



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

THE FOREST FEDERATION

Needwood Church of England (VA) Primary School

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COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION COURSE 2016

We have put together the following information to help you decide if this is right for you and your family.

Firstly the Bishops have a few 'rules' about who can take Holy Communion before Confirmation. Children should:

- Be baptized (A child who has not been baptized may begin a preparation course and will be Baptized as part of their First Communion service)
- Be old enough to attend and understand the course (we think that children who are aged 7 years upwards is about right although we will look at each case individually)
- Be considering becoming a regular attendee or already a regular attendee at a local parish church
- Want to be admitted for Communion - in other words be able to share bread and wine in a service either at Church or at school
- Have the permission of their parent/guardian to receive communion
- Be supported by parents/ guardians, or their nominated sponsor
- Be admitted formally at a 'First Communion' service that is appropriate to the life of the parish in which they live or worship

You might ask why have these 'rules'? Holy Communion is a serious thing, the 'rules' make sure that those taking part understand what they are doing and why. The 'rules' also help us to see how Holy Communion fits into the life of the church alongside Baptism and Confirmation.

You will see that one of the 'rules' is that we need to hold a preparation course. You must be able to come to all of the sessions. The course will be run by Rev Les and Mrs Smith/Mrs Ellis. There are four sessions of approximately one hour that will be delivered during RE.

Here's what we will be thinking about together:

Week 1 - 'Jesus took the cup of wine' & 'We break this bread'

Week 2 - 'We know that we have hurt you by being unkind and thoughtless to others'

Week 3 - 'As God's People we have gathered together. Let us worship Him together' & 'We remember all that Jesus did'

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Week 4 - 'We celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free' & 'The Kingdom of God'

It is worth saying that you (providing you fit the criteria) may attend the course to explore further if taking Holy Communion is for you. You don't need to be definitely sure at the start of the course. The final decision on whether to admit any child or young person to Communion will rest with that child, his/her parents and the clergy.

The words used at the admission service explain what is really happening here quite well:

Minister: When you were baptized you were welcomed into the Church. Today we continue to celebrate God's love for you in Jesus Christ, to whom you belong. You are now admitted to Holy Communion. You will be able to share in the special meal given to us by Jesus as a sign of his living presence amongst us. It is our prayer that in the future you will be confirmed by the Bishop and will promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to go on following Jesus for the rest of your lives.

Minister: Do you wish to be admitted to Holy Communion?

Children: I do

Minister: Will you do your best to follow our Lord Jesus Christ?

Children: I will

Minister: Will you do your best to grow in Christian faith, so that later you will be confirmed by the Bishop?

Children: I will

Minister (to each child): N, I admit you to Holy Communion in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. May you find in this sacrament the love and the presence of God in your life.

The minister addresses the congregation: children turn to face the congregation

Minister: Will you as God's people here do everything you can to support and nurture these children in their journey of faith?

Congregation: We will

BOTH:



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Following the admission service, children and young people will be able to receive Holy Communion in school. As required, a register of those admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation is kept in each church.

An Invitation to Share

This invitation is sometimes made as all are invited to the communion table:

*Come to this table not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come but because you need
mercy and help.*

*Come because you love the Lord a little, and would like to love him more.
Come not because you are worthy to approach him, but because he died for sinners.
Come because he loves you and gave his life for you.*

NB. Whilst parents/guardians need to give permission for their child to receive Holy Communion before Confirmation we recognise that not all parents/guardians due to their own beliefs will want to or be able to provide spiritual support for their child, in this case parents may nominate a 'supportive' adult to fulfill that role. This could be a family member or family friend or an adult from church with whom the child has regular contact e.g. the child's Sunday group leader

BOTH:



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