

## Together on the Journey: Dementia and the Local Church

### Resources and Links

#### **Being with God**

A series of Bible and prayer guides for people with dementia and those struggling with memory loss. [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk)

#### **Glorious Opportunity DVD**

Jennifer Bute used to be a GP but retired early with early onset Alzheimer's Disease. On this website she gives us some really specific advice from someone with personal experience. It is her passion to try and help people understand about it, because she believes it can be a great opportunity, a God-given unexpected gift in order to understand this hurt section of society. You can download useful leaflets and order DVDs. [www.gloriousopportunity.org](http://www.gloriousopportunity.org)

#### **It's still ME, Lord...', DVD**

This focuses on good practice in meeting spiritual needs and serves as a useful resource for staff in care settings, Religious Orders, clergy and parish communities, hospital chaplains, as well as Eucharistic Ministers.

"We hope this will be a valuable resource for people in our Catholic communities and beyond in supporting people with dementia. Whether we are mentally or physically frail, we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and our faith should be respected and cherished," says Bishop Terence Brain, Bishop of Salford and Chair of CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) the official agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action. Order from [CSAN](http://www.csan.org.uk) on 020 7633 4973 [www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk).

#### **'Staying in Touch'**

A new tutor-led course is available for churches from Acorn Listening – suitable for all those involved in pastoral care. Those who care for family members with dementia say that being listened to really does make a difference to their lives. Two half-day (or

evening) sessions will help your church and community reduce this isolation - helping people to stay in touch with people living with dementia and their families. Devon contact: Fiona Gibbon 01237 421079



[fegview@virginmedia.com](mailto:fegview@virginmedia.com).  
[www.acornchristian.org](http://www.acornchristian.org)

#### **PARCHE Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes**

A charity based in Eastbourne who offer resources and training for worship services in care homes including EMI registered homes. [www.parche.org.uk](http://www.parche.org.uk) 01323 438527

#### **Methodist Homes Association (MHA)**

have a useful range of leaflets available as downloads [www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk).

- Spirituality Care and people with dementia
- Visiting people with dementia
- Worship and people with dementia

#### **'Helping to put the pieces together'**

A dementia information pack from the Pilgrims' Friend Society who provide a range of services from sheltered housing to nursing and dementia care. The pack covers from the early symptoms to diagnosis, handling challenging behaviour and communicating, caring for the caregiver, how churches can help, when specialist care is needed and provides valuable information to help you give practical help in all aspects of dementia. Also gives the biblical view and Scriptures that will encourage and inspire. [www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk) or 0300 303 1400.

#### **Dementia Friendly Church Initiative**

Livability 020 7452 219  
[www.livability.org.uk/Your Church](http://www.livability.org.uk/Your Church)

### **‘Worried About Your Memory?’**

It’s important to remember that similar symptoms of early dementia may also be caused by stress, depression and other illnesses. If you or anyone you know is worried, then a visit to a local GP should help. Order a copy of this is a helpful booklet from the Alzheimer’s Society.

[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

### **Alzheimer's Society 0300 222 11 22**

There are many types of dementia, the most common being Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies and the Alzheimer’s Society provides advice and support in all these cases. There are special areas of the website for people caring for a loved one with dementia, and you can search for local groups and support workers by post code. There is also a wide range of useful factsheets for people living with dementia including their families and carers.

Look out for:

- Communicating
- Unusual behaviour
- Carers: Looking after yourself

[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

### **Age UK/formerly known as Age Concern**

Local contacts to help you identify local services and advice.

[www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) 0800 169 6565

### **Devon Senior Voice (or equivalent)**

Voluntary organisation with a network branches across Devon to represent the needs of older people to local authorities and services. [www.seniorcouncildevon.org.uk](http://www.seniorcouncildevon.org.uk)  
01803 732 678

### **‘Singing for the Brain’**

Provided by the Alzheimer's Society to bring people together in a friendly and stimulating social environment. There may also be other similar groups called ‘**Lets Sing Together**’.

### **Your local Rotary Club**

Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia (REPoD )is a joint initiative between members of various Rotary Clubs who have recognised the need for increased support in the community for families affected by dementia. [www.repod.org.uk](http://www.repod.org.uk).

### **Purple Angel Mark**

Designed by people living with dementia, the Purple Angel provides a logo for shops and services to place in windows to indicate they have



become ‘dementia-aware’ and will welcome and support people living with dementia. Find out more at [www.purpleangel.org.uk](http://www.purpleangel.org.uk).

### **Memory Cafes [www.memorycafes.org.uk](http://www.memorycafes.org.uk)**

### **Dementia Friends**

Understand more about dementia, and the ways you can help.

[www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)

### **Christians on Ageing (CCOA) 01609 881408**

is a charity supported by all the main Christian Churches in the UK. CCOA engages with issues about dementia primarily through its Dementia Network which brings together people with an interest in the issues outlined in this article. [www.ccoa.org.uk/](http://www.ccoa.org.uk/)

### **The Leveson Centre 01564 778022**

for the study of Ageing, Spirituality and Social Policy. Has a range of policy and theology papers on Dementia issues available for download. [www.leveson.org.uk](http://www.leveson.org.uk)

### **The Outlook Trust 01582 674158**

Outlook is a Christian Charity which aims to share the Christian faith with those over 55 whilst offering resources and support to those working with them. Has some useful downloads about ageing well.

[www.outlook-trust.org.uk](http://www.outlook-trust.org.uk)