TEN PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING A MORE DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCH

GOLDEN RULE: Ask and involve people affected by dementia

1. WELCOMERS: Our Welcomers at church services are Dementia Friends or understand the key facts about dementia.
2. TRAINING: People from church have attended awareness-raising sessions or training to understand more about dementia.
3. BUILDINGS: We have reviewed our church buildings for dementia-friendliness e.g. pictorial signage for the toilets.
4. SERVICES: We have reviewed our church services for dementia-friendliness e.g. visual prompts, familiar hymns and prayers.
5. INFORMATION: We regularly share information on dementia e.g. in displays, notices or notice sheets.
6. MENTION: We openly talk about dementia, in church services (prayers and sermons) and beyond.
7. PASTORAL SUPPORT: We offer pastoral support for carers as well as people living with dementia, including transport.
8. NAMED CO-ORDINATOR: We have a named dementia (or disability) co-ordinator, aware of local charities/resources.
9. MEMORY BOXES: We have Memory Boxes available in church.
10. SPECIAL EVENTS OR SERVICES: We offer special events or services focusing on dementia.

TRAINING: EXAMPLES
- Dementia Friends Information Session.
- Dementia-Friendly Churches course run by the diocese.
- Other training offered e.g. by the Council.

SPECIAL EVENTS OR SERVICES: EXAMPLES
- Monthly Forget-me-not tea for people living with dementia and their carers
- Regular film afternoon for carers and the people they care for.
- Forum on dementia with input from people locally living and working with dementia.
- An event for Dementia Awareness Week e.g. a tea, a tea dance or a special service – perhaps a Songs of Praise format, interviewing people living and working with dementia.