



Service Outline

Welcome

Come to us, God of Peace,
Come to us, God of Justice,
that we may hear the cries of those oppressed
by HIV or AIDS in every land,
calling us, like Jesus the healer,
to walk with them in the search for justice and mercy.

Amen

Song: Brother, Sister, Let me serve you

Reading: Matthew 25:44-45

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Talk: Supporting people living with HIV/AIDS – a Christian responsibility

See sermon notes

Song: Lord of all hopefulness

Presentation

Please use the accompanying CD-ROM and select PowerPoint (see accompanying notes on page 3).

Prayers

Let us pray for all men, women and children living with HIV throughout the world;
For those where effective drugs are still not readily available;
For those whose lives are overshadowed by stigma;
For the orphaned, the bereaved, those who are isolated and afraid.

God of compassion

All: Strengthen and sustain them

We pray for all those supported through USPG:
Anglicans in World Mission; We particularly remember:
Teule Hospital in Muheza
San Esteban AIDS hostel in Uruguay
St Francis' Hospital in Zambia
The House of Hope Haven, in South Africa

And all those who are receiving treatment for HIV today

God of compassion

All: Strengthen and sustain them

Let us pray for those who are alive thanks to the work of the church;
For those whose courage and example is an inspiration to others;
For those who seek to inform and educate others.

God of compassion

All: Strengthen and sustain them

Let us now remember the friends and family of those who have died as a result of HIV/AIDS. Let us pray too for those individuals whose names and needs are on our hearts at this time...

Holy and compassionate God, hear the prayers that we have offered; bless those for whom we have prayed; strengthen and sustain us in our response to HIV and help us to serve one another in a spirit of openness, generosity and love.

Amen

God of our hope, make us one as we pray for all caregivers, researchers and those who seek to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer

God of our hope, make us one as we commit ourselves anew to greater equity and access to information, treatment and care for people with HIV across the world.

We pray to the Lord

Lord hear our prayer

Song: From Heaven you came (The Servant King)

Blessing

May the love and compassion of God be ours,
May the strength and healing of the Spirit be ours,
May the life-giving words of the Son be ours.
Through Jesus Christ our healer and friend, Amen

As we go into the world let us resolve to turn suffering, rejection and loss into strength, compassion and hope.

With God's help we will.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.



Sermon Notes

This talk is expected to last 10 minutes.

Reference Bible passage: Matthew 25:44-45

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Talk Summary

This talk is aimed at showing, in a biblical context, how we as a church should respond to the current AIDS crisis.

Introduction

We read today from St Matthew's Gospel where Jesus calls his followers to offer practical support to those around them that are in need. He does this by telling them that he himself was in need and the righteous did not feed or clothe him, or support him in prison. Jesus clearly demonstrates his compassion for the marginalised and those rejected by society and asks his followers to treat them as if they were close friends — clothing, supporting and advocating their needs.

This is the benchmark that Jesus has set.

Jesus became poor to support those in need (ref: 2 Corinthians 8:9).

Supporting the marginalised today

If Jesus was giving this lesson today, he may well refer to those living with HIV/AIDS. It is a disease that carries a stigma. It is misunderstood by many, including some faithful church folk. And those affected by it are often rejected by society.

In Mark 14 we read about how, while he was in Bethany, Jesus reclined at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper. In Jesus' day, those living with leprosy were equally marginalised and rejected by society. It carried a stigma that was impossible to shift. Yet, when Jesus met Simon, though he had the power to heal, the most important lesson we learn is that he, though being Son of God, treated Simon as his equal. He ate and drank with him in his home, and probably shared a joke or two.

What should the church be doing about it?

Jesus offered a hand of friendship to those who society had rejected. And he tells us to do likewise.

By opening ourselves to people God puts around us we can do this too. The truth of the matter is: no one can be hospitable in isolation; we must be in relationship with others.

Loving strangers means sharing food, drink, clothing, shelter and money. Jesus shared everything and accepted hospitality when it was extended to him.

Through the help of *USPG: Anglicans in World Mission*, the church in many parts of the world is at the forefront of supporting people affected by HIV/AIDS.

When congregations reach out and embrace all people — including those affected by HIV/AIDS — healing happens, not only among individuals but also in the community as a whole. By using Jesus' example and supporting communities of committed Christians to offer a helping hand to those in need, we can honestly declare, if you are affected by HIV/AIDS, you are welcome with us.

Challenge for us today

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission enables us to have a relationship with churches in local communities that work directly with people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world.

We need to learn from their example and show love and support for those who are living on the edge.

But what are we doing in our own community to support the marginalised and rejected?

Perhaps this is a challenge for us, not only to think about and support people living with HIV/AIDS, but also our friends and neighbours. Teenagers who have been issued with ASBOs, teenage mothers, travellers and anyone society may reject — the marginalised or oppressed.

