

THE ST STEPHEN'S MAGAZINE IN ITS NEW FORMAT!

Hello everyone,

Having discussed with Maggie and Ian, we've decided to include a magazine as a supplement to Maggie's letters/services. The format will be pared-back and text-only, so it can be easily read across all formats. It will appear as and when we have material - meaning we won't be working to set dates for publication, meaning there won't be deadlines. Just send your articles, news, things to share, etc, to me at any time and they'll go into the next installment.

Ian will be uploading a PDF version of each magazine on the new-look website. I'm conscious that some people don't want their details placed on the internet, so if you send something in and don't want it to appear on the website, please let me know and I'll make sure it isn't included there.

Finally - a stay-at-home challenge. Will anyone accept it, I wonder?! Since we've all got so much more time on our hands, I'd like to challenge you to write **A NEW HYMN TO AN OLD TUNE**. This is something everyone can try. You don't need any musical skills - simply follow the rhythm, number of syllables and rhyming pattern of the original words. Let us know how you get on, and if you're pleased with the result, send it in to share!

Helen

We hope that the prayer diary will resume in May. If you have any prayer requests that you'd like included, please pass them on to Jan Dalmaine.

Helplines and web support:

Aberdeen City Council emergency helpline: 0800 0304 713, 8am-6pm Monday to Friday.

This emergency number is for those hit hardest by the coronavirus outbreak and unable to obtain help from their existing support networks. Members of the emergency helpline team are ready to provide welfare and financial advice and support, including what to do if you are struggling to get food or pay bills.

Similar advice and information are also available on issues such as housing, health, food, heating, finance and schools on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) page of the Council's website, which is being regularly updated.

Breathing Space: 0800 838587, 6pm - 2am weekdays and 24 hours at weekends.

Confidential phone service for anyone experiencing low mood, depression or anxiety.

More information available on website alongside the opportunity to web chat: **breathingspace.scot**

Samaritans: 116 123, 24 hours a day. **www.samaritans.org/?nation=scotland**

Day or night, a Samaritans volunteer is there to give support to anyone feeling down or struggling to cope.

Aberdeen Drugs Action: 01224 594700. **www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk/**

Reaching out for help with drugs and alcohol addiction can sometimes be difficult. Whether you are seeking advice for yourself or someone else, ADA are there to provide support every step of the way.

Watch Drama Kirk's Passion Play

When Drama Kirk's promenade passion play in Hamilton and East Kilbride was cancelled, they still had time to film a smaller-scale version before the lockdown for a Youtube premiere on Easter Friday. It is now available to watch at any time here: www.youtube.com/hamiltonold

I want to carry on giving to the church - what should I do?

One way to maintain your giving is to set up a standing order or a one-off bank transfer using online or phone banking. If you would like to do either of these, please get in touch with Maggie who can give you our bank details.

If you'd prefer to give by traditional means, may I ask you please to keep any envelopes, cash or cheques until we meet again. This is for several important reasons: safety, security and so that correct counting procedures (i.e. with a team) are followed.

Thanking everyone who gives in any way to the work of the church.

Andrew Hopwood

When This is Over

"After all this" they say "we pray for healing."
Well I don't.

Why do you think, when Christ had risen,
he had wounds;
still visible, deep wounds?
Or do you ever wonder why
someone dreamed up
the image of the Sacred Heart,
ringed by the crown of thorns?
A hurting heart.

A bleeding heart,
but not an isolated heart.
The heart of Jesus
opening his breast
and looking out at us with tender love.

No, I don't pray for healing.
I will pray we keep our wounded hearts.
Hearts that were pierced by seeing folk
stretched out on floors of hospitals to die.

Hearts that were cut by thoughts of old and young
dying without their families around.

Hearts that were warmed
to see exhausted striving
shown on the faces of the ones who care,
and bringing us to tears.

I will not pray for healing.
I will pray
our hearts stay tender and exposed,
responsive to each other's joys and pains,
and to our Master's call.

J.D.