



20 May 2022

Dear All

As you know, the Government lifted all legal restrictions in relation to the coronavirus pandemic at the end of February. As I promised then, we have been gradually, cautiously and incrementally, returning to some degree of how things were before. For example, we have recently encouraged folks to come forward to receive Communion and it has been a great joy to have our sidespeople back on duty.

The Church of England has recently updated its guidance on the administration of Holy Communion. Since it is usual for Anglicans to be offered Communion in both kinds, the latest guidance states *that unless there are clear and objective reasons not to, Holy Communion should now be offered in both kinds to communicants*, thus encouraging the restoration of the chalice.

After consultation, observing what other parishes are doing, and aware that vaccination rates are high and serious cases are low, I have come to the opinion that there is no clear and objective reason to withhold the offer of the chalice at this time.

Therefore, from this Sunday you will see at each of the communion stations the option of receiving the chalice.

Please do not feel pressurised into receiving the consecrated wine from the chalice if you do not wish to do so, simply receive the host and return to your place. For the time being we will continue to pre-intinct the bread so that each communicant does receive in both kinds, and this ensures that no one needs to dip their hands into the communion cup.

The president and those assisting in the distribution will continue to wear masks and to use copious amounts of hand sanitiser. We continue to encourage everyone to sanitise their hands coming in and out of church and to be aware of and considerate toward members of the congregation who are more cautious than ourselves.

Many thanks for following the directions of the churchwardens during the distribution as this makes things run smoothly and safely.

At the end of Christian Aid Week, it is not too late to donate in and through St George's using this link <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/stgeorgesjesmond?channel=copy> or the envelopes at the back of church.

With continued prayers and Easter blessings

Brian