EXAMPLES OF BECOMING A MORE DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCH AT THE HEART OF A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

① RUN A GROUP OR EVENT: Run a Forget-me-not tea for people living dementia or their carers in church, or a film-screening for carers and the people they care for, or an Open Door coffee time for anyone, making the event dementia-friendly.

② DEMENTIA FRIENDS: Run Dementia Friends sessions locally with groups like the Business Forum. What about someone from church training as a Dementia Friends Champion, to run sessions?

③ USE CHURCH FOR EVENTS: Use the church for dementia-related events e.g. Singing for the Brain or carer’s information and support courses run by the Alzheimer’s Society or Cognitive Stimulation sessions run by the Memory Clinic.

④ SUPPORT LOCAL GROUPS: Volunteer to support local groups for people with dementia and their carers, for example by the Alzheimer’s Society or Age UK. Also, through church networks, help to identify volunteers or service users so that a local dementia support session can continue.

⑤ SHOPS: Get together a team of volunteers to talk to local shopkeepers, giving out the Alzheimer’s Society’s booklet, “How to help people with dementia: A guide for customer-facing staff” and the leaflet for the local Dementia Action Alliance.

⑥ LIBRARY: Find out which is the nearest library with a collection of books on dementia – including information, personal stories and “Books to Share” for people with dementia – and encourage people to use this valuable local resource.

⑦ MEMORY BOXES, ACTIVITY QUILTS AND SENORY BANDS: Encourage people to use shoe boxes to make Memory Boxes, or make Activity Quilts or Sensory Bands, to give to relatives or friends, your church or local care homes. What about making them together over a period and bringing them to church to dedicate, before distribution?

⑧ DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE: Join your local Dementia Action Alliance – and see where those new connections take you!

What are the practical step we’re going to take in our local community?

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Dementia-friendly communities

Empowering people with dementia to have high aspirations, confidence and know they can contribute

- Shaping communities around the views of people with dementia and their carers
- Empowering people with dementia and recognising their contribution
- Ensuring early diagnosis, personalised and integrated care is the norm
- Businesses and services that respond to customers with dementia
- Maintaining independence by delivering community-based solutions
- Ensuring that activities include people with dementia
- Appropriate transport
- Easy to navigate physical environments
- Challenging stigma and building awareness
- Befrienders helping people with dementia engage in community life

Becoming dementia friendly means:

“Building Dementia-Friendly Communities: A priority for Everyone”
Report published by the Alzheimer’s Society - August 2013
What is a dementia-friendly community?
What are the key areas to focus on?

Alzheimer’s Society Infographic on Dementia-Friendly Communities, from Report (see below) http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1912