

## Chalice Bearer Instructions

### **Before Service**

1. Plan to arrive in the vesting area 15 minutes prior to service time
  - Vesting area is in the basement across from the nursery area
2. Initial the schedule for the current date and service time so that the Master of Ceremonies (MC) knows whether to recruit additional help at the last minute.
  - Schedule for the day is kept in office area on table near front door
  - Sue Battig generates the schedule and distributes it via email
    - Once published, it is also maintained and updated with any changes on the St George's website under the Worship tab  
<http://saintgeorgesanglicanchurch.org/worship>
    - Schedules are typically created for a 3-month period of time
3. Most of the chalices have purchased their own robe and take them home to clean and press them periodically.
  - If you wish to order one, check with Ken Emery for vendor information.
4. Select a robe from the rack and put it on, as well as a cincture around your waist. If you borrow a robe from the rack, please note the hangar/position and as a courtesy to the owner, return it as you found it after service. Use the Velcro fasteners so that they don't fall on the floor. Another chalicer can assist in how to "suit up".
5. Get a service bulletin. Make sure that it is for the proper service time and date.
6. Queue up on the parish hall side of the doors to reduce noise from conversation.
  - The chalice bearers (CBs) process behind choir and in front of the MC and priests.
  - When you come to the altar rail, you may either bow or not, depending upon your preference, but then go to the right where the CBs, MC, and priests sit.
  - Sit closest to the exit door as the seating from the exit door is CBs, MC, priests.

### **During Service**

1. During the service, the kneelers on the altar stand may be stacked and distributed to the other CBs and MC. If you are closest to the wall, please assist with this task at the first kneeling for prayers.
2. The CBs, MC, and priests take communion during the singing of The Agnus Dei right before communion. You will already be kneeling, so this shouldn't be an issue. If due to physical ailments you do not kneel during the service but do kneel for communion, please go to the altar rail to receive communion immediately after the Prayer of Humble Access. Wait until the end of the singing of The Agnus Dei before standing up and coming onto the altar stand.

### **Getting Your Chalice**

1. Once The Agnus Dei is completed and you have come up onto the altar stand, for most normal services there will be two chalices. One will be on the altar and one will be on the credence table to the right of the altar. It usually doesn't matter which one you select, but it works best:
  - if when you select the altar chalice that you service the north side (nearest the pulpit) or
  - if when you select the credence table chalice that you service the south side (nearest the exit door).
2. Either way, please ensure that you pick up the purifier with the chalice for cleaning off the chalice between each administration of the wine. If for reasons noted below you need an extra purifier, there are normally three spare purifiers on the tray beneath the credence table.
3. Accompany the priest you will be assisting with communion and communicate that portion of the congregation after the priest provides the communicant with a wafer.
4. Please note that sometimes the priest and CB on the south side (nearest the exit door) may need to go out into the congregation to provide communion to a physically impaired communicant. Just accompany the priest and perform the chalice administration as directed below.

### **Administering the Chalice**

1. Memorize the words you will say for the service. With all services now using the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, the longer form is said at all services. This information is also in your Prayer Book. Specifically state after the communicant has drunk the wine:
  - *"The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful."*
  - If you have a mental block, simply say "*The Blood of Christ*".
  - Also note that these words can be stated over several people. They do not all need to be stated over one single person. Depending upon the flow and if people intinct (dunk or dip their wafer into the wine) or drink from the chalice will impact whether these words cover 2 or 3 persons.
2. Note that persons receiving communion have different preferences on how they take communion. You simply have to "go with the flow". Some variations:
  - Communicant places wafer in their mouth and expects the chalice. You do your part and offer the chalice. Target the edge of the chalice to arrive between their lips. Encourage worshiper to guide the chalice themselves. Some will not touch the chalice at all. Do the best you can. Some take virtually no wine at all. **After wiping the chalice with a purifier, turn it 1/4 turn counter-clock wise - always do this if the communicant does not intinct.**

Always maintain some type of control of the chalice. Some folks will grab it hard and you must have a “soft” touch of control with them while others will just barely touch it and you must have more full control of the chalice. Either way, it is up to you to hold onto the chalice appropriately.

- Communicant wishes to dip their wafer into your chalice before consuming. Lower your chalice so that this is possible.
  - Communicant offers you their wafer. Grasp the chalice with the hand holding the purifier. Take the wafer with your free hand, dip it, and place it in their mouth on their tongue. In any case where they receive both bread and wine from you, alter the wording saying instead of “Blood”, “Body and Blood”. When dipping the wafer, touch the bottom of the wafer on the inside edge of the chalice so that any excess drains back into the chalice. This avoids a possible drip of wine onto the worshiper’s clothing or the floor.
  - Communicant is blind. The priest will take a wafer and dip it into your chalice and place it in the blind person’s mouth.
3. Always attempt to keep a clean chalice. The inevitable lipstick is deposited on the rim of the chalice. Use the plain side of your purifier, not the embroidered side, since the altar guild has a tough time removing lipstick from the embroidery. If you are right handed, hold the chalice in your right hand and turn it 1/4 turn counter clockwise into your left hand, as you pinch the rim with the purifier in your left hand. This takes practice, and new chalicers are encouraged to try this at home. Use a stemmed dinner glass and a cloth napkin to simulate chalice and purifier.

Note, you will likely have best success using the end of the partially folded purifier. Using the middle invites dunking the purifier in the wine. About half way through communion, exchange the soiled end of the purifier for the other end. Always show the clean embroidered side of the purifier to the worshiper. Wipe the chalice after each communicant. Inspect the inside of the chalice periodically for smears, which may have occurred from wiping and attempt to remove them without being too obvious.

### **What To Do When ...**

1. Either you or the communicant drops a wafer on the floor. Pick up the wafer and eat it. Signal the priest to provide a second wafer for the worshiper.
2. You get bumped, or somehow you spill wine on the floor. Wipe it up with your purifier as best you can. Then, either trade purifiers with the MC or get a clean one from the tray below the credence table, leaving the soiled one there.
3. You need a refill of wine. Signal the MC with a glance or motion, or go to the credence table and pour more as needed from reserve wine kept there.

4. Something totally unexpected happens. Don't panic, don't make a commotion. *Move slowly* and take appropriate action. We do not want to spoil the communion experience for the worshiper.
  - If we move slowly and look like we know what we are doing no matter what, most folks will not know any different. Calm poise and manner is the key to ensuring a good sacramental experience for the communicant.

### ***Returning the Chalice***

1. When you have completed communicating all persons, return your chalice to the credence table. (The last communicants are the acolytes.) The MC may receive your chalice and purificator directly from you or point where you should place them on the credence table. Place your soiled purificator anywhere which does not obstruct clear space needed by others to place their chalices.
2. Return to your chair and resume with the post communion prayers where you were earlier.

### ***Exiting the Chancel Area***

1. Continue to sing the hymn until the choir has almost exited from the front of the altar area. Then the chalicers follow choir out without reverencing the altar. Chalicers are followed by the MC. Priests exit last.
2. Chalicers, MC, and priests normally stop their recession around the entrance to the worship area in order to finish the recessional hymn. Please be sure to not lean against the wall as some folks have accidentally turned off the lights when doing so.
3. After the recessional hymn is complete, proceed back to the vesting area to remove your alb and hang it back up. Doing this before your refreshments and mingling with other congregants will help keep the alb clean from accidental spillages.
4. Enjoy the rest of your Sunday or holy day.