Wantage & Abingdon
METHODIST CIRCUIT

EXTENDED COMMUNION MINISTRY: A CALL TO SERVE

We Need Representatives from Every Local Church

As our Circuit seeks to strengthen its pastoral care of those unable to attend public worship, we invite members to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling them to serve in the ministry of Extended Communion.

As part of our Circuit Development Plan, and in support of our ministers, Bruce and Georgina, we are seeking lay members from each church who feel called to assist in the ministry of Extended Communion by taking pre consecrated bread and wine to people in their own homes or care homes.

Could God be calling you to serve in this important ministry?

What is Extended Communion?

Extended Communion is the practice whereby bread and wine are consecrated during a service of public worship, properly preserved, and then taken on the same day or within 48 hours to those who are unable to attend church. In this way, those receiving Communion at home share in the sacramental life of the worshipping community.

Holy Communion is one of the sacraments of the Church and is therefore treated with the utmost reverence and care. For this reason, those who feel called to this ministry will undertake a process of discernment with the Circuit's ordained ministers. Following this process, suitable candidates may be recommended for appointment by their local Church Council in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders.

Who Are We Looking For?

We are seeking people who:

- Have a heart for pastoral care.
- Feel called by God to serve others through the ministry of Extended Communion.
- Are willing to undertake the necessary training and preparation.
- Are committed to serving with sensitivity, reverence, confidentiality and care.

How Might I Recognise Such a Call?

You may want to consider:

- Spending time in prayer and reflection about the role.
- Reflecting on the gifts and graces God has given you and how these might be used in the service of others.
- Asking whether God may be calling you to this particular ministry.
- Honestly assessing whether you feel able to fulfil the responsibilities involved.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."
John 16:13

What Does the Role Involve?

Those appointed to this ministry will:

- Exercise a pastoral ministry by taking Communion elements that have been previously consecrated during a service of Holy Communion, to people in their homes or care homes.
- Use suitable vessels or a home communion set (will be provided).
- Administer Communion on the same day or within 48 hours that the bread and wine are consecrated.
- Use the authorised Extended Communion liturgy from the Methodist Worship Book.
- Undertake appropriate training and preparation for the role.
- Be recommended by the Circuit ministers following a discernment process and appointed by the local Church Council in accordance with the relevant Standing Orders.
- Hold an up-to-date DBS certificate.
- Complete mandatory Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) training.
- Report to their minister.
- Keep a log of those served.

What Does the Discernment Process Involve?

The discernment process includes:

- A period of prayerful reflection by the applicant.
- A period of prayerful reflection and discernment by the ministers.
- Submission of a short, written statement outlining the reasons for applying.
- Following the principles of Safer Recruitment, including:

- Receiving a clear description of the role.
- Having a conversation about the role with one or both ministers.
- Consideration of suitability for the role.
- Appropriate training and preparation.
- Completion of Safeguarding and EDI training.
- Obtaining an up-to-date DBS check where necessary.

What Should I Do If I Feel Called to Serve?

If you believe God may be calling you to this ministry, please let your minister know.

We encourage all who are interested to prayerfully consider whether this ministry may be part of God's call upon their lives.

May God guide those who discern a call to this valuable ministry of pastoral care and sacramental service.

Rev'd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Superintendent
Wantage and Abingdon Circuit

Adopted by the Circuit Meeting – 29 September 2026