

How to make up this A5 booklet

Don't be alarmed by the seemingly strange order of the pages in this PDF. It has been set up deliberately in this way so that an A5 folded booklet can be produced.

- Set up your printer to print the whole document in **A4 landscape** format, **on both sides** of the paper, with **short-edged binding** selected.
- Keep the pages in the order they are stacked, once printed.
- Ensuring that the front and back covers finish on the outside, fold the landscape document in half, producing an A5 portrait booklet.
- If you have the time, staple the booklet together along the folded spine using two staples approximately 40mm from the top and bottom. Ensure that the tops of the staples are on the outside of the booklet.

If you have any problems printing this booklet, please email website@christian-aid.org and we can send you a printed copy.

Service written by **Evie Vernon**, who works for Christian Aid partner Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL). Many of the individuals mentioned in the service are linked to JASL, which provides educational and medical support to men, women and children living with HIV, including sex workers, prisoners and gay men – all groups that are marginalised and discriminated against in Jamaica. Seventy per cent of JASL's clients are women and children. JASL also carries out public education, research, fundraising and advocacy work around HIV.

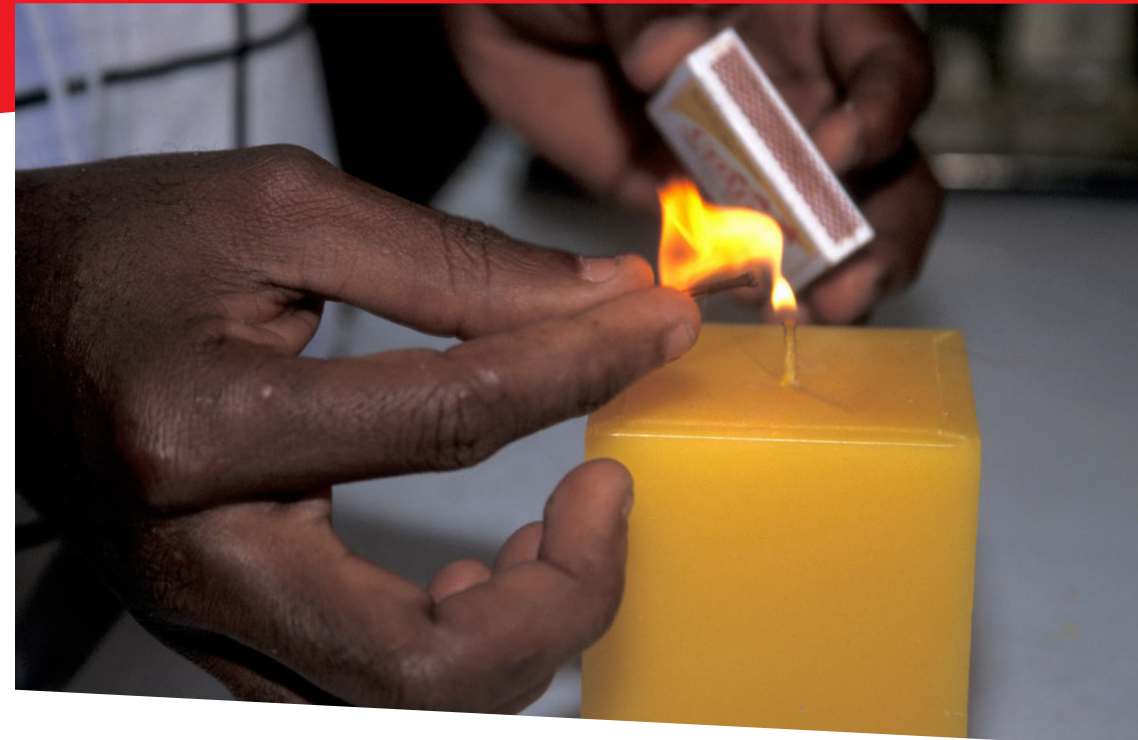
Front cover image: People living with HIV make candles at JASL's main office in Kingston, Jamaica. The money they earn selling these hand-made candles helps them pay for everything they need to stay well, including a healthy diet and anti-retroviral medicines.
Photo credit: Christian Aid/Judith Escribano

