

## **“Children And Holy Communion” Policy Document**

It is the policy of this church to have an “open table” where people of all ages are welcome.

Children and young people who attend Young Church are encouraged to learn, understand and participate in Holy Communion at a level appropriate to their need and understanding. However, it is recognised that their participation in the communion service raises concerns and these guidelines have therefore been written to help clarify matters, particularly for parents:-

- When children express a desire to receive bread and wine at a service of Holy Communion this will happen.
- Following the expression of such a desire to participate fully in the service of Holy Communion, the approval of the child’s parents/guardians will be sought. The written communication will include:
  - a brief explanatory letter
  - a copy of this policy document
  - a response slip on which the parents may indicate their approval and/or request a further discussion with the minister and/or Young church leader.
- Any subsequent conversation between the child’s family and a church representative will seek to:
  - explain what happens at Holy Communion
  - encourage the child to participate fully in this aspect of the church’s life
  - obtain the appropriate approval
- If approval to receive bread and wine is not given, the child will always be welcome to receive a blessing when Holy Communion is celebrated, if this meets with the approval of their parents.
- Their Young Church leaders will give appropriate training and preparation to the children and young people at regular intervals. Relevant resources will be provided by the church for this purpose.
- A variety of communion liturgies will be used, always bearing in mind the need for the use of appropriate language.
- Children and young people will be present for the whole of the communion liturgy.
- Children will be given the option of receiving bread and wine with members of their own family or with other Young Church members and leaders.
- Several family services including Holy Communion will be held during each year.