

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)




National HIV Nurses Association



**The Reverend Ijeoma Ajibade**  
Diocese of London and Southwark Cathedral

*14-15 June 2012, Manchester Conference Centre*

**Faith and HIV: An Overview**



**Revd Ijeoma Ajibade**  
Diocese of London and Southwark Cathedral





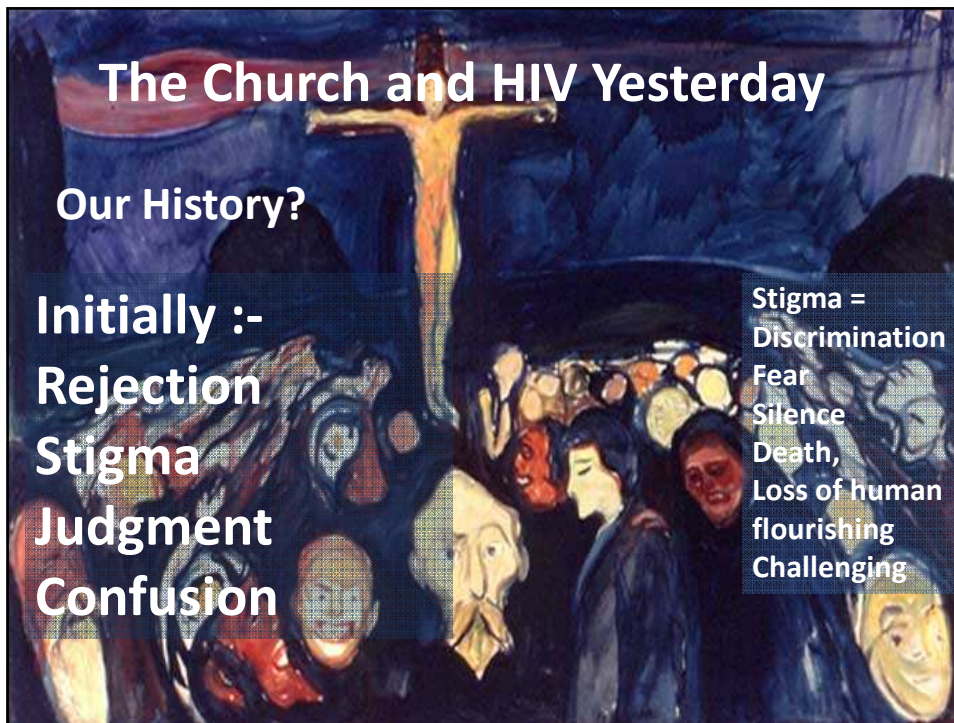
## Religion?

*'Religion is for the hesitant, the guilt-ridden, the excessively timid, and those lacking clear convictions with which to face life,'*

## House of Lords Select Committee on HIV and Aids

*'Faith and religion play a strong role in the lives of many people. It is essential that faith leaders engage with HIV as an issue and provide effective and truthful support and communication around the subject.'*





## The Church and HIV Yesterday

Our History?

Initially :-  
Rejection  
Stigma  
Judgment  
Confusion


Stigma =  
Discrimination  
Fear  
Silence  
Death,  
Loss of human  
flourishing  
Challenging

## The Church and HIV Today


Christian ministries devoted to care and support of people living with HIV.

Major faith based development agencies at the forefront of the HIV response.

Attitudes and behaviours of faith communities and those with authority within them really matter.



Report from Progressio  
"Prayer Alone is Not Enough"



HIV remains stigmatised and often not well understood and it challenges us all including people of faith to play a positive part in responding to HIV.

## Christian Faith and Living with HIV.

The church is one of the key ways of integrating into life in the UK



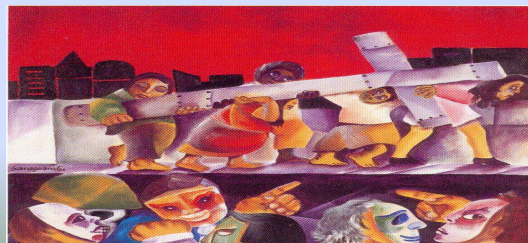
Participation in the life of a faith community is vital for well being and the basis from which relationships are formed

