

## UNDERSTANDING OUR MAIN SERVICE

# THE PARISH EUCHARIST

10.30am SUNDAYS AT ST. ISAN'S CHURCH

There are several types of service held regularly at St. Isan and St. Faith's churches – there are "Eucharists" where no choir is present and these are therefore referred to as "said" services. Also there is a Sunday "Evensong" which is a service that can be said or sung but usually sung at St. Isan and this is a service which does not include Holy Communion.

Our main service in the Parish is the 10.30am "Parish Eucharist" at St. Isan's church at which time we celebrate the commandment Jesus gave at the Last Supper. The Eucharist is a re-enactment of the Last Supper, the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before his arrest, and eventual crucifixion. At the meal Jesus ate bread and wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him.

*"Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you"*

*Likewise he took the cup*

*"Drink from this all of you: for this is the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

The Eucharist symbolises the new covenant given by God to his followers. The new sacrament symbolises freedom from the slavery of sin and the promise of eternal life.

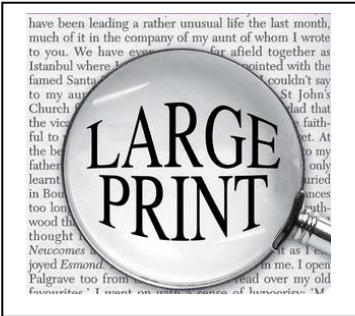
Christians believe that the piece of bread that is "taken, blessed, broken and given" becomes the life of Jesus, the body of Christ. As Anglicans we believe that Jesus made his sacrifice on the cross and follow the tradition of the sacrament in memory of the event, recalling its symbolic importance in the life of Jesus.

Please remember all are welcome at our services including children. Don't let any concerns about what happens, what to wear, mobility, visual or hearing difficulties put you off. People don't dress up in their "Sunday Best" like they used to do and while talking during the service is not encouraged we do understand that it is often difficult for children to be quiet.

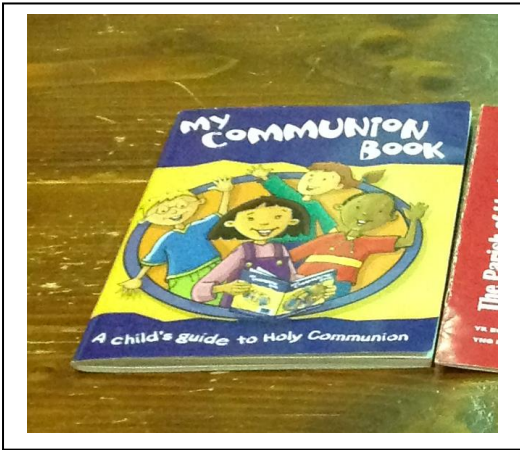


The church is fitted with a hearing aid loop system

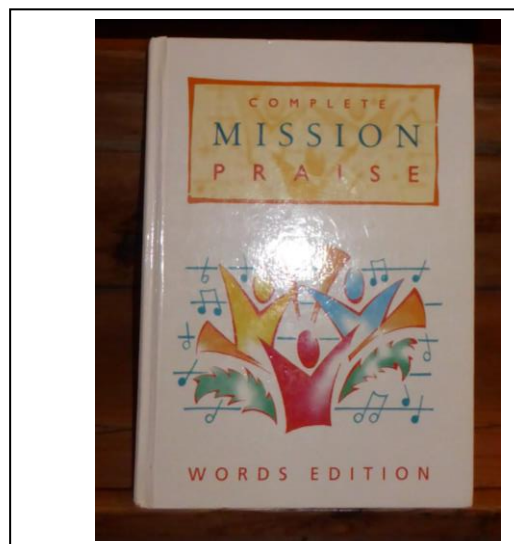
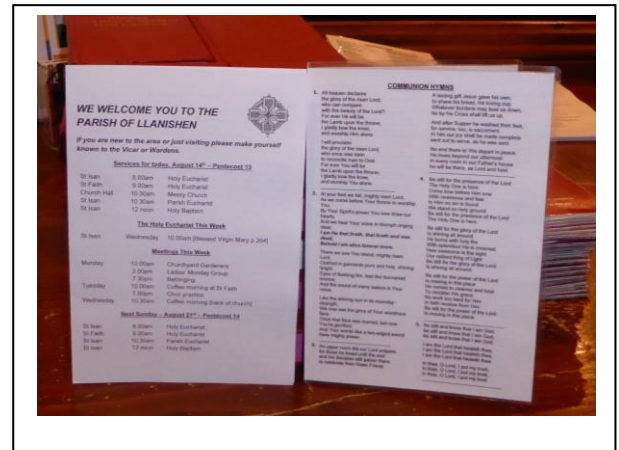
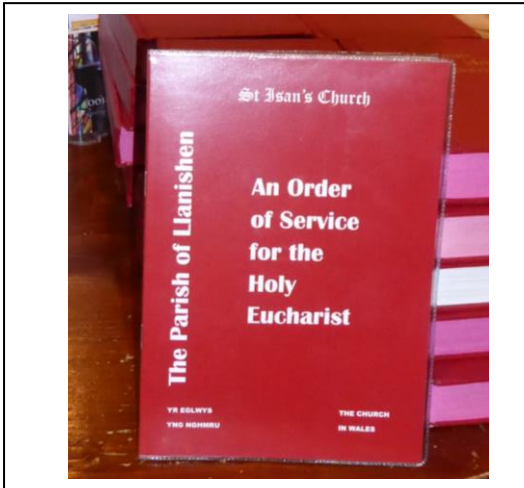
Also if you require a larger size printed booklet copies are available from the Sidespersons.



