



In the Diocese of Lichfield, we are committed to naming and facing dementia together, both acknowledging the change and the loss that it brings, and also affirming the life and love that can be shared on the path through dementia.

What can our churches offer people affected by dementia? And what can we receive and learn too? How can we stay in step, journeying together as patterns change?

Working together, we can share ideas, resources and experiences on the process of becoming more dementia-friendly churches at the heart of dementia-friendly communities.

## Next steps

Please do get in touch with us – we look forward to working with you.

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In the Diocese of Lichfield, we are supporting churches to become more dementia-friendly churches at the heart of dementia-friendly communities.





## Embedding dementia-friendly church

How do we embed dementia-friendly church the heart of the on-going transformative work of the church in the local community? Many churches provide invaluable support to people affected by dementia. This builds on a network of active participants.

- **Local network meetings**, to share news, information and ideas locally.
- **Dementia-friendly churches newsletter**, to share stories, resources and information.
- **Website resources**, to offer access to our key resources from the diocesan website: [www.lichfield.anglican.org/dementia](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/dementia)
- **Training / workshops**, to hold an annual diocese-wide event so that we continue together to become more dementia-friendly churches.
- **Dementia coordinator** format to use in our churches, someone who will chat, share information and pray for people.
- **Dementia-friendly churches certificates**, to invite churches to identify three steps they will take, in the year ahead, to become more dementia-friendly. When these are agreed, the church can use the nationally recognised "working to become dementia-friendly" logo.



## Embarking on dementia-friendly church

As churches embark on their initial engagement as dementia-friendly churches at the heart of dementia-friendly communities, we focus on three key areas.

- **A Dementia Friends Sunday service** to raise awareness for the whole congregation, using the national "[Dementia Friends](#)" initiative: understand more about dementia and turn that understanding into action.
- **A four-session "Dementia-friendly churches" course**, on pastoral care, church services, church buildings and community networks.
- **Next steps?** A community meeting or a church event or activity to move forwards in practical ways at local community level.



## Extending the connections through dementia-friendly church partners and resources

- **Local partnerships** particularly through the local [Dementia Action Alliance](#), as well as through other charities, such as the [Alzheimer's Society](#), [Age UK](#) and [Approach](#).
- **Other dioceses and beyond**, where we make connections and share ideas and resources.
- **Staffordshire University**, to help evaluate the impact of dementia-friendly churches work.
- **Memory boxes**, to enjoy reminiscing, making life-giving connections through 6-10 objects.
- **Sharing stories**, which are such a powerful tool in responding to the challenges of dementia.
- **Other resources** – we're glad to signpost people on to other resources that may help.

