

Communion by Extension – brief outline of diocesan policy

‘Communion by Extension’ is any service of **public worship** including the distribution of communion using preconsecrated elements.¹ It can thus be distinguished from home communions in that these are not public worship. A service in an old people’s home may well not be public worship, and if it is not public worship should be treated as a home communion. (However if the service were advertised more widely in the parish it might be that it should be seen as public worship.)

A service of Communion by Extension must use the authorised liturgy for such services and follow the notes and House of Bishops’ guidelines for this. These are available at <http://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/extension.aspx> .

Any service of Communion by Extension must be authorised by the area bishop, either as a one-off or as part of some standing permission. Bishops are likely to limit the terms of their permission in order to ensure the service is not over-used, since Communion by Extension should not be seen as an equal alternative to a normal Holy Communion service.

Further, the person leading such a service must be authorised by the area bishop to do so. This includes deacons and LLMs, because their licences do **not** allow them to take these services without further permission. There is a diocesan policy concerning the authorisation and training of others who are to have ongoing authorisation to do this (see <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/training-for-ministry/diocesan-authorised-ministries/>). However doubtless if there is an occasional emergency the bishop will wish to give a one-off permission to the person who is to lead the service.

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¹ The only exception is if this is part of the Good Friday liturgy.