

# Confirmation @ St Mary's



*Confirming your commitment to Christ,  
Being strengthened in your faith,  
Becoming a full member of the Anglican church*

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018, at 6:30pm,  
a Confirmation service is being held here at St Mary's.

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is your opportunity to:

- Publicly **confirm** to your friends, family and our church family that you have committed your life to Jesus Christ and want to follow him.
- Be **strengthened** in your faith through the preparation and prayers for you, that you will be given grace to be faithful to Jesus forever.
- Be **welcomed** by the Bishop into full membership of the worldwide Anglican church.

## Who is Confirmation for?

For those baptised as infants: Confirmation is your opportunity to confirm 'with your own mouth and from your own heart' your faith in Jesus Christ.

For those baptised as adults: When you are baptised, you are baptised into the church of Christ. You do not necessarily need to be confirmed but, as we are an Anglican church, we would encourage you to become a full member and be prepared to receive Holy Communion.

For those confirmed outside the Anglican church:

You are not confirmed again, but you may become a full member of the Anglican church by the Bishop offering 'the hand of fellowship' to you in the service.

## Why do we have Confirmation?

So that those who have been baptised as infants can publicly declare for themselves their commitment to Jesus, at an age when they can understand for themselves what it means to trust and follow Jesus and be part of his church.

To be prepared to receive Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a full member of the Anglican church.

## Do I have to be confirmed to receive Holy Communion?

Normally, yes. The rules of the Church of England state that if you are in practice a member of an Anglican church you should be confirmed before receiving Holy Communion.

This seeks to ensure that those coming to share the bread and the wine in memory of Jesus' death understand what they are doing and are committed to Christ's body (trying to take seriously the church discipline of 1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

You can, however, receive Holy Communion without being confirmed if:

- You have been prepared to receive it, want to receive it, but must wait a long time before the next Confirmation service.
- You are a baptised member of another church which believes in the Holy Trinity, are in good standing with that church and would normally receive Holy Communion there.
- You were baptised in another church which believes in the Holy Trinity and received Holy Communion there, but now have been prepared to receive Holy Communion in St Mary's, as it is now your church family.

Again, the important thing here is that those who receive Holy Communion understand what they are doing and are committed to Christ's body – the church.

### **How old do you have to be for Confirmation?**

As a rule of thumb, you should be 14 years old (before the end of the school year in which the Confirmation falls) as that tends to be when children feel ready to publicly confirm their faith in Jesus, but do speak to me if you feel you want to consider Confirmation earlier. The Diocesan minimum age is 11 years old.

### **I'm interested in being confirmed, what should I do next?**

- Please sign up for the Confirmation Preparation classes to take place beforehand.
- By signing up for the classes, you are not committing yourself to being confirmed – you can withdraw at any time if you decide you are not ready for it.
- The Confirmation Preparation Classes will include the following topics:

#### *Christian Beginnings*

- How to become a Christian
- How to be sure you are a Christian
- How to grow as a Christian

#### *Christian Belief*

- Belief in God the Father
- Belief in Jesus Christ
- Belief in the Holy Spirit

#### *Christian Behaviour*

- How to live wholeheartedly for Jesus
- How to read the Bible and pray
- How to be a godly church member
- How to receive Holy Communion rightly

#### *Understanding why we choose to be Anglican*

- Understanding our firm foundations
- Understanding the Anglican church today

**Can I come on the course even if I don't want to be confirmed?**

Yes of course, everyone is welcome! I want everyone who is receiving Holy Communion and hasn't been confirmed to come on the course, to ensure that we all understand what we are doing, and we receive it rightly.

Do ask if you have any other questions.

My prayer is that God will use this to strengthen our faith in Christ and our fellowship together.

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

*(Colossians 2:6-7)*

Mark