

Services of Baptism and Holy Communion

Church of England services of Baptism and Holy Communion are defined by the fact that they are conducted by a Church of England minister. So a direct invitation to a minister of another Church to lead either of these sacramental services is not possible.

However, it is possible, with the bishop's consent, to invite ministers of other designated Churches to conduct their own services of Baptism and Holy Communion as part of the offer of hospitality provided for under Canon B43.9.

In this way, because they are 'additional' services beyond what is canonically required, it is perfectly possible for these services to be part of a rota of services and from time to time to be effectively the 'main' service on a Sunday. It is even possible for the liturgy to be Common Worship if that is what the minister of the other Church is willing to use.

Where the person to be invited is a member of another Trinitarian Church

The procedures as above should be followed, but the incumbent needs to consult the bishop before making the invitation.

As well as checking individual credentials, a bishop might wish to consider when exercising his discretion (but not so as to limit it) whether or not the Church concerned

- is actively associated with the local Churches Together group
- is a member of the Evangelical Alliance
- is a Church gazetted under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act
- is a recognised Church based mainly overseas

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Council for Christian Unity

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Courtesies!

Guidelines for clergy and parish congregations when relating to Christians of other traditions

1. Welcoming individual Christians
2. Hospitality to other congregations
3. **Inviting ministers to share in worship**
4. Responding to invitations from elsewhere
5. Methodists and Moravians - special friends

From the Preface to the Declaration of Assent made by every priest - Canon C15:

“The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church ...”

From Canon A8 Of Schisms:

“... it is the duty of clergy and people to do their utmost not only to avoid occasions of strife but also to seek in penitence and brotherly charity to heal such divisions.”

3. Inviting ministers (and others) to share in leading Church of England services

Church of England services

Church of England services are the services of Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion that are required by Canon to be held routinely in every parish every Sunday as part of the Church of England's pastoral and spiritual obligation to the nation.

The Canons provide a degree of flexibility (e.g. Canon B5 and B14A) and they do not prohibit other additional acts of worship provided they are "reverent and seemly" and do not conflict with the doctrine of the Church of England. These additional services could well be 'joint' with other Christian Churches - with the consent of the bishop, as permitted by Canon B43.9.

This leaflet concentrates on the discipline that needs to be exercised when members and ministers of other Christian Churches are to be invited to take part in or to lead the Church of England services in a parish that are required by Canon.

In all cases, those invited should only be asked to do what they are already authorised to do in their own Church.

General requirements for all invitations:

- ❑ *The invitation must come from the Incumbent*
- ❑ *The person's church must be one of the 'designated' Churches (see CCU web site) **
- ❑ *The person must be baptised **

* If the person is not baptised (e.g. Quaker or Salvation Army) the bishop must give approval. The bishop must be satisfied that there are special circumstances if the invitation is to preach at Baptism or Holy Communion

If the incumbent wants to invite someone:

- **To read Holy Scriptures**
- **To lead intercessions or prayers**
No additional requirements

- **To preach on a single occasion**
- **To say or sing Morning or Evening Prayer on a single occasion**
Additional requirement
- ❑ The PCC needs to give approval

- **To preach or lead worship regularly**
- **To assist in the distribution of Holy Communion**
Additional requirements
- ❑ The PCC needs to give approval
- ❑ The bishop also needs to give approval

- **To assist at baptism or a wedding**
- **To conduct a funeral**
Additional requirement
- ❑ The persons concerned must have requested it