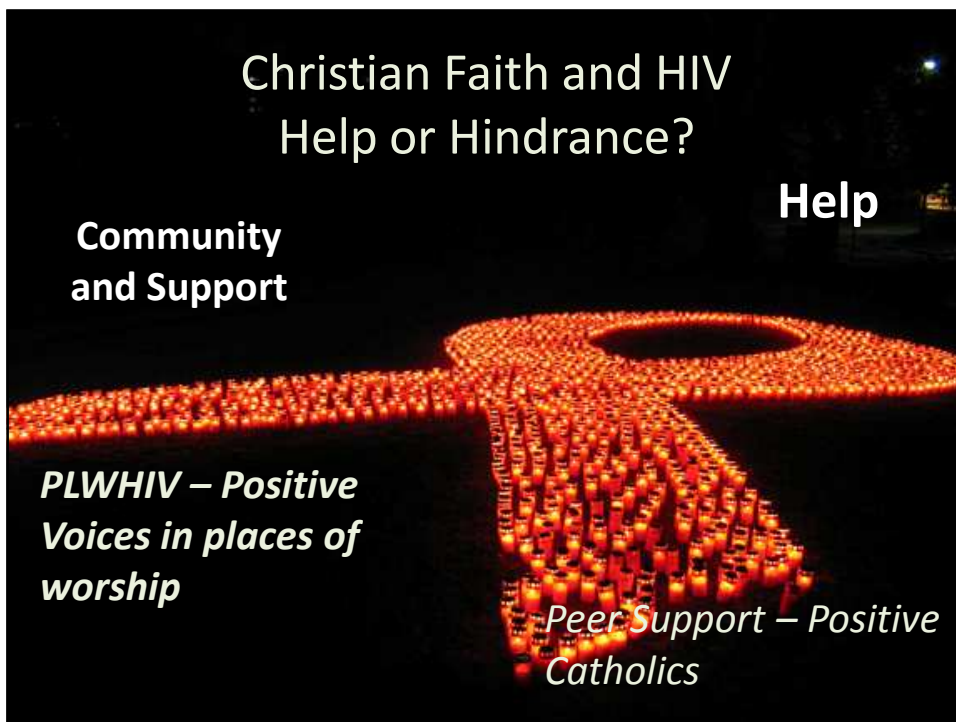
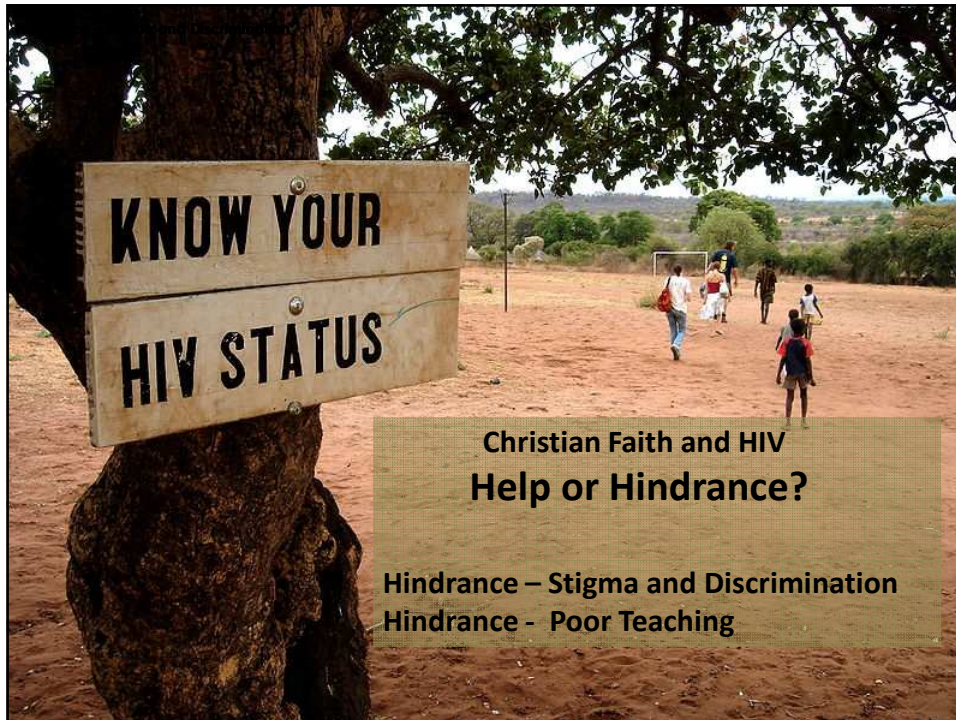
A diagnosis of HIV can challenge some deeply held assumptions about faith and life in general.

Stigma still exists in everyday settings including the home, workplaces, places of worship and other community settings.

## The Role of Christian Faith Leaders

- Assist in HIV primary prevention by addressing some of the myths that surround HIV.
  - Ensure that places of worship are places of welcome and acceptance for people living with or affected by HIV.
  - Respond to the spiritual needs of people living with HIV.
- Contribute to decision making on HIV at local levels.
- Create safe space in which the challenges of living with HIV can be discussed.







**Faith and HIV**

**A very brief overview of some of the complexities and issues within the Christian faith.**