

For you to do:



The red ribbon is a symbol which people wear, to show that they are thinking of people who have been affected by HIV.

Design a card, using the red ribbon, to send greetings to any of the children you've just read about.

We are all part of God's great family around the world – that means Katie, Godfrey, Mpopo, Beauty, and Esther are just like our brothers and sisters. People in the church in Scotland have been able to help Esther in her work, so that she can buy food, help the families, and run the Children's Corners.

Write a short prayer, asking for God's blessing on the work of Esther and the church in Malawi.



FAMILIES



Esther is a Christian – she lives and goes to church in Malawi, in Africa. It's a beautiful warm country, where they grow crops like maize, cassava and peanuts, as well as delicious fruits like mangoes and bananas. Most of the people in Malawi are quite poor, and everyday life can be difficult for them.

One of the major problems in Malawi is caused by a virus called HIV. There is medicine which people who have HIV can take, so that they do not become really ill and die. For the tablets to work properly, though, they have to be taken regularly and with food.



Sadly, many people died before this medicine was discovered, so there are lots of children in Malawi who are orphans. Their mums and dads have died because of HIV, and the children are looked after by grandparents and aunts and uncles – if they are lucky!

Esther works in the local hospital at a place called Ekwendeni. She cares a lot about the people with HIV, and tries to make sure that they get their medicine regularly and that they have enough food as well. With the support of her local church, she also helps the children and young people.



People like Godfrey who lives with his grandmother Mrs Nyamkhata – she sells beautiful beaded necklaces which she makes from the seeds of bushes in her garden. By selling them, she has some money to buy food and clothes for herself and Godfrey



Also Katie and her brother Mpopo who lost their parents when they were very young. Esther and her friends have helped them to go to school and made sure they had enough to eat.

And Beauty, who has lived with her grandmother for a long time. She's now training to be a nurse like Esther.



Esther has also set up a number of Children's Corners – these are special youth clubs for orphaned children; they meet on Saturday mornings, and the children can come along and chat with other people who will understand what they are going through. Sometimes they just need to talk; and many of them have made memory books to remind them of their parents.

When asked why she does the work she does, Esther says "Everybody needs to know that God loves them, and cares about

them. I am just trying to follow Jesus, and reach out to the people who specially need to know that He loves them."

ACTIVITIES:

Wordsearch:

F	C	H	T	G	F	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C
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Find the following words in the word search:

Esther Malawi HIV Ekwendeni Godfrey Beads Katie Mpopo School Beauty Nurse Children Corner Memory God Jesus Food Love Grandmothers Friends Church Family