Christian Aid

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A service for World AIDS Day

Written by Evie Vernon
Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL)



Call to worship

Leader Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us gather together to celebrate God's love towards us in this time of HIV and AIDS. We come together to experience God's goodness and grace; to repent; to hope; to give thanks; and to commit ourselves to working for change. May we reflect God's unending love and acceptance in our life as a church.

Hymn or song 1

Welcome

Leader God is here.

ALL LET US ADORE.

Leader God looks in sorrow at our acts of destruction; at our slowness to take action against injustice; and at our failure to love our sisters and brothers as ourselves.

ALL LET US REPENT.

Leader God gives us hope as we see that treatments are refined, helping many people living with HIV to live long, healthy and productive lives.

ALL LET US REJOICE.

Leader God calls us to be leaders in building a new community of love, hope and compassion.

ALL LET US COMMIT TO BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM OF FAITH AND HOPE.

Leader *Read out the following statements. You could play one of the many musical adaptations of Psalm 137 – such as 'Rivers of Babylon' by The Melodians – in the background.*

- There are 33 million people living with HIV in the world today.
- Ninety-six per cent of them live in developing countries.
- More than 5,700 people die of HIV-related illnesses every single day – that's five people every minute.

2008 was awarded the Order of Jamaica for this work. He has also provided government support and funding to JASL.

Keren Dunaway González from Honduras, a 13-year-old activist who was born with HIV, was honoured at the 2008 International AIDS Conference. She publishes *Llavocitas* (meaning little keys), a bi-monthly children's magazine that is distributed throughout Central America and helps inform, educate and empower children about HIV and AIDS. Keren's parents, Rosa González and Allan Dunaway, were the first couple in Honduras to publicly declare that they were living with HIV. They are the founder members of Christian Aid partner Fundación Llaves, which provides care and support for people living with HIV.

Kaniela Pau from Hawaii is aligned with the National Asian & Pacific Islander Youth and HIV/AIDS Network and has carried the message about HIV and AIDS to young people in the Pacific Islands.

Hu Jia is a human rights and HIV activist from Beijing, China. An outspoken advocate for people with HIV, he has publicly criticised the authorities and has been arrested

on various occasions in connection with his peaceful human rights activities. Last April, he was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for 'inciting subversion'. His wife and baby daughter are under house arrest.

Yolanda Simon is regional coordinator of the Caribbean Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CRN+), which strives to raise awareness of people living with HIV in the Caribbean. Yolanda also represents the Caribbean on the steering committee of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Many JASL clients are part of CRN+.

Ainsley Reid is a co-founder of the Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+). He and **Annesha** Taylor were the faces of the Jamaican Ministry of Health's 'Getting on with Life' media campaign, which aimed to reduce HIV stigma and discrimination. Both Ainsley and Annesha have been volunteers with JASL. Ainsley also works for Christian Aid partner the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).

To find out more about the issues, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/issues/hiv

Donovan is a young deaf man in his 20s. As a JASL volunteer he spreads messages about HIV and AIDS to other deaf people across Jamaica, serving a community that is often forgotten.

Sarah Newland Martin, manager of the Kingston YMCA in Jamaica, walks with prostheses, but has never allowed her physical disability to get in the way of her work with street boys in Kingston. The YMCA works closely with JASL because street children are particularly vulnerable to HIV.

Stephanie organises sex workers in Trinidad and Tobago to protect themselves and their clients against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. She is a member of a regional network of sex workers, which is supported by JASL.

