



Dementia – Safeguarding and Risk Management

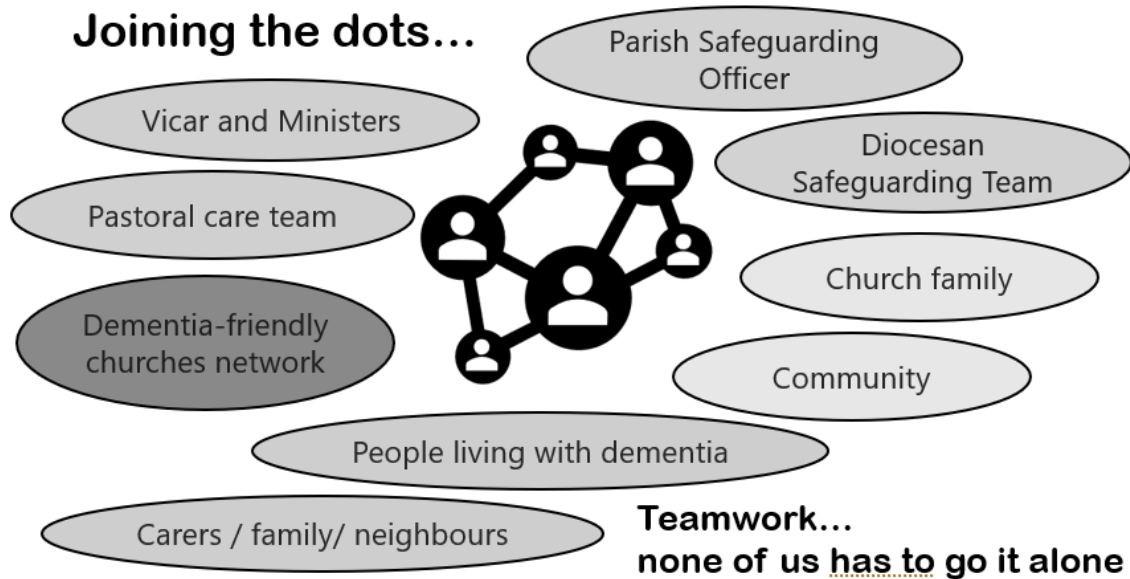
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Diocesan Safeguarding Conference
Dementia - Safeguarding and Risk Management
September 2025



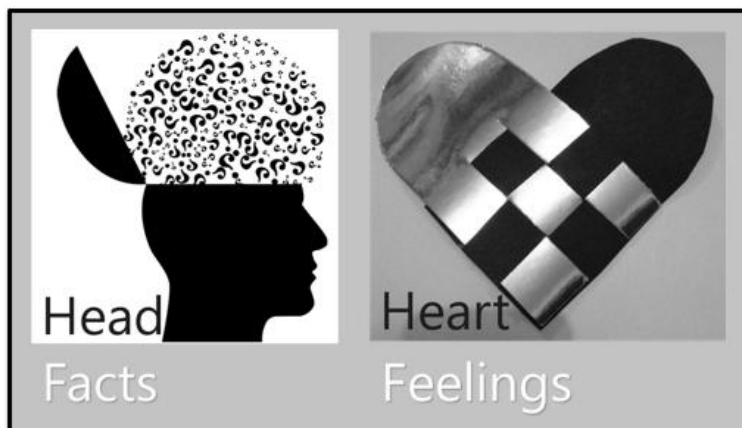
Joining the dots...



Dementia – Safeguarding and Risk Management



What's our experience of dementia?



Dementia – Safeguarding and Risk Management





Dementia – an umbrella term covering a range of brain diseases

Image by [OpenClipart-Vectors](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Key messages about dementia

1. Dementia is caused by ...
2. Dementia is not just about ...
3. Meet the whole person, ...
4. ... help us to keep in step as dementia progresses.

not just the dementia

understanding & support

losing your memory

diseases of the brain

Keeping in step as patterns change...