Children are always welcome. We have a Children's Communion Book and an area in the south aisle where they can play.



When you arrive at church you will be greeted in the porch by the church wardens and then when you enter church a “Welcomer” or “Sidesperson” will give you a red service book, a hymn book, a white laminated sheet of communion hymns and a white weekly notice sheet on which you will find the readings for that days service.



Take a seat anywhere in the main body of the church – no seats are reserved. If you come with children you may wish to sit on the right side (South Aisle) as we have a children area.

**Information about the service is set out below.**

### **Format of the service**

**In the red service book the congregation say the parts in heavy type.**

#### **Entrance**

The first hymn (processional hymn) is announced from the choir stalls. The hymn numbers are displayed on the hymn boards at either side of the church. The white numbers refer to the hymns that are sung seated during communion. As this entrance hymn or processional hymn is being sung the clergy and servers process down the main aisle to the sanctuary.

#### **Blessing, a Collect of Purity and the Kyries.**

The Kyries call upon the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit to have mercy on us for the ways in which we have sinned. There is a pause for us to confess our own particular sins followed by a general confession and a prayer of forgiveness from the Priest.

#### **Gloria.**

The “Gloria in Excelsis” is the great Doxology or the Angelic Hymn and is one of the earliest Christian Hymns of praise to God and we link ourselves with Christians throughout the ages as we proclaim it.

#### **Collect, Reading, Psalm and another Reading.**

The Collect, readings and psalm can be found in the white leaflet.

#### **Hymn, Gospel Reading**

During the hymn the Bible is processed to the centre of the main aisle for the Gospel Reading. At this point we all turn towards the Priest as he reads the specified gospel for the day. The gospel reading is the good news preached by Jesus and the position from which it is read symbolises the teachings of Jesus being taken out into the world.

#### **The Sermon, Nicene Creed (or Baptism)**

We sit for the sermon after which the Priest may ask us to stand to say the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed states our Christians beliefs and was drawn up in Nicea in 325AD. It is at this point in the service when a Baptism may take place instead of a sermon. If this is the case you will have been given a Baptism leaflet with the other service books.

## Intercessions

Intercessions are the prayers of the church made on behalf of the world. At this point we pray for the particular needs of communities throughout the world and for the sick of our parish, the recently departed and those whose anniversaries are remembered at this time.

## The Peace

The Priest will invite us to exchange a sign of peace with other members of the congregation by a shake of the hand.

## Hymn and Offertory Collection

During the next hymn an offertory collection is taken and the bread wafers and wine are taken up to the altar in the sanctuary.

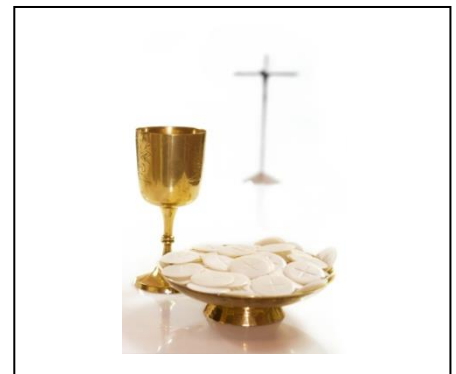
## Communion Preparation

The Priest then prepares and blesses the gifts of bread and wine and this is then followed by Eucharistic prayers and The Lord's Prayer.

## The Communion



**The Priest now invites the congregation to receive Communion.**



**The “Sidespersons” will indicate to each pew when they should proceed to the altar rail.**

*If you receive Communion in another Christian denomination you are very welcome to receive Communion with us. Alternatively, if you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come to the altar rail for a blessing – just bow your head and keep your hands by your side and that way the Priest will know you want a blessing. Whether or not you want to receive communion or a blessing don't worry if*

*for physical reasons you are unable to kneel at the altar rail – just remain standing. Also, if you are unable to get to the altar rail because of mobility difficulties please inform a Sidesperson or Church Warden when you arrive at church and they will arrange for you to receive Communion / Blessing at your seat. Children are encouraged to come to the altar rail for a blessing.*

**During communion, the choir and congregation sing hymns from the white laminated leaflet.**

**The service concludes with a post communion hymn, a dismissal and a blessing.**

**The Choir, Servers and Clergy then process out.**

As they process down the main aisle –the Priest goes to the porch and the others go to the vestry.

**After the service**



**On some Sundays the service is followed by coffee.  
This is an opportunity to meet members of the church and make new friends.  
Please stay and join us.**