Mahooba Mahmood is director of the membership-based, women's activist organisation Naripokkho, in Bangladesh. The organisation works for the advancement of women's rights and aims to build resistance against discrimination and injustice. Mahooba helps organise and raise awareness among groups of marginalised women.

Reverend Canon **Gideon** Byamugisha became the first Anglican priest to publicly declare he was living with HIV back in 1992. He has since represented many organisations of people living with HIV. He is co-founder of Christian Aid partner Inerela+, the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with HIV/AIDS.

Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga is national chair of REDBOL, the Bolivian network of people living with HIV and AIDS. Coming from a religious family, Gracia Violeta has been greatly influenced by Anerela+, which is a part of Christian Aid partner Inerela+.

Sister **Hazel** Russell is a nurse who has worked at Kingston Public Hospital in Jamaica and in its surrounding communities since the HIV and AIDS pandemic began in the 1980s. Despite the stigma, she continued to care for those living with and affected by HIV. JASL works closely with the hospital.

Professor Dr **J Peter** Figueroa recently retired as chief of epidemiology and AIDS at the Jamaican Ministry of Health. He fearlessly defied public and private criticism to establish the national HIV and AIDS programme, and in

- The rate of HIV infection in the UK and Ireland is rapidly increasing.
- With the right combination of drugs, most people living with HIV can live a long life.
- There is a lot of stigma around HIV, and many people are too frightened to be tested.
- In the developing world, people living with HIV cannot always access the life-saving drugs they need – either because of stigma or because they are too poor to pay for them.
- The scriptures repeatedly tell us that Jesus identified with the poor, the marginalised, the sick and the oppressed. As followers of Jesus, we must do the same.

Reading

Psalm 137:1-6

Leader

Just as the Babylonians deprived the captured Israelites of their dignity and freedom, today HIV deprives millions of people around the world of their dignity and their freedom. While we do not want to dwell too much on the sadness expressed by the psalmist in these verses, our faith demands that, like the Israelites, we too must sit down and remember. But rather than mourn a lost homeland, we must remember the universal right to dignity and freedom. Only then can we be inspired to stand up for change; to give voice to the voiceless; and to empower people all over the world.

Prayer

Reader 1

By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down,
And there we wept,
When we remembered that for so many in the world, there is no peace.
And as war continues to devastate our planet, millions of men, women and children are left vulnerable to violence and rape.

ALL

BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON,
THERE WE SAT DOWN,
AND THERE WE WEPT.

A service for World AIDS Day

Order of service

Reader 2 By the rivers of Jamaica,
There we sat down,
And there we wept,
When we remembered how our Earth is in crisis. Natural disasters plague our brothers and sisters across the world; forests and wetlands are destroyed; land, air and water are contaminated – all of which leave poor people unable to feed or support themselves and their families.

ALL BY THE RIVERS OF JAMAICA,
THERE WE SAT DOWN,
AND THERE WE WEPT.

Reader 1 By the rivers of Africa,
There we sat down,
And there we wept,
When we remembered the women, children and men who, trapped by poverty and discrimination, are forced to eke out a living through dangerous and demeaning work, enslaved and exploited in brothels, mines and other hazardous places.

ALL BY THE RIVERS OF AFRICA,
THERE WE SAT DOWN,
AND THERE WE WEPT.

Reader 2 By the rivers of Central and South America,
There we sat down,
And there we wept,
When we remembered the millions of people across the world who are devastated by HIV and other related infections, unable to access prevention, treatment and care.

ALL BY THE RIVERS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA,
THERE WE SAT DOWN,
AND THERE WE WEPT.

