Dementia-Friendly Churches

Diocese of Lichfield audit

# Pastoral Care

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| 1. INVOLVING: Are we asking and involving those living with dementia and their carers in planning our pastoral care? |  |
| 1. SUPPORTING: Have we identified “champions” for appropriate church services with a particular responsibility to ensure a good welcome for people living with dementia and their carers? |  |
| 1. UNDERSTANDING: Are those who provide pastoral care aware of the progressive impact of dementia and so the on-going nature of care needed? |  |
| 1. CARERS: How do we support carers of people living with dementia? |  |
| 1. RESIDENTIAL CARE: What is our ministry to people living in residential homes locally? |  |
| 1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT: Do we know where to sign-post and refer for additional and expert information and support? |  |
| 1. EVENTS WE HOST: Are our church premises used to host events for those with dementia and their carers? |  |
| 1. COMMUNITY NETWORKS: Is anyone in our church linked with our local dementia charity and/or other local groups for people affected by dementia, and can they help with the regular supply of up to date information? |  |

### What are we already doing?

### What are the next steps?

### What are our dreams?

# Buildings

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| 1. INVOLVEMENT: Are we asking and involving those living with dementia and their carers in planning our buildings? |  |
| 1. VISUAL: Does our church incorporate visual simplicity with some pictorial signage? For example, are the entrance and exits obvious? And is it clear where the toilet is? Are the furnishings welcoming? |  |
| 1. IDENTIFIABLY “CHURCH”?: Are there traditional “churchy” features, such as stained glass windows, fonts, crosses and crucifixes that provide clues that this is a church? Are leaders dressed in the “expected” manner? Will the content of the service, its music and language, be familiar to those who have attended church at some time in their lives? |  |
| 1. ACCESSIBILITY: As far as reasonably possible, are issues of accessibility addressed through the loop-system, good lighting, warmth, comfortable seating, wheel-chair access and accessible toilets? |  |
| 1. OTHER PARTICULAR CHALLENGES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS: Do our buildings present other particular challenges for people living with dementia and their carers? |  |
| 1. OTHER DISABILITIES: Do we know the impact of our buildings on those living with other disabilities? It’s not “one size fits all”! |  |

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# Church Services

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| 1. INVOLVEMENT: Are we asking and involving those living with dementia and their carers in planning our church services? |  |
| 1. VARIETY: Do we provide enough variety of services, so that some occasions / services can emphasise inclusivity for those living with dementia and their carers, while others focus on different groups? |  |
| 1. FLEXIBILITY: Is there sufficient flexibility so that those with dementia can express their spirituality in the way that suits them best, whether it be Parish Eucharist or solitude in church? |  |
| 1. LITURGY: In what way is the significance of sacrament, ritual and traditional liturgy for those with dementia being practised? |  |
| 1. PICTURES: Do Service Sheets and Notice Sheets have illustrations that can provide a visual focus for someone with dementia? |  |
| 1. PRAYERS: How often do intercessions included prayers for people affected by dementia? |  |

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# Community Networks

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| 1. INVOLVEMENT: Are we asking and involving those living with dementia and their carers to gather information about community networks? |  |
| 1. WELCOME AND KEY CONTACTS: Are our Welcomers aware of how they can best support people who live with dementia and their carers, when they welcome them to a church service or event? Is there are Welcome Card (or equivalent) for newcomers and visitors giving general information about the church, with sign-posting for any group-specific information? |  |
| 1. RAISING AWARENESS: In what ways have we raised awareness for both church leaders and congregational members, or what plans so we have for this? Is a member of our congregation trained as a “Dementia Friends champion”, through attending a free one-day training session, to be able to run Dementia Friends sessions? Have we run a Dementia Friends session in a Sunday service or elsewhere? [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk) |  |
| 1. WIDER RESOURCES: In what way do we access local and national resources on dementia, for example during Dementia Awareness Week? Does our local library have a good collection of books on dementia, perhaps the “Reading Well Books on Prescription” dementia series? Are we connected to the local Alzheimer’s Society, Age UK and Dementia Action Alliance? [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)   [www.dementiaaction.org.uk](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk)  [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) |  |
| 1. LOCAL NETWORKS: Who are our community contacts on dementia? Do we have information and contact details regarding the local support group and activities for those with dementia and their carers? How do we make this available and keep it up-to-date? |  |

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