

Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's and St Chad's – September 2020

Face Coverings must be worn throughout the service (unless exempt for reasons laid down by the government).

Preparation for the service:

The priest will do all the set-up – thereby being the only person to handle the patten and chalice and the bread. The priest will observe good hand hygiene whilst setting up and will wear a face covering whilst setting up.

The Eucharistic Prayer and the Communion Elements

The priest is exempt from wearing a face-covering whilst leading worship – except for distributing communion.

For this reason, the bread which will be consumed by the congregation will remain covered for the duration of the Eucharistic Prayer. (The bread which will be consumed by the priest will be uncovered. The chalice will be uncovered as at this time only the priest can consume the wine as a communal act on behalf of the whole congregation).

The Giving of Communion

At the giving of Communion, the priest receives Communion in both kinds.

The priest will then sanitise their hands and put a face-covering on; and then re-sanitise their hands before picking up the ciborium containing the bread.

The words of distribution 'The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life' will be spoken to the congregation, and all who intend to receive say, 'Amen'.

At the distribution, Holy Communion is administered in silence.

The Distribution of Communion

The priest will come to you.

If you do not wish to receive, please remain seated:-

Where either priests or parishioners have concerns about participating in a service of Holy Communion, it is important that no pressure is placed on priests to preside at Holy Communion or on parishioners to receive the Sacrament.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than bread, please fold your arms across your chest as you stand.

In you wish to receive communion please stand and hold out your hands at full arm's length away from your body.

The consecrated bread or wafer will be dropped into your hands (with the priest also extending their hands to full arm's length).

The bread should only be administered into the hand with care being taken not to touch communicants' hands. If this does happen, both the person distributing and the communicant should sanitise their hands immediately.

You should not remove your face covering to consume the bread UNTIL the priest has moved away to the next person. Once you have received communion you should then be seated.

At St Bartholomew's, if there are two people in the same pew (one household), the priest will give bread to one person and then move to the next pew, giving you chance to exchange places within the pew. The second person will be given communion as the priest returns back down the aisle.

After the service:

The priest will do all the clearing away and will observe good hand hygiene whilst doing so.