

COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION

Policy Statement by Iffley PCC, 2014

*concerning The Admission of Baptised Persons
to Communion before Confirmation*

- From around the age of seven, children who worship regularly at St Mary's Iffley can be considered for preparation to receive Holy Communion. This is a collaborative decision between the individual children, the parents, and the Vicar. Younger children's situations can be raised separately with the Vicar. As an inclusive community, we fully welcome the involvement of children with learning disabilities in our life together. The Vicar is happy to discuss any specific family's special needs. Children with certificates of welcome from other parishes are able to receive Communion as part of their normal Sunday practice.
- A preparation programme is run, either on a one-to-one basis, or for a small group. Our in-house materials emphasise the special place of food within family life, the symbolism of food in the Christian story, and the exceptional place of the Communion meal within church family life. The next step is a formal Service of Welcome in which the children can receive Communion for the first time. This is a family-style Eucharistic service, at which the children also receive certificates of welcome, and can see their names added to our parish register.
- One of things we would like to be known as a church for is that we put stepping-stones in place for those who wish to journey with us as we deepen together in our spiritual lives. We value Confirmation as one these stepping-stones and will continue to offer Confirmation preparation as part of the rhythm of our parish life.