

## Who we are

We began to meet together in 2004, as an attempt to address some of the issues we encounter as people with faith, living with HIV. Many of us have experienced the difficulties of being unable to find sympathetic or understanding people in our faith communities or families with whom we can share our HIV status.

Similarly, we find that a faith perspective is often not appreciated within other social groups, or health related networks.

Our small developing network is composed of women and men, young and old, married and single, recently diagnosed and those who have lived with HIV for more than twenty years.

We are from Asia, Africa and Latin America and Europe. We are gay and straight, women and men living with HIV.

We include Christians active in church life and Christians who have been 'away' from the Church for many years. Some are secure in our faith and identity as Christians, while others struggle with faith and others have an uneasy relationship with the wider Church.

If you would like to attend any of the listed events, join our mailing list or make a prayer request please contact us by Telephone-07505 608 655

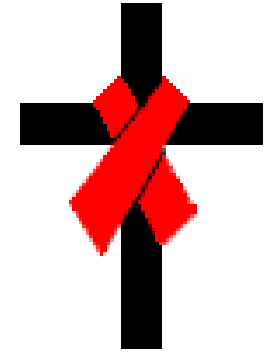
e-mail - [info@positivecatholics.com](mailto:info@positivecatholics.com)

website - <http://positivecatholics.com/>

Postal Address: 'Positive Catholics', Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support (CAPS), PO Box 24632, London, E9 6XF - Registered Charity  
**1095756**

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website - <http://caps-uk.org/>



## Positive Catholics

We are a peer support network of Christians living with HIV

## What we do

We meet about once every month to share food, prayer and conversation. Groups meet in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Anyone living with HIV wishing to explore their faith is invited to contact us in confidence.

Prayer requests are welcome; all prayers requests will be remembered at our regular meetings, liturgies and retreats.

“There’s a tendency to distance ourselves from reality, to export compassion and solidarity as an ‘African or Third world’ issue when it comes to HIV and AIDS, making those affected by HIV ‘absent’, even when present among us. This damages us all, psychologically, physically and spiritually. It undermines people living with HIV and diminishes us as Christians.”

Fr John Sherrington CP  
London World AIDS Day Mass 2008

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## Retreats

We host three retreats every year. Our main guided retreat takes place on the first weekend in August. This retreat is usually at Douai Abbey, near Reading, Berkshire, where children are also welcome.

We usually have two less structured weekends away, with less input staying in the grounds of Downside Abbey, near Bath. These weekends are in spring and autumn.

Retreat dates can be found on our website or contact us in confidence by telephone or e-mail. Contact details are printed on the reverse of this leaflet.

Places for retreats are limited and must be booked in advance. There is a charge but support could be available to those on low incomes.

The guest accommodation at Douai Abbey has full disability access while accommodation at Downside is less accessible to those living with some disability. If you have any concerns before attending please contact us for further information.

## Liturgy

We host liturgies during Lent and Advent.

When our meetings are attended by a priest we usually take the opportunity to celebrate mass.

We are supported by a Roman Catholic Priest who has been our ‘Chaplain’ since the beginning and has many years’ experience of ministry with people living with HIV.

Our liturgies are often opportunities to receive the Sacraments of anointing and reconciliation. Details of future liturgies and meetings can be found on our website or by contacting us directly. It is helpful if you advise us of your intention to attend in advance.