A service for World AIDS Day

Suggested hymns and songs

- 'Gather, Christians' by Garfield Rochard
- 'All for Jesus', by Glenroy Anthony (Ernie) Smith
- 'Thuma Mina' as sung by Lulu Dumazweni
- 'For the healing of the nations'
- 'Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair'
- 'Love divine, all loves excelling'
- 'Make me a channel of your peace'
- 'Do not be afraid'
- 'Bind us together, Lord'
- 'We sing a love that sets all people free'
- 'Father, hear the prayer we offer'
- 'In your hands'

A service for World AIDS Day

Ways your church can get involved

Find out more about the issues by visiting www.christianaid.org.uk/issues/hiv There are additional materials for prayer and reflection in the *Flesh of our Flesh* churches pack (also found at the online address above). To order a copy, email orders@christian-aid.org

Encourage those who lead the prayers in your church to **pray for those living with and affected by HIV**. Consider whether you prayed as a church for those who were killed on 9/11. Three thousand people died that day. More than 5,700 people die every day from HIV-related illnesses.

Speak out on behalf of those who are living with HIV. Christian Aid supports the Stop AIDS Campaign, which lobbies for universal access to care and treatment. Visit www.christianaid.org.uk/issues/hiv/stories/what_we_are_doing.aspx to add your voice to thousands of others who want to make change happen.

Donate: Christian Aid supports 250 organisations that provide HIV prevention, care and support to some of the most vulnerable communities in 40 of the world's poorest countries. Send your donations to: HIV response, Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT, or donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk/issues/hiv

You can be sure your money will go a long way: by funding local partners, Christian Aid can provide indirect support to the entire HIV effort in that region. For example: £5 would buy materials for one JASL volunteer. That volunteer could go on to train ten community peer educators, who in turn could each empower 50 disabled people and street boys through the YMCA. And so it goes on...

Talk about the issues. This is not only a crucial way of breaking the taboo that surrounds HIV: it can also help affected people to escape their isolation. Use the *Flesh of our Flesh* churches pack for ideas for small group discussions or talks.

Reach out in your own community. Where are the most marginalised people? Where are those most vulnerable to HIV infection? They may not be in church. Are there ways of making links with local healthcare providers and promoting your church as a welcoming and accepting space where people living with HIV can find comfort and support?

A service for World AIDS Day

Order of service

Reader 1 By the River Thames,
There we sat down,
And there we wept,
When we remembered the indifference and lack of action of those who have the power to make changes to this world, but fail to do so.

ALL BY THE RIVER THAMES,
THERE WE SAT DOWN,
AND THERE WE WEPT.

Leader Before God and before you, my sisters and brothers, I confess that I have loved too weakly and done too little to make this world a place of justice and of peace.

ALL BEFORE GOD AND BEFORE EACH OTHER, WE HEAR YOUR
CONFESSION AND WE PRAY THAT GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE GRACE,
WISDOM AND COURAGE TO AMEND YOUR LIFE.

BEFORE GOD AND BEFORE YOU, MY SISTERS AND BROTHERS, WE
CONFESS THAT WE TOO HAVE LOVED TOO WEAKLY AND DONE TOO
LITTLE TO MAKE THIS WORLD A PLACE OF JUSTICE AND OF PEACE.

Leader Before God and before each other, I hear your confessions and I pray that God will give you the grace, wisdom and courage to amend your life.

Let us rejoice that God gives the grace of transformation to all who ask: he even converted the slave trader who wrote the next hymn into a crusader for freedom.

Hymn
'Amazing Grace'

Reading
Luke 10:30-37

Sermon

Candle-lighting, with prayers of thanksgiving and Act of Commitment

(Please note that there is more detailed background information on the people mentioned in these prayers and the organisations for which they work in the back of this service leaflet.)

Leader We invite representatives of our community to come forward to light seven candles to give thanks for the lives and work of committed and courageous people from around the world. The people whose lives we are celebrating today come from all walks of life – they represent the marginalised; the church; the medical profession; children and youth; and people living with HIV. Like thousands of other unnamed and unrecognised people around the world, their daily work with and for people living with HIV makes us humble. May they inspire us to follow their example and carry on the tasks that they have undertaken. In turn, may we commit to follow the leadership they have shown in their work with HIV and AIDS.