Finally, let's remember those living with HIV/AIDS. This disease may not affect our everyday lives, but we can certainly look beyond our own parish boundary and support our brothers and sisters around the world who are helping to make a difference to those for which HIV/AIDS is a daily reality. All are brought into a living relationship with us, through the fellowship of the church. We are members of one Body, with Jesus at our head.



PowerPoint presentation notes

This is a brief presentation about the work of USPG and its response to the AIDS crisis. If you do not have access to PowerPoint, just read the text and omit references to slides.

An example of loving strangers

SLIDE ONE: World AIDS Day 2008

Here are some facts about AIDS:

1. There are 40 million people around the world living with HIV/AIDS
2. Each year 4.3 million people are infected with HIV
3. An estimated 3 million people die each year from AIDS-related illnesses

SLIDE TWO: An example of loving strangers
Richard and Karilyn Collins were GPs living and working in Hereford. They responded to God's call to work in Tanzania, helping serve at a hospital there.

This is Karilyn Collins examining a baby at Teule Hospital, Muheza

SLIDE THREE: Making a difference

World AIDS Day is about offering the hand of friendship and love to all those around the world affected by HIV/AIDS.

SLIDE FOUR: Leonard's story

One of the people that Richard and Karilyn came across while they were in Tanzania was Leonard. Leonard is an AIDS orphan. He is HIV positive himself. He is very bright. He's currently in second year at secondary school.

Richard and Karilyn had to disclose to Leonard that he was HIV positive, which made him very sad. When he was told the diagnosis he became very depressed.

He is supported by the team at Teule. Karilyn and Richard became very fond of Leonard and the other children living with HIV in Muheza.

SLIDE FIVE: 'Just pray for us'

Richard and Karilyn did more than just give medicine to Leonard. They treated him as if he were their own son. They loved him and showed him that there could be a future and it could be bright. When asked what we could

do to help him, he responded, "just pray". I wonder if young boys in England would have the same attitude?

SLIDE SIX: How you can help

There are many ways for you to support the world church.

SLIDE SEVEN: Please pray for:

- Leonard and all those living with HIV/AIDS
- The work of USPG around the world
- New initiatives to help combat this disease
- Hope for a better future for all

SLIDE EIGHT: Advocate

By talking about it more, we can help raise awareness of the realities that many have to live with around the world.

Pledge today to help USPG give a voice to the voiceless.

SLIDE NINE: Support USPG

Make a donation to USPG's special Action on HIV appeal for World AIDS Day, supporting the world church as it helps people living with HIV/AIDS.

Call 0845 273 1701 and make a pledge today.

SLIDE TEN: About USPG

USPG works in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities.

SLIDE ELEVEN:

How USPG is helping

- The Church is spearheading effective health interventions.
- USPG supports this grassroots work.
- Through USPG, you can support local churches serving their local communities.

SLIDE TWELVE:

Find out more

For more information about what we do and how you can get involved, visit our website: www.uspg.org.uk

What about HIV/AIDS?

Here are a few facts about HIV/AIDS:

1. HIV stands for 'human immunodeficiency virus'. HIV is a virus that infects cells of the human immune system, and destroys or impairs their function. Infection with this virus results in the progressive deterioration of the immune system, leading to 'immune deficiency' (UNAIDS).
2. AIDS stands for 'acquired immunodeficiency syndrome' and is a surveillance definition based on signs, symptoms, infections, and cancers associated with the deficiency of the immune system that stems from infection with HIV. (UNAIDS)
3. Stigma, lack of education and poor medical support has led to almost 40 million men, women and children living with HIV today, most of whom live in the poorest parts of the world.
4. Having HIV is also seen as a death sentence. But with access to medicines and good nutrition, a person with HIV can live a good quality of life.



CD-ROM: Videos

In your pack you will find a CD Rom containing the following resources: a video of a Tanzanian choir, an interview with Herriet – a nurse at Teule Hospital living with HIV/AIDS and two PowerPoint presentations. There are also copies of the resources contained in this pack for you to download and print.

Video of Tanzanian choir

This is a song, written especially for World AIDS Day. The words translate as follows:

*HIV/AIDS there is no cure.
It leads only to grief and mourning.
Many have died, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children.
Only God is truly able to help us from this dreadful disease so we must trust in God.*

‘We have a vague understanding that AIDS can be cured (which it can’t), that treatment reaches all who need it (which it doesn’t) and that AIDS is no longer a problem (when it is blighting the lives of millions of people throughout the world).

The biggest reason for us to recognise World AIDS Day, is that we can be better informed and change our attitudes; and that attitudes matter.’

Jeanette Meadway
Specialist in HIV and founder of Medicines for Muheza

‘We chose to support USPG because we all felt we could get behind the work it supports. The information we have been sent has been excellent and we had a great fundraising event tied into World AIDS Day.’

The Revd Stephen Pugh
St Margaret’s, Ilford