
Claines Parish Church Children and Communion



Children and Communion

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A Presentation

Information

Reflection

Consultation

Discussion

Prayer



Why are we considering this?

It supports our mission with children

It has been debated since 1971

1996 The House of Bishops allow children to be admitted to communion before confirmation

2006 Canon Law was changed

Bishop John has asked us to consider it

Working party was formed mid 2013 (PCC and non PCC)

PCC recommendation that we proceed to Consultation



Children's Spirituality

Research

Faith development theory

Learn by doing



What is Baptism?



What is Baptism?

Baptism means:

being washed clean

belonging to the community of faith

being part of the body of Christ

receiving gift of the holy spirit

Whole families were baptised including slaves and children and became full members of the Christian community



What is Confirmation?



What does the Bible say about Confirmation?

The Bible is silent on a ritual of confirmation, it does however mention:

- Anointing
- Laying on of hands



Full membership of the church is bestowed at baptism not confirmation

Baptism and laying-on of hands was all part of one ceremony

Chalice was withdrawn from lay people

Confirmation introduced as 'gateway' to communion



St Augustine: concept of original sin, infants baptised by the priest, bishop performs laying-on of hands every few years

Chalice restored to adults, emphasis on instruction



**How did you feel about your own confirmation?
What do you remember?**



What I remember . . .

“I don’t really remember it, my earliest recollections from Church are singing a solo (age 7) at a wedding from the pulpit and receiving my first ASB service book one Easter (age 9)”



Children's Feedback

"I like going up for a blessing, but I don't really understand it (communion) and I don't like not understanding things. It sounds a bit blah, blah, blah, but I think the adults understand it"

"I think we are not allowed to because there you drink wine and children cannot drink wine. But why can't there be water or orange juice for the children"

"Why does the vicar say we all share one bread, when I don't get any?"



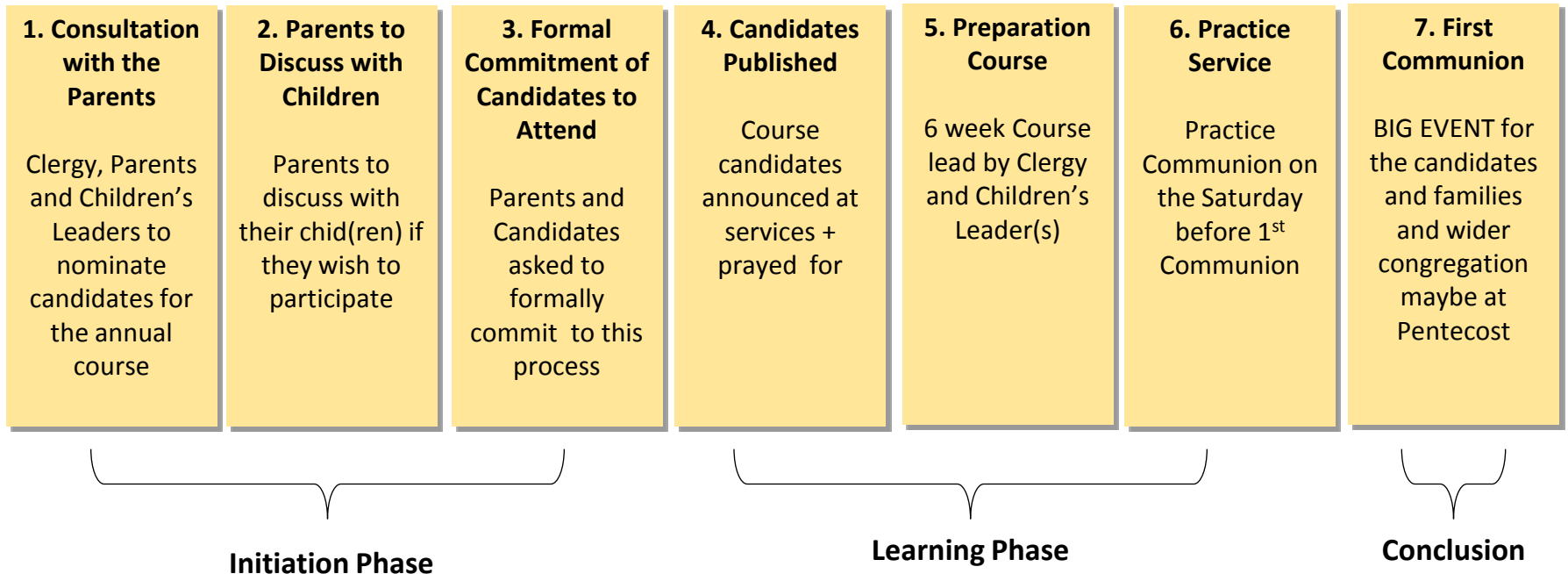
When Children are present at the Eucharist how can we make it meaningful?

*“There is one Lord, one faith,
one baptism: by one spirit we are all
baptised into one body”*
CW Baptism

*“Though we are many, we are one
body, because we all share in one
bread”* CW Holy Communion



How it would work in Claines



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if a family moves to a parish which doesn't admit children?

Will the children understand what they are doing when they take Communion?

Will they take it seriously?

How will the vicar know who can receive?

What about children who are not baptised?



What happens to Confirmation?

Confirmation marks the moment when a baptised (and communicant) member of the Church says for themselves the promises made for them by their parents and godparents, and takes public responsibility for their baptismal status.

Confirmation Preparation would be offered every year for those ready to take this step.



What Next?

Consultation display will be left in church for 4 weeks

On post-its please write

- One positive
- One question

Please pray for the PCC as they consider all the feedback



Thank you for coming

