

that you do not wish to take the chalice. See picture:



I should add that there may well be an occasion when a visiting priest is not able to work to this system. On those occasions, only the Common Cup will be offered. Furthermore, on the occasions when the **8.45am** takes place at the East End of the Church, on the last Sunday of the month, for logistical reasons the wafers will be intincted for everyone attending (as at the Midweek Eucharist). The Common Cup will not be used at this service: when a line of people is at the altar rail a mixed mode of distribution is not practical.

I hope this is helpful for everyone. I have tried to devise a system which enables everyone to receive the sacrament in the way they would prefer, at some point of the week, if not all of the time, in an effort to ensure that all people can feel included in what is a precious gift from Christ for us to share together.

Yours, in Christ

*Paul*



## St Cross Newsletter August 2024

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*The Vicar writes...*

As I write this newsletter I'm preparing to clear my desk before I head off to Kent for a week's holiday with family. We will be staying in Canterbury only 20 minutes' walk from the cathedral church. I'm sure whilst staying there we will take the opportunity to worship in the cathedral either at the Sunday morning Eucharist or at a Choral Evensong.

You may recall last month I wrote to you to explain the rationale behind reintroducing the Common Cup during the distribution of Holy Communion. I'd like to thank those people who've taken the time to reply or speak to Liz to explain how they feel about these possible changes. I've listened carefully to many points of view and put a proposal to the PCC which was agreed unanimously. I did mention in my previous article about the practice in cathedrals. Of course, cathedrals are very different in terms of who actually attends a service on a Sunday morning: they attract, particularly in an area of tourism, a large number of visitors week after week and therefore in those settings a very simple method of distribution is required. A parish church like ours is quite the opposite when it comes to thinking

about who actually attends on a Sunday morning. If we have one visitor they will be easily noticed and welcomed during their stay. When I visit Canterbury cathedral during my holiday it is unlikely that the conversation will go any further than a polite good morning or good evening.

It seems to me that in a parish church setting the vicar and the ministry team will have a much better knowledge of people's preferences and needs and so it seems to me that we can adopt a greater degree of flexibility in order to accommodate people's desires in the distribution of Holy Communion, whilst recognising that there has to be compromise in order to achieve this.

So what recommendation did I put to the PCC which was unanimously agreed and which we will implement in our church services from Sunday August the 11<sup>th</sup>?

**Midweek service: no change - ie intinction only.** Communion at this service will be offered in both kinds but the bread wafer will continue to be intincted by the celebrant. No one attending the service will be able to receive the cup, but the ministers on duty will share the chalice.

**Celtic Eucharist** takes place once a month on a Sunday evening : the **Common Cup will be shared.** Anyone not wishing to take the wine from the chalice should simply take just the bread wafer. They may, of course, take the chalice in their hands and conduct the action of receiving the wine, if they so wish.

### **Sunday morning services:**

**Both 8.45am and 10am: a choice of intinction (by the priest only) or the Common Cup.** What this means in practice is that, when the distribution takes place in the nave of the church, people will come forward one at a time to receive in the same way they currently do at the 10 am service.

When people come forward to receive communion at these services, the posture of the hands will tell the priest whether that person wishes to have their wafer dipped in the wine by the priest or that they wish to receive the chalice.

Quite simply, if you wish to **receive the wine from the chalice minister** nearby you will hold your hands with the palms upwards in the traditional way as illustrated in the photograph shown here.



But if you wish to **receive the wafer already dipped in the wine (intincted) from a separate chalice** then you should give a clear signal to the priest leading the service. This will be by positioning the fingers in such a way as to indicate to the priest