

A Message from our Rector

Dear brothers and sisters,

In June, the PCC considered the available options for the administration of communion as we emerged from the restrictions of the corona virus pandemic. It was decided that, for the time being, we would continue receiving communion in "one kind;" that is, receiving just the bread/wafer whilst the minister consumes the wine on behalf of the congregation.

As time has passed concerns have begun to be expressed that communion has lost its meaning for some church members, whilst, among the clergy, there are theological doubts about the practice of consuming the wine on behalf of the congregation.

Further discussion has recently taken place among the clergy and the PCC and the decision has been taken to **return to sharing the common cup for the administration of the wine in our communion services.**

We realise that some may be alarmed by this, but now that the majority in our congregations have been double vaccinated and by paying careful attention to cleanliness at the administration of communion, the health risks should be negligible.

It will be completely acceptable for communicants who do not wish to receive the wine to continue to receive "in one kind" (the bread only).

The changes will mean that each communicant will be responsible for their actions when they receive communion, and it will remove from the clergy the onerous practise of drinking the wine on behalf of the congregation.

The dipping of bread/wafer by the communicant will not be allowed because of the risk of fingers coming into contact with the wine.

The return to sharing the common cup will begin at St. Mary's on Sunday 24th October and Wednesday 27th October and at All Saints' on Sunday 31st October. You will be invited to come forward to communion as in the past. Clear instructions will be given before each service.

We hope that these new arrangements will allow us to take our time as we adjust to the gradual relaxing of restrictions due to corona virus and that we will once again be able to celebrate Holy Communion as the memorial of our salvation and our unity in Christ Jesus.

Tony

(On behalf of the clergy and PCC)

The use of face coverings during church services is now a matter of personal choice though their use is encouraged. Hand sanitizers will remain in place, as will the track and trace arrangements for those who choose to give their details. If you have any questions concerning these changes please speak to a member of the clergy or the wardens