Reader 3 We celebrate the lives and work of two brave Jamaicans who use their disabilities to help them in their work: **Donovan** – a young man who spreads messages about HIV and AIDS to other deaf people in the streets – and **Sarah**, who encourages and empowers street boys in Kingston.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 4 We celebrate the lives and work of **Stephanie** from Trinidad and Tobago and **Mahooba** from Bangladesh, who dedicate their lives to educating and organising sex workers and other marginalised groups, teaching them how to protect themselves against HIV and other infections.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 5 We celebrate the lives and work of **Gideon** from Uganda and **Gracia Violeta** from Bolivia. Both have had the courage to publicly share their HIV status and organise people, including religious leaders, who are living with, or directly affected by HIV and AIDS.

as key partners in its programmes. Christian Aid's work has shown that it is often those people who, like the Samaritan, are in situations that place them as 'outsiders' who can provide the most effective healing and comfort.

For example, sex workers are one of the most stigmatised and marginalised groups in Jamaican society. Christian Aid partner Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) teaches them about safer sex and encourages them to get tested for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections at its clinic. Many of JASL's outreach workers are sex workers or former sex workers themselves. One of them, Linda (not her real name), explains how she gains the trust of sex workers: '[Because] I'm an ex-sex worker, I can get around easily, very easily. When I go to a club, everyone knows me.' She also understands the stigma they face, because she has faced it herself.

JASL helps people such as Linda to act as a good neighbour. How do we, as a church, give such opportunities to marginalised people and groups within our community? Do we recognise their potential in offering support

and comfort to others? And how do we concern ourselves with reconciliation for those who are alienated from society – through sickness, gender, race, colour or any other means?

And so, the story of the Good Samaritan raises some uncomfortable questions:

- Are we good neighbours as individuals?
- Are we good neighbours as a church – both individually and corporately?
- Is our nation a good neighbour?
- How might the church work with governments to improve this?

The warning in the parable is clear – it is easy to make an excuse to do nothing; it is easy to walk by on the other side of the road, to tell ourselves that we have more important matters to attend. But with around 5,700 people dying every single day from HIV-related illnesses, we cannot afford to walk on by. Jesus makes it clear that if we are to follow his way, we must follow the path of the Samaritan.

Please see the back cover for further information about JASL.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the most well known in the Bible, and its familiarity can mask the uncomfortable truth at its centre.

It is not just a story about helping people in need. The Samaritans were a marginalised people; they were despised by the Jews, who were the primary audience for the story. The priest and the Levite, on the other hand, would both have enjoyed status and respect among the Jews. Yet it is the Samaritan – not the priest or the Levite – who stops to help the injured traveller.

Indeed, the story is a radical call to action. It is about helping our immediate neighbours, and about crossing religious and cultural barriers. We must take inspiration from the Samaritan and reach out across barriers to help people living with HIV – both on the other side of the world and closer to home. We have a duty to actively seek out marginalised people and groups of people within our own communities.

The Samaritan asks no questions. We do not know why the traveller is there, or how he has suffered his injuries. Such details are irrelevant;

all we know is that he needs love and care. The Samaritan's goodness is in being there and being prepared to get involved in a situation which he probably felt unqualified to handle. We must ask ourselves how ready we are as a church to get involved. Are we prepared to address the needs of people living with HIV, with no questions asked?

We have already commented that the priest and the Levite both pass by the traveller. It is the marginalised Samaritan who is held up as the moral example. If the priest had attended to the traveller's needs, his actions would have made him impure and he would have been unable to offer prayers and sacrifices. This leads us to consider the following questions: as a church, are we overly concerned with being respectable? Do we place too much importance on religious expectation? Or are we ready to reach out to those who need us most?

