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Mission & Ministry
Warden of Readers





"I HATE BEING THE MESSENGER AROUND HERE."



HISTORIC BACKGROUND – The Eucharist in Parish Worship

The 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* is still the only permanently authorized liturgical resource of the C of E.

“And note, that every Parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one.”

Now Canon B15

Historically, the main act of parish collective worship had been morning prayer on a Sunday or a Sunday evening prayer or evensong. The sacrament of Holy Communion was seen as an individual "making his communion" as a private act of devotion. Communion usually occurred on Sunday either in a separate service in the early morning (often around eight o'clock) or after the non-communicants had left the church or chapel following the late-morning (normally at eleven o'clock) morning prayer.

It was not the norm for the average Churchperson to receive holy communion every week. (*That said, the Prayer Book does envisage communion being celebrated every Sunday and on the feast days*).

The Parish Communion movement is a movement in the Church of England which gained popular momentum in the 1960s and 1970's which aimed to make Parish Communion on a Sunday the main act of worship in a parish. Often summarized as "the Lord's people around the Lord's table on the Lord's day"

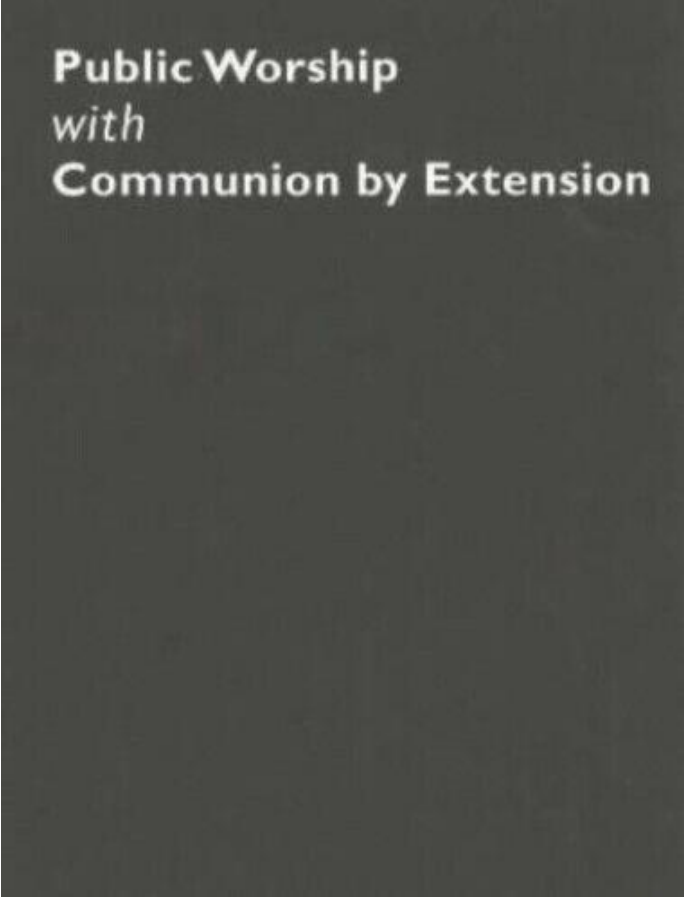
The inheritance of this movement remains a shaping factor of many of our parish church's patterns of worship today.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND – The Eucharist in Parish Worship

Canon B11: Morning and Evening Prayer shall be said or sung in at least one church in each benefice or, where benefices are held in plurality, in at least one church in at least one of those benefices at least on all Sundays and other principal Feast Day

What is Communion by Extension?

- Communion by Extension allows for bread and wine, consecrated at a service in one church to be taken to another church (usually in the same, or a neighbouring benefice, and **on the same day**) where an authorised service called 'Public Worship with Communion by Extension' is celebrated.
- There will be a real and live 'connectedness' between origin and recipient congregations (*the elements are not commodities*). Prayers for one another and other forms of acknowledgement will be appropriate between churches.



Public Worship
with
Communion by Extension

What is Communion by Extension?

- This service is led by a lay minister authorised by the Diocesan Bishop, during which the consecrated elements are shared, as an 'extension' of a prior celebration. There is but ONE celebration of Communion, from which the consecrated elements are brought.
- Communion by Extension offers an opportunity for a congregation to receive Communion in the context of a service of worship
- It is an *alternative* to Holy Communion and *not a substitute* for it.

Who can authorise Communion by Extension?

- Across the Church of England, use of Communion by Extension is limited to occasions when **the express permission of the Bishop** has been obtained.

Rubric: Explicit permission must be obtained from the bishop for the use of this rite. This permission should relate to specific pastoral circumstances, thus emphasizing the exceptional nature of this ministry.



What are the circumstances when Communion by Extension is permitted?

- The granting of permission for Communion by Extension is

Extraordinary and Rare



What are the circumstances when Communion by Extension is permitted?

The following **five criteria** need to be met in full:

5

1. it must only be occasional
2. the circumstances must be *genuinely exceptional*
3. the person leading the service must be licensed or authorised, having received appropriate instruction
4. the Bishop must give explicit permission in advance
5. the authorised form of service must be used

What does 'genuinely exceptional' mean?

