

**Our practice**

It is our practice to offer communion to those children seeking to receive it under the guidance of their parents. We recognise that some families may choose to wait before children receive communion. In some cases Baptism was not performed as infants and taking communion is reserved for after baptism.

**Background - The Early Church**

There is no explicit mention of any special approach to baptism in the New Testament. Children were included with the family and household and initiated into the faith with the adults. Nor is there any mention of any baptised members being excluded from the celebration of the 'Eucharist'. The image we have of the early church enjoying Holy Communion together is that the sharing of bread and wine was part of a family meal open to all members of the church and their families of all ages. For children, as for anyone else, membership of the church was by baptism and depended on participation in the Eucharist.

**Current Church of England position**

Each Diocese may offer the option of children receiving communion before confirmation to churches. This is the case in the Diocese of Coventry.