



GOT QUESTIONS?

We recognise that this leaflet will not answer every question you may have, and may prompt even more questions! So, please speak with the Minister, Pastoral Grouping Leader or your child's Sunday School Leader if something comes to mind.

All age Communion ties in with every part of our purpose and values.

OUR PURPOSE

We seek to invite, encourage and enable people of all ages to follow Jesus Christ.


OUR VALUES

FAMILY - "We're a family of all sorts of people, journeying in community towards wholeness."

MEET - "Meeting with God in a personal and life-changing way."

GROW - "Maturing in faith and character as God's people."

SHARE - "Sharing our lives and the good news of God's love in word and deed."

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TALKING ABOUT COMMUNION

WITH OUR CHILDREN

A short leaflet to equip families to talk with their children and young people about the meaning of Communion.

ALL AGE COMMUNION

Here at Brightons Parish Church we are delighted that your children or grandchildren are part of our shared life together! As a church family, we are seeking to be more proactive in enabling children to share in the sacrament of Communion, with teaching on this over August and September 2022 - see our website.

WHY ARE CHILDREN ALLOWED TO SHARE?

Through an exploration of Old and New Testament Scriptures, we saw how God's plan was to have a people of His own, and that children were included in the Covenants. Jesus' death was for the children of believers too and His body was given for them as well.

MUST MY CHILDREN TAKE PART?

No. This is a personal and family decision, so please discuss at home and with your children. We are simply making space for the option to share in Communion.

PREPARING FOR COMMUNION

We still believe it is important to understand the sacrament of Communion and to help our children to do so as well. Please take the time before each Communion to talk this over with them at home.

WHAT IS COMMUNION ABOUT?

We read in 1 Corinthians 11:26 that when we share in Communion we "proclaim the Lord's death until He returns". The gospel passages (for example, Matthew 26:17-28) remind us that the body and blood of Jesus was given for us to enable the forgiveness of our sins so we could be part of God's people.

HOW CAN WE PREPARE OUR CHILDREN?

Children will understand different parts of the meaning of Communion at different stages of life - see opposite. Most children's Bibles include something about the death of Jesus or even Communion - see "The Servant King" chapter in 'The Jesus Storybook Bible' for example. Read these stories together ahead of Communion.

Under 5s	Experience Communion as part of worship, where they 'mimick'. They can know from a young age that they share in something and belong.
5-6 yr olds	Able to understand the bread and juice remind us of Jesus' body and blood, and the celebration reminds us of His death on the cross and our forgiveness of sins.
7-8 yr olds	Experience Communion as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection and that this is something God's family celebrates together.
9-10 yr olds	They are beginning to understand metaphors and symbols, and can be more thoughtful in their experience of the sacrament.
Young Teens	Many young teens have most of the same tools as adults to understand Communion, but not the life experiences to put it into context or the bigger salvation story.
Additional Needs	There are varying levels of understanding, but they can appreciate it as a special experience and that they are included.