

# CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

At the July meeting of the Parochial Church Council there was a discussion of the way in which we conduct the annual service of Confirmation. It was agreed that some reforms were needed to increase the effectiveness of the service and to make it more visible and meaningful.



There has also been discussion at the PCC Education Committee of the content of the preparation for Confirmation and here is a digest of what thinking has been taking place in readiness for a report which will go to the PCC in September and then to the Bishop for his reactions.

**In January-** compile a list of those wishing to be confirmed in June. For those in the younger age bracket, parental involvement at this stage will be critical.

**From Lent to Easter-** hold a register of candidates and expect them to tick off their names as they attend Church so that they really get the experience of worshipping God as part of the Holy Cross community. Expect the candidates to participate in Lent groups, possibly as a discreet group.

**Easter-** involve the candidates in our Easter celebration and assess with each of them which candidates are ready to proceed with formal preparation for Confirmation.

**From 16th April-** sessions with the candidates (not necessarily in this order) as follows-

- 1) A close look at the church buildings and what they teach us about the Christian faith.
- 2) A look at how contemporary values have foundations in the life and ministry of Jesus through a study of the gospels.
- 3) Introduction to the Jewish Scriptures and their influence
- 4) Worship of the church and prayer
- 5) A session about why there is a Church of England
- 6) A session about Christian responsibility in the world today
- 7) A session about the role of the parish, deanery and Diocese and their personnel and organisation.
- 8) A session about what the Church is for.
- 9) A session explaining the links between baptism and confirmation, the nature of the promises to be made and a practical guide on what to expect on the day.

The preparation would be enhanced by some kind of mentoring of candidates during the preparatory period, and we could find people willing to participate in this way, both on Sundays and during the preparation sessions.

It will be suggested to the bishop that we dispense with the round-the-carpet approach and adopt a more personal two-by-two approach in order to enhance the sense of individual responsibility and to aid visibility. We can certainly include in the paperwork clearer advice about being quiet, adopting the appropriate posture and remaining attentive.

Have you got any good ideas? Tell Neil as soon as possible.

**Neil Richardson**