

# **Dementia Friendly Churches – Developing a Dementia Information Pack**

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## **Dementia Friendly Churches**

are accessible and inclusive towards people with dementia and their carers

work in partnership with other local organisations to help create a dementia friendly community

Churches are a key feature in many local communities and have an important role in the creation of dementia friendly communities

Many people have a link with their local church - either through attendance or past events like a christening, wedding or funeral.

Livability is UK's largest Christian disability charity and provides opportunity and support for disabled and disadvantaged people through education, rehabilitation, residential facilities and community engagement.

**Livability's Dementia Friendly Church Initiative** challenges the stigmatisation and marginalisation of people with dementia and facilitates their increased voice, and active participation and choice in society.

## **Churches have an important position in many local communities**

Working with other organisations through the creation of a dementia friendly community is one way Christians and Churches may promote a fair and inclusive society that is consistent with its theology and ethos and is a practical demonstration of God's love for all people, including people with dementia.

**Livability's Dementia Friendly Churches Initiative** contributes to the national discussion about the creation of dementia friendly communities and also offers training for Christians and Churches on dementia friendly practice

**Greenbelt** - Christian Arts Festival - 350 new Dementia Friends - with Alli from Alzheimer's Society

**Dementia Friendly Church Training** - evening, one day and four day workshops

**Church Information Pack** Joint project between Livability and Alli Anthony, Alzheimer's Society ...

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# Connecting Communities

3 year project funded by DH to:

- Raise awareness of dementia among Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in London
- Highlight existing local services like memory clinics, BAME specific services, our services and others
- Stress the importance of early diagnosis
- Give preventative messages on healthy eating, lifestyle, keeping physically and mentally active

# The timing is right

- The numbers speak for themselves
- Communities want to engage
- Time for positive changes
- APPG report
- Julia and Karan's work
- DFC – faith work

# The Church Pack Pilot

- Co production between Alzheimer's Society and Livability
  - Building on faith links
  - Identity and faith for people with dementia
  - Ageing population in some churches
  - Dementia Friendly Community work
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# The Pack



- Introduction
- Policy Context
- Factsheets
- Top ten tips for being dementia friendly
- Sermon outline
- Group study notes
- Reading and resource list
- Evaluation forms

# Learning from experience

## Feedback so far

- Need for awareness raising first
- Simple practical tips needed
- Pack too long and ambitious!
- Working with existing local services
- Could a church do a simple action plan



We're happy to share our  
experiences –  
come and talk to us!

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