

Administering Holy Communion in Homes and Hospitals

The administration of Holy Communion to the sick and housebound is governed by the Canons of the Church of England (B 37; B 40; B 44.4(3)c). Parish clergy and Lay Ministers of Holy Communion serving in homes, hospitals and residential care establishments should familiarise themselves with these regulations and with *Notes to The Distribution of Holy Communion at Home or in Hospital to the Sick and Housebound* as printed in *Common Worship Pastoral Services*, Church House Publishing, pp 78 & 79.

Care should be taken with the choice of a rite and language that is appropriate to those for whom it is intended. In many cases a traditional language rite should be considered. It is not generally appropriate to challenge people with unfamiliar forms of worship during times of sickness or mental infirmity. Thought should also be given to appropriate vesture, the use of candles and creating an atmosphere conducive to worship.

The rite used may be locally produced but should follow the examples provided on pp 80 – 91 of *Common Worship Pastoral Services*. The laying on of hands with anointing is reserved to the clergy.

Further guidance may be found in:
Home Communion: A Practical Guide Carolyn Headley, Grove Books W157, 2000

Space for any other notes of guidance

ST AGATHA'S

The Parish Church of Anytown



Ministers of Communion

Briefing session with incumbent

This briefing will cover three areas

1. The theology of the eucharist as it is expressed at St Agatha's
2. The practice and local custom of celebrating the eucharist
3. The policy and practice of administering the Holy Communion to the sick and housebound

1. Theology

- Anglican
- Local tradition
- Ministers within the community of faith

2. Practice

(a) Practical issues

- Both bread and wine
- Standing/kneeling communicants
- Children/unconfirmed
- Rotas
- What to wear?
- Different types of service
- Reporting in
- Accidents?
- Dealing with the unexpected (eg those who do not consume the host, large hats, heavy lipstick, etc)

(b) Administering Communion

- Words of administration—what form of words is used in the parish
- Gluten-free option
- Handling the elements
- Ablutions (clearing up)

3. Home Communions (for those who will carry out this ministry—see over)

- Frequency
- Nursing homes
- Service/form of words
- Pastoral sensitivity
- Others attending?
- What to wear?
- Prayer

4. Any final questions?