

Eucharistic Assistants

What is a Eucharistic Assistant or Communion Assistant?

- They assist the presiding minister in administering the bread and wine at Holy Communion
- Not ordained, but selected by the parish and affirmed by the Bishop
- They should be both prayerful and pastorally sensitive
- The vicar and Parochial Church Council (PCC) agree who to put forward for this role
- A responsibility as well as a great privilege



Eucharistic Assistant or Communion Assistant? What's in a name?

- The Church of England has three names for the Communion Service
 - Holy Communion - which emphasises our **communion with God** and with each other.
 - The Eucharist - which is a Greek word for **Giving Thanks**.
 - The Lord's Supper - which reminds us that we **remember** what Jesus did.
- The gift of Holy Communion is too rich and wonderful to be understood in only one way.



What do they do?

- They "assist" or help...
 - ... the minister
 - with the practical task of administering Communion.
 - ... the congregation
 - help each person to encounter God as they receive the bread and wine.
 - ... the church
 - to be the worshipping people of God.



Holy Communion

The Structure of the Common Worship (Order 1) Service

Prayer, praise and silence should flow through the whole act of worship.



Gathering

Welcome
Prayer(s) of Preparation
Prayers of Penitence



Ministry of the Word

Bible Readings incl. Gospel
Psalm
Sermon

Creed

Prayers of Intercession



Ministry of the Sacrament

Four elements
each models Jesus' actions
at the Last Supper

"Take"
Jesus took bread
Matthew 26 Mark 14 Luke 22
1 Corinthians 11

At the beginning of the Prayer of Thanksgiving the priest takes the bread and wine.

"Give Thanks"
He gave thanks

The Eucharistic Prayer ("Prayer of Thanksgiving") is a prayer thanking God for his love and gift of salvation.

"Break"
He broke it

The priest breaks the bread.

"Share"
He gave it to his disciples

The bread is shared with the people. The Eucharistic Assistant has a specific role at this point.

The fifth element - Clearing up!
The disciples cleared up
after the feeding of the five thousand:
(Luke 9 / Matt 14 / Mark 8 / John 6)

It is important that the Communion meal is cleared away with reverence.

This can happen straight after all have received, in the last hymn or after the service is ended.



Sending Out

Postcommunion Prayer(s)
Blessing
Dismissal - *Go in peace*