



Holy Communion Policy

**Admission of Baptised Children/Young People to
Holy Communion before Confirmation
Accepted by the PCC of Springfield, St Christopher, 28 January 2008**

1. We recognise and affirm the long history at St Christopher's Church of quality work with and prayer for children and young people, and we want to grow as a place where children and young people feel appreciated and are valued members of the worshipping community.
2. As we accompany and nurture our children and young people on their journey of faith, we hope and pray that they will come to a personal commitment to Jesus and a life of Christian service.
3. We have Sunday School groups for all ages, and youth groups for children of 10 and older during the week where children are encouraged through Bible study, teaching, discussion, prayer, play and fellowship to grow in their Christian discipleship.
4. When children have been baptised, either as infants or as older children, and express a personal faith in Jesus, in a way which is appropriate to their age and development, we welcome them to receive Holy Communion.
5. This policy enables believing children and young people who are too young to be confirmed or who have other reasons to postpone confirmation, to receive Holy Communion.
6. In celebrating Communion together we affirm that we are a community which crosses boundaries such as gender, ethnicity, culture, background and age. We remember that Jesus died for our sins and that he has given us a new life in relationship with Him.
7. We believe that Holy Communion can enable the children to deepen their love for and commitment to Jesus Christ and their own expression of that love.
8. Before being admitted to Holy Communion, the children will participate in preparation classes.

9. During the preparation, the clergy and/or other leaders will have conversations with the children and their parents/carers. These conversations will enable the leaders to assess whether the child or young person is ready to receive Communion.
10. The preparation builds upon existing work in Sunday School, youth groups and at home. It includes work to be done at home with parents, and a number of sessions with groups of children in different age groups. Parents are expected to help prepare their children. We will use materials recommended by the Diocese.
11. Children with special needs will be provided with appropriate material and support sensitive to their needs during the preparation course.
12. Admission will take place in a main Sunday morning service of Holy Communion in the presence of the children's families and the whole congregation. Children being admitted to Holy Communion will normally take some part in the service as appropriate to their gifts and capabilities and will be given the opportunity to testify of their faith in and love for Jesus, if they have not done so at baptism.
13. A certificate will be given to the children and an entry will be made into a register of Baptised Persons Admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation. This register will be kept with the other registers of baptisms and confirmations.
14. After admission to Holy Communion, we will continue to nurture our children and accompany them on their journey of faith.
15. This policy does not replace Confirmation.
16. We encourage children and young people who have been admitted to Communion in due course to be confirmed as an affirmation of their baptism vows and as a public commitment to Christian discipleship in the church and the world. Confirmation however would no longer be the only gateway to Holy Communion.
17. We recognize that different families within the Church community may come to different decisions regarding the moment of baptism, first Communion and confirmation of their children. We will support and respect each family in their decision.
18. The clergy (or other appropriate person) will explain this policy to children and their parents newly joining the church.