



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

*To all licensed Clergy
(Copy to Churchwardens
and PCC Secretaries for information)*

The Rt Revd Dr John Inge
THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

April 2017

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to let you know about a significant change in the arrangements for the authorisation of Eucharistic Assistants which will come into effect in this Diocese on Easter Day, 16 April 2017.

In November 2012 the General Synod passed the following amendment to the Canon B 12 'Of the ministry of the Holy Communion':

'That this Synod request that Canon B 12 and the Regulations taking effect under it be amended so that:

- (a) the Holy Sacrament may be distributed by any authorized regular communicant (including children admitted to the Holy Communion under the Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006);
- (b) if the diocesan bishop agrees, the necessary authorization may be given in relation to any parish by the incumbent, priest in charge or (during a vacancy) rural dean;
- (c) no person shall be authorized to distribute the Holy Sacrament without the support of the parochial church council of the parish or, where the Holy Communion is celebrated in a school and the person concerned is a child, of the head teacher of the school; and
- (d) the authorization given in relation to any parish is required to be kept under regular review in accordance with the guidelines issued by the diocesan bishop.'

The main effect of this change is that the Bishop will no longer be involved in authorising people to exercise this ministry, and records of Eucharistic ministers will no longer be held in my office. The Canon as amended sets out the process for authorisation, but without going into detail. I am very grateful to the Revd Doug Chaplin who has prepared some guidelines for good practice which I enclose with this letter. I commend these very helpful guidelines to you as you implement the new arrangements in your local context.

May I take this opportunity to convey through you my gratitude to those who participate so faithfully in assisting in the distribution of the Holy Sacrament. May God bless them and you richly in this ministry.

With my warmest good wishes,

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Inge'.

Dr John Inge