PLEASE use the following to mark and pray on
World AIDS Day 2013 – December 1st

Introduce World AIDS Day (Display first slide)
The AIDS virus remains a global killer on a massive scale. 90,000 people live with AIDS in the UK. Worldwide, 33 million people are HIV+.

Our World Development & Relief Fund supports some partners who work with those affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS. It has highest incidence amongst those living in poverty. Partners include:
- **Phakamisa in South Africa** – support for those who are HIV+
- **Wenchi Methodist Hospital in Ghana** – healthcare
- **Lake Bosomtwe Methodist Clinic in Ghana** – healthcare
- **International Justice Mission in India** – rescuing girls and women from the sex trade, many of whom are HIV+

By supporting World Development & Relief, we support this work.

Ask someone to read this from another of our partners: United Theological College in Jamaica (Display second slide)

AIDS is the highest killer amongst 15-44 year olds in the Caribbean. 32,000 Jamaicans are HIV+. Why so high? Gender inequality, crime, unemployment, violence, persistent poverty and sex tourism all compound Jamaicans’ vulnerability.

The United Theological College of the West Indies is another World Development & Relief partner. There can be great fear and stigma regarding AIDS, even amongst our Christian community. UTC is trying to change this in Jamaica. It works with faith-based organisations, clergy and church-goers to help them better understand AIDS and how it affects Jamaica. Leaders, including Sunday school teachers are trained to educate children, youth and adults about the virus. The Rev. Henry says that many are still ‘HIV illiterate’. Rev Harris (in picture) says “Some persons who are HIV positive no longer want to come to the church because they feel that the church people are rejecting them. Now we need to change that. When people fear they will be rejected for being HIV positive, they are less likely to get tested, find out their status and get the medication they need. Fighting stigma saves lives”. UTCWI are creating an opportunity to change and challenge how the church views HIV. As church leaders, they are trusted members of society who people go to for guidance. The message they share has a huge multiplying effect. The church is becoming less afraid and judgmental and is now showing the compassion that Christ embodied.

Pray this prayer
Loving God,
As we hold before you a world confronted by AIDS, we pray in hope for your will to prevail:
Where lives are short, *may they yet be full.*
When a cure is far off, *may there yet be healing.*
Where bodies are weak, *may spirits yet be strong.*
When silence is destructive, *may there yet be courage to speak out.*
Where judgements are hasty, *may minds yet be open.*
When reality is overwhelming, *may there yet be response.*
Where faith is tested, *may we yet find you there.*

Loving God, for our World Development & Relief partners who minister to those living with HIV,
We ask that you would give them courage, patience and love. Bless their knowledge and experience.
Also may we show compassion as Christ would have done.
In His name. Amen.

*Based upon a prayer by Simeon Mitchell, Christian Aid*