An example:

- if, during a vacancy or a period of leave (e.g. suspension, long-term illness), it is not possible to find cover (*after extensive consultation with Area Dean's and Archdeacons*) to provide a Eucharist within a benefice on a particular Sunday, (e.g. Easter)

In situations such as these, Communion by Extension may be permitted by the Bishop, provided a suitably trained, licensed and authorised person leads the service.

Communion by Extension must not be used as a regular part of a parish's programme of worship. E.g. It is not permitted for Communion by Extension to become the service that takes place on the second and fourth Sunday of every month.

A vacancy, illness or annual leave should not be considered exceptional in the life of a church, so it is not permitted that during a vacancy a parish uses Communion by Extension to cover all of its Eucharistic worship.

Practicalities

- Application for Communion by Extension can be made by (*usually*) the warden of the church requesting the provision.
- An Application form [*with guidance notes*] is available for download from the Diocesan Website (Resources for Church Wardens)
- The Application must be accompanied by a PCC resolution (proforma on website)
- The application can only be made after discussion with the relevant Area Dean and Archdeacon who's support must first be secured.
- The service can only be conducted by an authorised person – LLM(Readers) are not 'automatically' authorised, specific training is required after which their name will be held on a list of authorised minister (this list may also include Wardens who have completed the training).

Practicalities: The Application Form



PUBLIC WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION BY EXTENSION Application for Permission from the Bishop of Derby Please return the completed form to the Bishop's Chaplain nicky.fenton@bishopofderby.org	
Parish/Benefice	
Church(es) where public worship with communion by extension will take place	
Outline of the exceptional circumstance(s) to be addressed through Communion by Extension	
Please specify the occasion, or limited period, for which permission is sought (including dates)	
Please provide the patterns of worship in the church(es) where communion by extension is being proposed	
Please provide the patterns of worship in the benefice/group or team (if appropriate)	
Who is currently offering eucharistic worship within the parish, benefice, group or team?	
Does the Archdeacon/Area Dean support this application? Please provide details. E.g. a supporting email	



The Parish seeks your permission for Public Worship with Communion by Extension as set out above. **A copy of a PCC resolution confirming this application is attached.**

NB The applicant requesting the permission for communion by extension should be the churchwarden of the church where communion by extension will take place.

Signed:		Name: (Please print)	
Role:		Date:	

Permission Granted on: _____ (Date)

To be reviewed by: _____ (Date)

Signed: _____ (Diocesan Bishop)

F

Frequently

A

Asked

My Vicar is suddenly sick or going on holiday, can we use Communion by Extension?



NO

Sudden illness and holiday are not 'extraordinary' events

In case of sudden illness there will not be time to obtain permission from the Bishop

In the case of holiday there is time for more appropriate alternative arrangements to be made

Church Wardens are trained to lead worship in emergencies, Canon B14:1:a dispenses with the need for the Eucharist in this circumstance.

We have a Vicar but she's very busy, can we use Communion by Extension?



NO

It is the incumbent's job to ensure they provide Eucharistic ministry in their cure of souls. It is their responsibility to, in collaboration with the PCC, adopt a sustainable and realistic pattern of worship in their parish(es)

We can't get a priest on the third of the month, can we use Communion by Extension?



This would constitute 'regular' and Communion by Extension is not to be used in this way.

Other forms of worship are available.

We're going into vacancy, can we use Communion by Extension as part of our pattern?



Vacancy is not considered exceptional.

Work with the Area Dean to secure alternative ministerial provision during the interregnum would be appropriate action in this instance.

I'm an LLM (Reader) can I do Communion by Extension?



.. Not automatically, however, as a licenced minister you may be permitted to do communion by extension after diocesan training and you name has been authorised to offer this ministry by the Bishop.

All those wishing to apply to be authorised will need to undergo FRESH training – all previous permissions have been revoked

I'm authorised to do Communion by Extension, can I do it anywhere?



YES

If you are authorised by the Bishop then you can offer it in churches other than your own when requested

REMEMBER – it is the 'place' that needs the permission – the authorised person must see the written permission from the Bishop before agreeing to take a service.

We don't have any LLM (Readers), does that mean Communion by Extension isn't for us?

A yellow, crumpled sticky note with the word "NO" written in large, black, hand-drawn capital letters. The note is placed on a light blue background.

Church wardens are also authorised by the Bishop to lead worship – if, after training, they are authorised by the Bishop to this ministry they can also lead this service.

Can we use Communion by Extension in our Home Group or other Parish Group?

A yellow, crumpled sticky note is placed on a light blue background. The word "NO" is written in large, black, hand-drawn capital letters on the note.

House of Bishops guidelines makes it clear that whilst occasional celebration of Communion is helpful in these contexts it must be facilitated by a priest.

If the Bishop cannot be contacted, can the Archdeacons or Area Deans authorise Communion by extension?



NO

Only the Bishop can authorise the use of Communion by Extension.

Applications need to be made in good time (please allow 4 weeks)

Applications also need a PCC resolution

I'm responsible for the worship rota, can I apply to the Bishop for permission to use Communion by Extension?



NO

Applications need to come (usually) from the Church Warden of the Church requesting the provision.

It needs to be supported a PCC resolution.

We have a minister from another denomination in our congregation, can they lead Communion (or communion by Extension) for us?

A yellow, crumpled sticky note with the word "NO" written in black marker, placed on a light blue background.

This is not permitted under canon law - B12:1.





Got any questions?

