

GENERAL SYNOD

Administration of Holy Communion Regulations 2015

In exercise of the power conferred on it by paragraph 3 of Canon B12, the General Synod makes the following Regulations on this day, 12th July 2015.

Citation and commencement

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Administration of Holy Communion Regulations 2015.

(2) These Regulations come into force on 1st October 2015.

Parishes

2. (1) The bishop of a diocese may, on an application by the incumbent or priest-in-charge of a parish in the diocese, authorise the person specified in the application to distribute the Holy Sacrament in that parish.

(2) The bishop may designate a suffragan or assistant bishop or an archdeacon to exercise the power under this regulation on the bishop's behalf.
3. (1) The bishop of a diocese may give a general authority to the incumbent or priest-in-charge of a parish in the diocese under which the incumbent or priest-in-charge may authorise persons to distribute the Holy Sacrament in that parish.

(2) An authority under this regulation may be given so as to apply generally in relation to each parish in the diocese or only in relation to the parish or parishes specified in the authority.
4. (1) A person may not be authorised under regulation 2, or under an authority given under regulation 3, unless the person entitled to give the authorisation is satisfied that the person is a regular communicant of the Church of England.

(2) The reference in paragraph (1) to a person who is a regular communicant includes a reference to a child who is neither confirmed nor ready and desirous of being confirmed but is admitted to Holy Communion in accordance with the Admission of Baptized Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006.

(3) A person may not be authorised under regulation 2, or under an authority given under regulation 3, unless the person entitled to give the authorisation has obtained the consent of the parochial church council; but this requirement does not apply if the authorisation is required only for the purpose specified in paragraph (4).

(4) A pupil of a church school may not be so authorised to distribute the Holy Sacrament at services in the school unless the person entitled to give the authorisation has obtained the consent of the head teacher of the school.

(5) In paragraph (4)—

“church school” has the meaning given in section 10(1) of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991, and

“head teacher” includes an acting head teacher.

(6) A reference in this regulation to the person entitled to give an authorisation is—

(a) in a case within regulation 2, a reference to the bishop or (where the bishop has designated a person under paragraph (2) of that regulation) the designated person;

(b) in a case within regulation 3, a reference to the incumbent or priest-in-charge to whom authority under that regulation is given or (where regulation 8 applies) the rural dean.

5. (1) An authorisation given under regulation 2 may specify the circumstances in which or conditions subject to which the person being authorised may act in reliance on the authorisation.

(2) An authority given under regulation 3 may specify the circumstances in which or conditions subject to which a person being authorised under the authority may act in reliance on the authorisation.

6. An authorisation given under regulation 2, or under an authority given under regulation 3, may provide either that it has effect generally or that it has effect only for the purposes of public worship.

7. The incumbent or priest-in-charge of a parish must keep under review the authorisations given in the parish under regulation 2 or under an authority given under regulation 3.

8. In a case where the cure is vacant and no priest-in-charge is appointed—

(a) the rural dean may make an application under regulation 2,

(b) an authority under regulation 3 may be given to the rural dean, and

(c) the duty under regulation 7 is to be carried out by the rural dean.

Guild churches

9. (1) The bishop of a diocese may, on an application by the vicar of a guild church in the diocese, authorise the person specified in the application to distribute the Holy Sacrament in that guild church.

(2) The bishop may designate a suffragan or assistant bishop or an archdeacon to exercise the power under this regulation on the bishop's behalf.
10. The bishop of a diocese may give a general authority to the vicar of a guild church in the diocese under which the vicar may authorise persons to distribute the Holy Sacrament in that guild church.
11. Regulations 4 to 7 apply to authorisation under regulation 9 as they apply to authorisation under regulation 2, and they apply to an authority given under regulation 10 as they apply to an authority given under regulation 3; and for that purpose—
 - (a) a reference to the incumbent or priest-in-charge of a parish is to be read as a reference to the vicar of the guild church (and a reference to the parish is to be read accordingly),
 - (b) a reference to the parochial church council is to be read as a reference to the guild church council, and
 - (c) regulation 4(4) and (5), and the words in regulation 4(3) from “but this requirement” to the end, are to be ignored.

Cathedrals

12. (1) The dean of a cathedral may authorise persons to distribute the Holy Sacrament in the cathedral.

(2) An authorisation given under this regulation may specify the circumstances in which or conditions subject to which the person being authorised may act in reliance on the authorisation.
13. Regulations 4(1) to (3), 6 and 7 apply to authorisation under regulation 12 as they apply to authorisation under an authority given under regulation 3; and for that purpose—
 - (a) a reference to the person entitled to give the authorisation or to the incumbent or priest-in-charge of a parish is to be read as a reference to the dean of the cathedral (and a reference to the parish is to be read accordingly),

- (b) a reference to the parochial church council is to be read as a reference to the cathedral chapter, and
- (c) the words in regulation 4(3) from “but this requirement” to the end are to be ignored.

Revocation

- 14. The Regulations on the administration of Holy Communion made by the Church Assembly in November 1969 are revoked.