Freedom of religion and
worship: Article 9, Human
Rights Act 1988



Reasonable adjustments:
Disability discrimination
legislation

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CASE STUDY Kim

Kim is a Lay Reader and a member of the choir at St George's Church. She's been living with dementia for a while. She loves singing and joining the procession in church. But her balance isn't as good as it used to be and it's becoming more of a challenge to process in and out of church – and it's also a bit more challenging to find the right music for the next anthem and hymn during the service.

CASE STUDY Lily

Lily has been coming to church for years – and you think she's had a diagnosis of dementia but you're not sure which type. She never used to swear, but you are noticing some swear words slipping into your conversation with her and you're worried that other people may be offended. You heard some loud "tutting" from others at church today, over this.

CASE STUDY Joe

Joe comes to the church service at Christchurch most Sundays. He's lived with dementia for some years and lives alone. He's started to use his phone during the service, sometimes with sounds, in a way that's distracting to other people.

Safeguarding and dementia

Any allegation, disclosure, information or indication that someone may be at significant risk of harm?

NB Includes abuse/neglect...and goes wider too

Alzheimer's Society website:

- People with dementia will have cognitive symptoms that may make them more at risk of abuse or neglect...
- Carers may also be at risk of neglect and abuse especially if they are overburdened, isolated, lonely or experiencing severe stress.

Notice issues of vulnerability and power...

Six safeguarding principles: Care Act 2014

- **Empowerment:** We will encourage people to make their own decisions.
- **Prevention:** We think it is better to take action before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality:** We will seek the least intrusive response to the risk presented.
- **Accountability:** We will seek to be accountable and transparent in all matters relating to safeguarding.
- **Partnership:** We will work with others in our local community to detect and report concerns.
- **Protection:** We will support and represent those with the greatest need.



Five capacity principles: Mental Capacity Act 2005

- **Presume Capacity:** Start by thinking the person can make the decision.
- **Support individuals to make their own decisions:** Do all you can to help the person make the decision.
- **The right to make unwise decisions:** You must not say a person lacks capacity just because the decision seems unwise.
- **Decisions in best interests:** Use a best interest checklist if the person can't make a decision.
- **Less restrictive option:** Check that the decision made does not stop the individual's freedom more than needed.



NB Capacity may fluctuate

CASE STUDY Mary

Mary comes to a singing group at church. People running the group have recently learned that she's got a diagnosis of dementia. They are thinking that they should say that she needs to come to the group with a carer.

Risk Management

- Noticing concerns
- Non-judgmental teamwork
- Expanding the team



CASE STUDY Jaden and Zoe

Jaden and Zoe live near to St Peter's Church. Jaden was diagnosed with dementia two or three years back – and you believe he is living with fronto-temporal dementia. For the last year or so, he's been coming to a church coffee morning regularly, which you coordinate. His partner Zoe drops him off at church, so that she has an hour to get on with the weekly shopping, before coming back to pick Jaden up – and it gives Jaden a bit of a break too. Last week, he got agitated and wanted to leave and walk home: he took a bit of persuading to settle down and have a cuppa. Also, you've been noticing Jaden becoming more tactile over the months; today when you welcomed him he wanted to give you a kiss. He's never done that before and you are left wondering about boundaries and safeguarding.

Safeguarding Concern Form

- Name and role/involvement
- Your contact details
- Person at risk or of concern – health needs/disabilities
- Describe situation/concerns – including where & who
- Who do you feel may be at risk?
- What has already been done to manage any risk?
- Who else have you informed? (Social Care, Health, Police, family etc.)
- Anything else you would like to tell us?

Safeguarding Concern Form
Please pass this form to your Parish Safeguarding Officer or email to relax@nichfieldandparish.org and parish.human@nichfieldandparish.org

1. Please can you tell us your name and a little about your role?

2. How can we make contact with you? (Please include any relevant numbers or email addresses)

3. Who is the person that is of concern? What are their health needs? Do they have any disabilities?

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Risk Management Plan Format

- Nature of risk
- Action taken
- By whom
- Review

Nature of Risk.	Action taken	By Whom	Review
When visiting 'x' at home he is accusing pastoral visitor of stealing his Wallet which will later turn up. This is placing staff at risk of false accusation.	Staff will visit 'x' in pairs in order to ensure that the actions of volunteers can be accounted for in twos. Any concerns will be recorded and communicated back to his daughter.	Pastoral Visitors.	In 6 months.

