should be accepted as fully initiated into the family of Christ, and be included into our community regardless of gender, age, sexuality, race, social standing, physical or mental disability or health. Our welcome should echo that of the welcome in our baptism service: "We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you." We also recognise the importance of communion as part of an active Christian life. It is our responsibility to include anyone who has been baptised into our Eucharistic community and help sustain them on their Christian journey.

## **2. Principles for the Eucharist**

- 2.1 Adhering to the tradition of the Catholic and Apostolic Church, of which we are part, we recognise baptism in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit as the full initiation in the family of Christ.
- 2.2 We welcome all who have been baptised if they so desire to our communion, regardless of gender, age, sexuality, race, social standing, physical or mental disability or health.

- 2.3 Receiving communion should stem from a person's desire and longing to take part in God's gifts and their appreciation of the significance of the sacrament.
- 2.4 In the case of a child who expresses a desire to receive communion, the responsibility and decision to receive should rest with the family in conversation with the clergy.
  - 2.4.1 When a family wishes for a child to receive communion, the child's introduction to the Eucharist will be planned together with the clergy.
  - 2.4.2 Children may begin to receive communion at any time of year.
  - 2.4.3 Those families who wish to mark their child's first communion can do so on a given Parish Eucharist to celebrate First Communions.
  - 2.4.4 Each year we will explore and introduce the Eucharist for all children to receive communion.
- 2.5 Receiving communion is an active participation of Christian and church life.

### **3. Confirmation**

- 3.1 We affirm the importance of confirmation as a sacrament of Christian identity and membership in the Anglican community.
- 3.2 Therefore we wish to celebrate confirmation by welcoming our bishop into our benefice as a visual sign of our wider communion in the Diocese of Oxford and the Church of England.
- 3.3 Confirmation will be preceded by confirmation classes.

### **4. Receiving Communion**

- 4.1 Some people, such as young, infirm or disabled people, may prefer to receive communion in one kind. Where a person receives in one kind which kind, bread or wine, is a decision to take within the family, alongside discussion with the clergy.
- 4.2 New communicants, or communicants new to receiving in both kinds, will always be shown how to receive.