



## **Dementia Action Group**

*Churches Together in Cornwall*

*(Charity No. 1053889)*

# **Supporting people living with Dementia in church and community**

### **An increasing concern:**

The incidence of dementia is increasing, its impact profound, not only for the individual but also for their extended family, their friends, and indeed their community. Dementia is widely feared and frequently misunderstood. Without support, those living with the condition can experience isolation, and in the church context, loss of contact.

### **Initiatives in Cornwall:**

Since 2015, the Dementia Action Group has been seeking to provide information for church groups, which encourages consideration of how they might become more dementia aware. The aim is to enable and equip all worshipping communities to meet the needs encountered and to provide appropriate pastoral care.

### **How can the Dementia Action Group help your church?**

**Four sessions** are offered. The individual, but linked, sessions are approximately 75 mins in length. Discussion and sharing of experience are encouraged.

**For details see over.**

## **Part 1 Understanding Dementia**

**Session 1: A 'Dementia Friends'** awareness session as devised by the Alzheimer's Society.

**Session 2: Caring for Carers:** understanding the pressures and issues the disease can present.

*These two sessions are appreciated by a wide group of church members, also by those from the wider community.*

## **Part 2: Being a Caring Church:**

### **Session 3: The Dementia Aware church**

Asking the questions: what may influence continued inclusion and participation? How and why might the physical environment, the worship styles experienced, the attitudes and actions displayed, be of importance?

### **Session 4: Pastoral Care**

Exploring effective practical and spiritual support within church activities and in the provision of Pastoral Care. Personal boundaries and safeguarding issues are considered, in relation both to church attendance and home visiting. A model of Pastoral Care, 'Friendly Faces' is outlined for discussion.

*These sessions are aimed particularly at church leadership groups and pastoral care workers.*

### **For further information please contact:**

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*'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'* (Jeremiah 29:11)