**About Holy Communion by Extension – for Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers, with licence or permission.**

The dictionary definition of Licence is permission, a permit, a document that states you are qualified or allowed to do something, but this comes by way of a gentle reminder that those of us who are licensed (or who have the Bishop’s Permission) for ministry are also required to keep within the regulations of our ministry licences. These can all be found in the Bishop’s Guidelines on the Diocesan website, and since the full document is 166 pages there are some useful summaries on the same page:

<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/bishops-guidelines-faq/>

In Rochester Diocese, Holy Communion by Extension is not for routine use and should not take place **except** with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop, and in the vacancy in see – the Bishop of Tonbridge. Permission must be sought from Bishopscourt office by the incumbent, or in the case of a vacancy by the Area Dean.

When the Bishop grants permission for a Lay Minister to lead Communion by Extension, a copy of the letter giving that permission goes to the Incumbent or Area Dean,with a copy to the Warden of Lay Ministry.

Within parishes there is sometimes uncertainty about the difference between taking Holy Communion to the sick or housebound (which we are licensed to do) and leading a Communion Service in a Care Home. Taking Holy Communion to those who are sick or housebound is clearly permitted on a LLM/Reader licence, but a service in a Care Home is a service of public worship (even if held in a private care home) so lay people should not be leading it except in extreme circumstances and with permission from Bishopscourt.

Karen Senior

September 2021