

Is it safe? : the chalice and AIDS / Terrence Higgins Trust.

Contributors

Terrence Higgins Trust.

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IS IT SAFE?



THE CHALICE AND AIDS



THE CUP OF BLESSING . . .

Concern has been expressed about the possibility of catching AIDS from drinking from the same chalice as an infected person, during the reception of Holy Communion. This pamphlet has been produced to allay those fears and to look at the wider implications of such anxiety.

IT IS SAFE FOR ALL TO RECEIVE THE CHALICE . . .

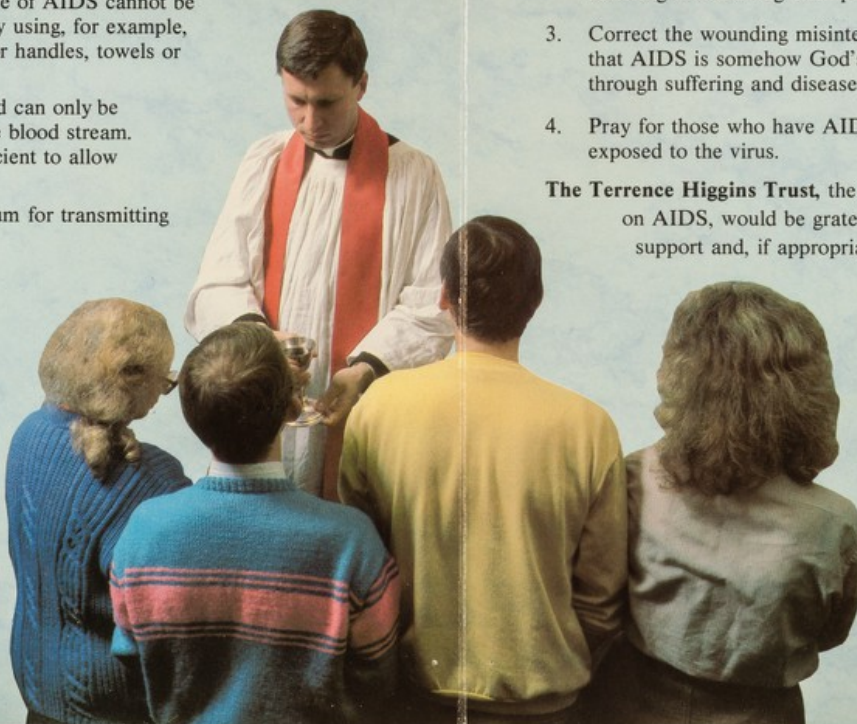
The virus which is the cause of AIDS cannot be passed through the air or by using, for example, the same cups, glasses, door handles, towels or toilet seats.

The virus is very fragile and can only be transmitted directly into the blood stream. Surface contact is not sufficient to allow infection.

The chalice is a poor medium for transmitting any infection.

WHICH WE BLESS . . .

For any Christian to stay away from Communion for fear of AIDS or to feel unhappy about receiving Communion, greatly damages the symbolism of joining to Christ through his Body and Blood and with each other as parts of that Body. It helps to make the tragic sufferers from a terrible illness feel excluded from and unwanted by the Christian family of which they are a part.



IS IT NOT A SHARING IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST?

We, as Christians, need to do four things: -

1. Remind ourselves and each other that we **all** need to drink deeply of Christ's compassion and forgiveness and to offer understanding to all our brothers and sisters as we gather to break the bread.
2. Reach out and touch all people affected by AIDS, realising that through the presence of Christ in all of us, we transform their suffering into a living example of God's love and compassion.
3. Correct the wounding misinterpretation of Christian teaching that AIDS is somehow God's punishment. God does not punish through suffering and disease.
4. Pray for those who have AIDS and those who have been exposed to the virus.

The Terrence Higgins Trust, the charity which informs and advises on AIDS, would be grateful for your prayers, your financial support and, if appropriate, your assistance as a volunteer.

-A PRAYER-

*Loving God, you show yourself in those who are vulnerable,
and make your home with the poor and weak of this world;
warm our hearts with the fire of your Spirit.
Help us to accept the challenges of AIDS.*

*Protect the healthy, calm the frightened, give courage to those in pain, comfort the dying and give to the dead eternal life;
console the bereaved, strengthen those who care for the sick.*

*May we your people, using all our energy and imagination, and trusting in your steadfast love,
be united with one another in conquering all disease and fear.*

We make this prayer in the name of one who has borne all our wounds and whose Spirit strengthens and guides us now and for ever.

This leaflet has been compiled by
THE TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST
with the help of their Interfaith Group.

If you need further information about
AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
You can write to:

THE TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST

BM AIDS LONDON WC1N 3XX

(Please enclose a stamped self-addressed 9" x 6" envelope).

If you're worried give us a call on:



HELPLINE 01-242 1010

3pm-10pm DAILY

INFORMATION, ADVICE AND HELP FOR EVERYONE

VISTEL 01-405 2463

7pm-10pm DAILY

FOR THE DEAF AND THE HARD OF HEARING



THE TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST

is a registered charity which provides practical
support, help, counselling and advice for
anyone with or concerned about

AIDS or HIV Infection.

(Charity Reg. No. 288527. Company Reg. No. 1778149 Registered in England.)

* Haemophiliacs requiring further information
may prefer to call the **Haemophilia Society**
on **01-928 2020** between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm
Mondays to Fridays.

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