

The Parishes of Newchurch, Croft and Winwick



Three Parishes : One God

'Rector's Ramblings' July 2026

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Dear friends in Christ

Administration of Holy Communion

Gathering around the Lord's Table for a service of Holy Communion is central to Christians worship. Holy Communion, known also as the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper, or the Mass, is the time when we remember in the present the self-giving love of God in Christ who died and rose again two thousand years ago. The Apostle Paul writing to the early Christians in Colossae expressed this central Christian doctrine like this:

"And through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross". [Colossians 1:20].

The mystery of Holy Communion is that somehow through the grace of God I, we, you are nourished for our Christian discipleship by the taking of the bread and wine, which we consume in the Anglican tradition from a common cup known as a chalice.

The COVID-19 Pandemic affected how all of us interacted with our families and friends. For us this meant travelling to a Christmas Day buffet picnic in a park in Sheffield with our daughters and their families. Many of the adaptations to our lives to ensure each other's safety have now passed. It is the view of the worship planning group that it is time for us to reintroduce the common cup in our worship. We are planning to reintroduce use of the Communion Cup (chalice) for all who attend our Sunday worship beginning with our next Joint Service. This will mean that the chalice will be offered to all who come forward to receive Holy Communion.

We are aware that some people would still prefer not to use the common cup for health or other reasons. Please be reassured that to receive only the bread (often called the Host) is widely accepted as full participation in Holy Communion. This means that if this is you, you receive the same spiritual grace as you would by taking both the bread and the wine.

As we reintroduce the common cup we ask you to refrain from personally intincting (dipping) the bread in the chalice.

At Newchurch we will also be reintroducing the local practice of also administering Holy Communion from the Withington Chapel. We will do so for the first time during the service on Sunday 12 July.

With my continued prayers for you and our parishes.

Yours in His service

Martin

Revd Martin Cox