

# Vulnerable Adults

## CREATED IN HIS IMAGE



**Some guidelines for individuals and churches who are involved with people who have dementia.**

*They still bear fruit in old age....still fresh and green  
Psalm 92:12*

*Are your wonders known in the darkness of your  
saving help in the land of forgetfulness Psalm 88:12*



Diocese of  
Liverpool

## **Some reminders which you will find helpful to remember!**

1. 3 out of 4 people won't develop dementia.
2. People who have dementia have the same physical, emotional and spiritual needs as you.
3. The Diocese has guidelines for visiting Vulnerable Adults for you to use as working documents.
4. You are not on your own – people, training and other resources are available.

The National Dementia Strategy in Objective 6 talks of improved community personal support service emphasising flexible services.

Churches that are carefully and prayerfully equipped can be part of this flexible service.

**How aware are you** of people in your church that are mentally frail? Dementia has many stages and phases so individual responses are essential.

Your church may have people who would be able to be part of this vital ministry. Find them, resource them, use them!

Family carers are a huge resource, who themselves need to be resourced, so do build relationships with those both within and outside the church.

## **Some advice in communicating with people with dementia**

### **To Approach someone you should:**

- Stand close to them
- Speak to them by their chosen name
- Use touch to assist in communication
- Stand/sit/kneel at his/her height; Face to face

## **To communicate with someone you should:**

- Not ask questions
- Not contradict
- Give time for the person to respond
- Respond thoughtfully to their response

## **What are the barriers to people coming forward to work with those who are mentally frail?**

**Past experience** – someone close to them who has or has had dementia. They may not be the person for front line involvement but their wealth of experience can be of great value.

**Fear** – “Is this going to happen to me?” **Remember–reminder 1**

**“I won’t know what to do”. Remember–reminder 4**

## **Is it worth doing? – Yes!!**

Quotes received by people who are already part of this ministry:

- A persons sings ‘La, la, la Jesus’
- ‘I like your face’
- ‘I think God is here’
- ‘You feel better’ – said after communion

and some silent quotes

- Huge welcoming smiles
- Nodded response to the Lord’s prayer
- Clapping to a hymn or song
- Bright, bright eyes as you connect with each other

If you are thinking that you might like to become involved or have any queries or questions please contact:

Mary Kessler, Diocese Older People's Adviser

e-mail: [marykess42@gmail.com](mailto:marykess42@gmail.com)

Mary is also happy to meet with individuals or groups who would like to know more.

**Other resources:**

Admiral Nurses – The Dementia Relief Trust, 6 Camden High Street, London, NW1 0JH. Telephone 0207874 7210 Fax 020 7874 7219.

Department of Health: [www.dh.gov.uk/dementia](http://www.dh.gov.uk/dementia)

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

Patient UK: [www.patient.co.uk/health/Memory-Loss-and-Dementia.htm](http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Memory-Loss-and-Dementia.htm)

Family Caregivers Alliance (American but good):  
[www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/home.jsp](http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/home.jsp)

Dementia Centre  
<http://www.dementiacentre.com/>

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