

CONTACTS

HIV Scotland is an HIV voluntary sector policy and support organisation, providing HIV information and advice. HIV Scotland represents the needs of those living with or vulnerable to the virus. Effective HIV health promotion activity is essential to Scotland's health and well-being. At the core of the organisation's activity it advocates equality and fairness for all individuals and communities affected by HIV. www.hivscotland.com

A partnership project of 'NAM', the HIV information charity, British HIV Association and St Stephen's AIDS Trust, the excellent **Aidsmap** is a website offering comprehensive information on all aspects of HIV/AIDS from medical, legal and health advice to the latest news. www.aidsmap.com

Aids Education Global Information System (AEGIS). A vast and comprehensive resource, reputedly the world's biggest HIV/AIDS website, including a daily briefing that draws together news reports from all over the world on all aspects of HIV/AIDS, from research to drugs to law and government policy. www.aegis.com

Glasgow: Phace Scotland

offers a range of educational and support services. www.phacescotland.org

HIV Carers

They are user led, and those at the heart of it have been involved for many years, usually through caring for a loved one.

T: 0141221 8100.

Waverley Care

Scotland-wide Services and Waverley Care Edinburgh

3 Mansfield Place
Edinburgh
EH3 6NB

T: 0131 558 1425

F: 0131 466 9883

www.waverleycare.org

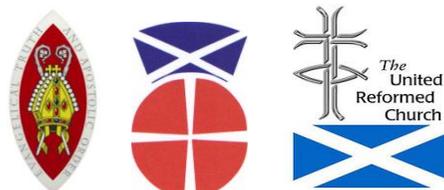
Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS project offers a congregational resource pack and aims to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS within congregations in Scotland.

T: 0131 225 5722

www.churchofscotland.org

FAITH in ACTION

December



Produced by the Church in Society Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the Church & Society Committee of the United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland (EMU)



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Monthly leaflets downloadable from
www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/church_in_society_committee/

Scottish Charity No SC015962

The HIV pandemic affects every part of our world, including Scotland. Some people here have been living with HIV for 20+ years, living with changes in their prognosis and the knowledge that many of their friends and loved ones have already died. Thanks to the development of effective treatment, many people are now living with HIV rather than dying from AIDS. However, these treatments are difficult to sustain, particularly for people who have additional social or health problems.

Recent years have seen an increase in new HIV infections in Scotland - the majority within the heterosexual population. There has been inadequate sexual health education for the general population, with the resultant increase in HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. People living with HIV face stigma and discrimination on a regular basis - this is still a hidden disease - they need our support and our care; they need our

You may wish to consider doing one or more of the following:

- pray for people living with HIV/AIDS
- commemorate International AIDS Day on the 1st December each year
- pray for all those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS
- pray for more effective drugs to combat this disease
- support charities who work with people living with HIV/AIDS
- volunteer in a hospice for those dying from this disease
- unconditionally accept people living with HIV/AIDS as equal members of the body of Christ

PRAYERS

God of all compassion,

Comfort your sons and daughters
Who live with HIV.

Spread over us all your quilt of Mercy,
Love and Peace.

Open our eyes to your presence
Reflected in their faces.

Open our ears to your truth
Echoing in their hearts.

Give us the strength
To weep with the grieving,
To walk with the lonely,
To stand with the depressed.

May our love mirror your love
For those who live in fear,
Who live under stress and who suffer rejection.

Mothering, fathering God
Grant rest to those who have died
And hope to all who live with HIV
God of life, help us to find the cure now
And help us to build a world in which
No one dies alone and where
Everyone lives accepted
Wanted and loved.

AMEN

We remember the millions of people throughout our world who are living with HIV.

People in the developed world who have access to life saving treatments, but who often struggle to manage the regimes.

People in the developing world with little or no access to treatment families who have lost an entire generation; orphaned children who struggle to bring up their siblings.

We pray for all those who are committed to changing this situation

God of love and compassion, hear the prayers of your people.

AMEN

Today and for the months ahead I commit myself to witness to the God of unconditional love, not of punishment through disease.

To ensure, within my area of influence, that all affected by HIV/AIDS might access compassionate, non-judgemental care, respect and support, regardless of their religion, nationality, gender, lifestyle or sexual orientation. To denounce all intolerance, bigotry and injustice against those affected by HIV/AIDS or otherwise made more vulnerable by the AIDS pandemic. God of Grace, fill me with your love that I might keep this commitment which I make in Jesus' name.

AMEN

adapted from a liturgy at the meeting of the Caritas Internationalis AIDS Task Force, Rome, April 1999