CASE STUDY Mikael and Anya

Mikael and Anya are regular members of the congregation at Holy Trinity Church. Mikael was diagnosed with vascular dementia and some years back and patterns have been changing for them, as a couple, over time. Anya is Mikael's main informal carer: Mikael isn't driving any more and he's needing more support from Anya for everyday living. Also, this year there has been a marked change his mood and behaviour, becoming more volatile. Mikael is getting increasingly frustrated - and today after a church event you heard a real verbal outburst, with him shouting at Anya and hitting out at her. It's left you concerned for her personal safety, but you know that things are at full stretch for them and you don't want to put extra pressure on them.

"Safeguarding and Dementia" blog on the Diocesan website

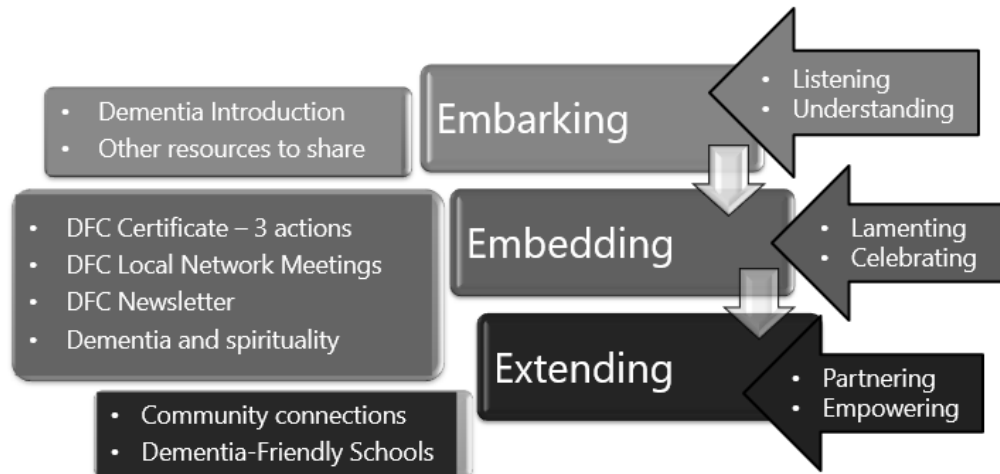
<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/news/safeguarding-dementia.php>

From our October 2024 "Safeguarding and Dementia" session, we have the following resources to share:

- 50-minute [YouTube video: "Dementia and Safeguarding" presentation](#) by Neil Spiring and Peter Hurd
- [Safeguarding & Dementia Introduction](#) document;
- [Dementia Case Studies – Changes & Challenges](#);
- [Dementia Case Studies – Responses to Changes and Challenges](#);
- [Safeguarding Concern Form](#); and
- [PowerPoint slides from the "Safeguarding and Dementia" session.](#)

**NB Key
resource for
you here**

Dementia-Friendly Churches network



Dementia – Safeguarding and Risk Management



God of all,
Bless all our churches as places of welcome and hospitality,
places of compassion and safety,
places of connection and love for all.
Bless us to share small acts of love,
freely given to one another,
so that Christ may be made known in our
community.
Bless us to walk together as friends,
recognising that God journeys with us
as we turn our understanding into action
and live with hope in our hearts. Amen



About our Dementia-Friendly Churches and Schools Network

The Dementia-Friendly Churches and Schools network in the Diocese of Lichfield brings together communities across Staffordshire, The Black Country and north Shropshire. We work together to increase understanding about dementia, listening to its impact and learning from one another as we stay in step with people living with dementia. We are glad to journey together, becoming more dementia friendly.

Dementia-Friendly Churches:

<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/inclusion/dementia-friendly-church/>

Dementia-Friendly Schools: <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/becoming-dementia-friendly-schools/>

If you would like to receive our dementia-friendly churches Newsletter or to take next steps on becoming more dementia-friendly, please contact:

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