

Ad Clerum 3c.4

PUBLIC WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION BY EXTENSION

(Also known as 'Extended Communion')

The service of Public Worship with Communion by Extension is authorised by the House of Bishops for use in exceptional circumstances with the explicit authority of the Bishop. Though it may be appropriate in emergency situations or where there are specific reasons, permission is granted sparingly.

Emergency or illness

There may be circumstances where in emergency or because of illness or accident, for instance, permission for a single exercise of this ministry is sought at short notice. Discretion in giving permission for this rests with the bishops (or, if they are unavailable, the archdeacons) who should be contacted by telephone. In these circumstances, the authorised rite should always be used, the Directions followed (see points 1 and 2 below) and advice sought on the person most appropriate to conduct the service.

Specific pastoral need

Where the parish priest and PCC, after consideration, believe the use of Extended Communion may be appropriate, on a single, or more exceptionally, on a regular basis formal permission must be sought in writing from the Bishop. The decision must not be taken by the parish or benefice (or its priest) but by the Bishop, in consultation with the benefice and priest, for a limited authorised period.

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The service should be conducted by a Reader (or other lay person if authorised) who has attended a training workshop convened by the Ministry Development Team and subsequently been granted bishop's permission to conduct Extended Communion.

A list is maintained of people who have this permission, so that they may be called on in emergency (see above).

Directions for use

1. The rite *Public Worship with Communion by Extension* authorised by the House of Bishops, is on the *only* order which should be used.
2. The 'Notes' printed (on page v) near the beginning of the rite and the 'Guidelines' issued by the House of Bishops (on pages 32 and 33) *must* always be followed.
3. If circumstances change, e.g. when a new priest is licensed to a benefice, any authorised pattern of the use of the rite must be reviewed and the bishop consulted.

Resources: Current documents relating to the points above can be found [here](#).

For training, contact St Albans Diocese Ministry Development team. 01727 818151.

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