## TEN PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING A MORE DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCH



# **GOLDEN RULE: Ask and involve people affected by dementia**

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- (1) WELCOMERS: Our Welcomers at church services are Dementia Friends or understand the key facts about dementia.
- 2 TRAINING: People from church have attended awareness-raising sessions or training to understand more about dementia.
- 3 BUILDINGS: We have reviewed our church buildings for dementia-friendliness e.g. pictorial signage for the toilets.
- 4 SERVICES: We have reviewed our church services for dementia-friendliness e.g. visual prompts, familiar hymns and prayers.
- (5) INFORMATION: We regularly share information on dementia e.g. in displays, notices or notice sheets.
- (6) MENTION: We openly talk about dementia, in church services (prayers and sermons) and beyond.
- 7 PASTORAL SUPPORT: We offer pastoral support for carers as well as people living with dementia, including transport.
- (8) NAMED CO-ORDINATOR: We have a named dementia (or disability) co-ordinator, aware of local charities/resources.
- (9) MEMORY BOXES: We have Memory Boxes available in church.
- 10 SPECIAL EVENTS OR SERVICES: We offer special events or services focusing on dementia.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS OR SERVICES: EXAMPLES**

- Monthly Forget-me-not tea for people living with dementia and their carers
- Regular film afternoon for carers and the people they care for.
- Forum on dementia with input from people locally living and working with dementia.
- An event for Dementia Awareness Week e.g. a tea, a tea dance or a special service perhaps a Songs of Praise format, interviewing people living and working with dementia.

### **TRAINING: EXAMPLES**

- Dementia Friends Information Session.
- Dementia-Friendly Churches course run by the diocese.
- Other training offered e.g. by the Council.