

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.

Please remember that there only needs to be one communion service in a benefice and that even if a service on a particular Sunday would normally be a communion service it would be worth considering it becoming a Service of the Word for the particular Sunday in question.

Situations under which permission might be granted are as follows:

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 or email.

For holiday cover

It is important that clergy are able to take annual leave. Therefore, if it has not proved possible to provide clergy cover to enable annual leave to be taken, permission can be given for Communion by Extension. Discretion in giving permission for this rests with the bishops (please contact either the Bishop of Hertford or Bishop of Bedford).

When a parish is in vacancy

Recognising that it can sometimes be difficult to find cover for every Sunday during a vacancy, permission on an occasional basis, for Communion by Extension during a vacancy can be given. Discretion in giving permission for this rests with the bishops (please contact either the Bishop of Hertford or Bishop of Bedford).

For specific pastoral need

Where the parish priest and PCC, after consideration, believe the use of Communion by Extension may be appropriate, on a single, or very exceptionally, on a regular basis formal permission must be sought in writing from the Bishop. Permission will only be granted for a limited authorised period.

Directions for use

1. The service should be conducted by a Reader or Distinctive Deacon who has attended the appropriate training run by the Diocese, and whose safeguarding training is up to date. A list is maintained of people who have this permission, so that they may be called on in emergency.
2. The rite Public Worship with Communion by Extension authorised by the House of Bishops, is the only order which should be used. This can be found at [public-worship-with-communion-by-extension.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/public-worship-with-communion-by-extension.pdf)
3. 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.

Revised March 2025