Christian Aid supports the work of Inerela+, an international network of religious leaders living with HIV, which provides peer education programmes in 40 of the world's poorest countries. It also promotes the voices of people living with HIV

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 6 We celebrate the lives and work of two more courageous Jamaicans, this time from the medical professions: **Hazel**, a nurse, who has cared for people living with HIV since the HIV/AIDS pandemic began, when it was considered shameful to do so; and **Peter**, a doctor, who fearlessly defied criticism to establish his country's HIV and AIDS programme. Neither gave up their work, despite facing fierce stigma and public criticism.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 7 We celebrate the lives and work of two young people who bravely carry the message about HIV and AIDS to their peers: **Keren**, a 13-year-old from Honduras who publishes a magazine for children living with and affected by HIV, and **Kaniela** from Hawaii, who reaches out to young people across the Pacific Islands.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 8 We celebrate the lives and work of **Hu Jia** from China, **Yolanda** from Trinidad and Tobago and **Ainsley** and **Annesha** from Jamaica – all people living with HIV who have stood up for the rights of those living with and affected by HIV, at great personal cost to themselves.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

Reader 9 We celebrate the lives and work of all those people around the world who labour – often without thanks or recognition – with and for people living with HIV.

ALL WE CELEBRATE THEIR LIVES AND WORK, AND WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO CARRYING ON THEIR MESSAGE OF HOPE.

A service for World AIDS Day Order of service

Leader In silence, let us reflect on how each of us may lead our own communities to work to decrease the incidence of HIV; how we can work to reduce stigma and discrimination against those living with HIV; and how we can help to increase access to proper treatment and care for all those who need it.

(At this point, encourage people to write down one way in which they will change – either in attitude or in action. Place the pledges in a basket in front of the seven thanksgiving candles. When everyone has brought up their pledges, light a final candle and say:)

As we celebrate the prayers, pledges and actions of all of us here, we join with all those around the world who are working to bring God's kingdom of love, justice and hope to earth. We are the body of Christ. We will now sing *(insert hymn number/name)* to celebrate these pledges: as we sing the last chorus, let us greet the people around us with love, and offer each other the sign of peace.

Hymn

(During which there is an exchange of peace.)

Prayer

ALL FATHER AND MOTHER OF US ALL,
YOU ARE EVERYWHERE – ON EARTH, IN HEAVEN, IN OUR HEARTS.
MAY WE SEE YOUR IMAGE IN ALL PEOPLE
AND PRESERVE YOUR HOLY NAME WITH REVERENCE.
HELP US TO CREATE YOUR KINGDOM ON EARTH,
AND STRIVE FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL.

GIVE BREAD TO THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY,
WATER TO THOSE WHO ARE THIRSTY,
MEDICINES TO THOSE WHO ARE SICK,
AND DIGNITY TO THOSE WHO ARE MARGINALISED.
FORGIVE US WHEN WE KEEP SILENT, THUS DENYING OUR SISTERS
AND BROTHERS THESE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

A service for World AIDS Day Order of service

LEAD US NOT INTO THE TEMPTATION OF WORSHIPPING THE FALSE
GODS OF POWER, PROFIT OR WEALTH,
AND DELIVER OUR WORLD FROM INJUSTICE AND POVERTY.

FOR WHEN ALL YOUR PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN HARMONY,
WHEN ALL YOUR PEOPLE CAN LIVE WITH DIGNITY,
WHEN ABUNDANT LIFE IS MORE THAN A DISTANT DREAM,
ONLY THEN WILL WE SEE THE POWER AND GLORY OF YOUR
EVERLASTING KINGDOM
OF LOVE.

AMEN.

Closing hymn

(‘Thuma Mina’ would be ideal.)

Blessing

Leader Living God, may your grace flow through us;
May your wisdom guide us;
May your presence be seen in us so that we are strong in faith,
And courageous in witness.
And may your blessing be upon us,
Inspiring us and making us whole,
To give us the strength we need to minister to all those who are suffering
And thus to bring them hope.

ALL AMEN.