



The Methodist Church

Serving locally, connecting the county

[Safeguarding in Lincolnshire District](#)

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Responding Well to Dementia

On the 15.03.2021, the District held as part of a 2 week safeguarding fortnight a session on responding well to Dementia.

The following are some of the headlines to provoke thought and further discussion.

Responding Well to Dementia

Grace and love for the unexpected journey

The Methodist Church in Great Britain is developing policy on responding well to Dementia.

Useful contacts:

Email: customerservices@publicguardian.gov.uk

Alzheimers Society www.alzheimers.org.uk

Cinnamon Trust cinnamon.org.uk

Dementia Action Alliance www.dementiaaction.org.uk

Dementia Friendly Church www.dementiafriendlychurch.org.uk

Dementia Friends www.dementiafriends.org.uk

Faith in Later Life Faithinlaterlife.org

Inclusive Church www.inclusive-church.org

Live Ability www.livability.org.uk

Messy Vintage messychurch.org.uk/messy-vintage

Pathway Through Dementia pathwaysthroughdementia.org

6 Key Steps to Growing Dementia Friendly Churches www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

Future Learn www.futurelearn.com runs several excellent courses about dementia. These courses are free.

Methodist Women in Britain have a Dementia pack also

- Perhaps be helpful to remind all that Alzheimer's Society ask all to use the phrase 'living with dementia'
- There is no age for living with dementia - the very young too - my brother in law for example is 54. Also there are more than 400 types
- Acknowledgement of 'their reality' is important. Often not what you say, but how you say something to someone living with dementia.
- When you meet one person with dementia, you meet one person living with dementia. – everyone is different. As different as we are from one another, so too is the experience of living with dementia. All have a voice, a place.
- Reminder : Care Act 2014 means carers (unpaid carers and relatives) have right for financial help, and own status, own legal rights - we need to have 'think family approach'
- Dementia Awareness for all available, be ready to try to look through the eyes of someone living with dementia not out own, footsteps to aid direction, consider the flooring eg changes of surface, colours of fonts and print, pictorial aids, provide information - verbal guidance, consultation and involvement, let's assume we all have dementia - we can all be aided

District wide equipment and signage (buy in bulk)

Dementiacareproducts.co.uk amongst one of many companies

Could we offer Dementia Café?

Do we need separate services?

Safety, Stewards to support, familiar music and service formats helpful, some have motor memory which enables them to still play musical instruments

- Education of whole church, 'adjusting' not 'creating' - tension between, and placing barriers rather than bridges
- Using the experiences, knowledge, resources of people we have in the District,;
- **Think Family** - Be aware of spouse/partner/family, expanding groups to meet needs of people who are lonely and affected too - is this about how we care for one another, no matter who we are or what we are 'living with'.

Availability of Fiddle Mufflers, other items, not overly stimulating environments.

Reminder:

Careful not to 'normalise' - everyone has a voice that we need to listen to.

Carers need support too. Living with dementia may be like living with grief for carers

- Careful to avoid increasing vulnerability or labelling - careful of language we use.
- subtle 'hate crime' or prejudice - anything that makes others feel uncomfortable... 38% living with dementia once diagnosed (and made it public) loose friends
- Education establishments – are young people taught about living with dementia?
- Young family members may have relatives with dementia themselves.

Girl Guides linked up with Dementia UK to do various activities looking at dementia
 Connexion is researching, survey around the districts, tool kit bringing together what already exists.

Books

Dementia - Living in the Memory of God John Swinton

Worshipping with Dementia Louise Morse

The Dragon Story book is a way to explain dementia to young children, about a Grandpa Dragon who gets forgetful and goes to live in a home for dragons with memory problems

<http://www.gloriousopportunity.org/thedragonstory.php>

How do we all return to seeing the 'wonder' in and of the world, and of one another?
 How can we walk alongside one another?