**Dementia**

Panel for Social Responsibility Contact:

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# **Named, Held and Loved – Dementia Awareness in the Diocese of Leicester**

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands’ Isaiah 49:16

#### **The Diocesan Dementia Action Group**

This is a small group of practitioners with a passionate concern to raise awareness and develop good practice and support within our churches and communities. The group includes experiences from the ‘shop floor’ and professional expertise, including from the Alzheimers Society, and is linked in with the wider social responsibility activities of the diocese. We work with churches to develop their responses and partnerships, and are willing to come and talk, if that is the most helpful way forward for you. We would love to hear news from individuals and xhurches, and are keen to expand our diocesan network of contacts and activists.

Please contact us via the Revd Canon Alison Adams, Diocesan Social Responsibility Enabler: [Alison.adams@leccofe.org](mailto:Alison.adams@leccofe.org) 0116 261 5333

#### **Dementia Friends**

The Dementia Friends initiative from the Alzheimers Society aims to change peoples’ perceptions. The link will take you to their dedicated website. This is a really good starting point, both for individuals and for groups. Please do contact us if you would like us to help you arrange a group session.  
<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/>

**Dementia Friends Champions**

These are people who help grow the network of dementia friends, by supporting and encouraging others and helping develop community responses. If we are further to develop local responses in Leicester and Leicestershire, we need more Champions. Do talk to us if you feel called to this work. Training is available.

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=what-is-a-champion>

**Dementia Friendly Churches**

The first go-to place are the resources developed jointly [by Livability and the Alzheimers Society.](https://livability.org.uk/dementia-friendly-churches-guide/)

The Church of England has [news](https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/dementia-friendly-first-churches-1) and a [guide for churches.](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/Becoming%20a%20dementia%20friendly%20church.pdf)

**Useful websites**

Typing ‘dementia friendly’ and ‘church’ or other similar words into Google and other internet search engines produces a wealth of hits but these can be very repetitive. Below is a list which might help you initially.

[www.thegiftofyears.org.uk](http://www.thegiftofyears.org.uk/)  
<https://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/>  
<https://www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk/>

All of these are not just around dementia but older people more generally as well. They have a clear spiritual dimension to them.

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia –](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dementia)NHS dementia guide.

[http://www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/dementia-care/  –](http://www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/dementia-care/)These are the Methodist Homes, who provide specialist care, but also have a range of resources.

<https://www.mindandsoulfoundation.org/> – The Mind and Soul Foundation aims to explore Christianity and mental health. Type dementia into their search engine.

**Book Resources**

No member of the Diocesan team has read all of these, but we know that each one has been helpful to someone along the way! You will, of course, find other useful resources – please do let us know of any in particular.

*Growing Dementia Friendly Churches* by Revd Gaynor Hammond

*And We Fly Away: Living Beyond Alzheimer’s*Rev Ray Ashford (2003) (Also by carers: John Bayley (Iris Murdoch), John Suchet (Bonnie), Sally Magnusson (her mother))  
Augsburg Books

*Caring Together: A Group Study Guide for Anyone Involved in Caring*  
Chris Morley (2011) Kevin Mayhew The Challenge of Caring: Bible-related

*Reflections*Alexine Crawford (2011) Bible Reading Fellowship.

*Could it be Dementia? Losing your Mind doesn’t mean Losing your Soul*Louise Morse and Roger Hitchings (2008) Monarch Books

*Chocolate Rain: 100 Ideas for a Creative Approach to Activities in Dementia Care*Sarah Zoutewelle-Morris (2011) Hawker Publications

*Contented Dementia*Oliver James (2008) Vermillion

*Dancing with Dementia: My Story of Living Positively with Dementia*Christine Bryden (2005) (Also by people with dementia: Robert Davis, Diana Friel McGowin, Jeanne Lee, Jennifer Bute)  
Jessica Kingsley

*Dementia: Living in the memories of God*John Swinton (2012)

*Words of Faith:*A Bible and Prayer Guide for People with Dementia  
Scripture Union (includes a CD of hymns) (2010)

*Reflections of Hope: For People Living with Dementia*Claire Craig and Rosemary Hurtley (2012) CWR

*The Selfish Pig’s Guide to Caring: How to Cope with the Emotional and Practical Aspects of Caring for Someone*Hugh Marriott (2003) Piatkus.

*Worshipping with Dementia: Meditations, Scriptures and Prayers for Sufferers and Carers*Edited by Louise Morse (2010) Monarch Books.