

**“STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY”
DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SERVICE
HELD AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, MEOLE BRACE, SHREWSBURY
IN MAY 2018**

A dementia-friendly service was held in Dementia Action Week 2018 at Holy Trinity Church, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury. The service was put together by Pete Martin and David Latcham. They have generously agreed to share material from the service here, so that other churches can use this as a basis for a dementia-friendly service in their own context.

The following pages contain:

- Notes explaining more about the service and the planning ideas behind it
- The service sheet format; and
- “Courage to love” prayers used as the Opening Prayers in the service.

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NOTES EXPLAINING MORE ABOUT THE SERVICE AND THE PLANNING IDEAS BEHIND IT

Ethos

The service was designed to be both a service for those living with dementia but also those who are caring for those living with dementia.

- Hymns were chosen that were familiar and maybe could be recalled from memory, especially with well-known tunes.
- The service was designed to last no longer than 45 minutes with a simple flow through it.
- Words for the hymns were printed in a service sheet but also projected on large screens.
- A church was chosen that was spacious and well lit, again with a traditional feel to it that would bring an air of familiarity to it.

Practicalities

- It was decided to have the service on a Saturday rather than a Sunday so that it did not impact on normal church going routine for those attending.
- A service sheet was printed for all in a dementia friendly font and large print versions were available.
- It was important that those living with dementia would have a voice in the service and therefore a place for personal testimony was included in the service.
- A small team of 'welcomers' were there to greet those attending the service and all wore name badges.
- The service would have a relaxed feel about it with an air of informality throughout. The congregation were encouraged to either sit or stand for the hymns.
- Refreshments were served after the service.

Service outline

The first half of the service was focussed on the thoughts and concerns that those attending may have. The opening prayer reflected this as it was a thanksgiving for lives lived to that point. Concluding this section, those attending the service were encouraged to write a person or concern they had on a forget-me-not flower card and these were then arranged on stalks and placed at the front of the church. These words formed the prayers of intercession. The intention was that all have concerns, whether it be the carer or the person living with dementia. As individuals we come together in prayer, the flower cards

not only being a well-known dementia symbol but also symbolised the beauty of prayer for others.

The second half of the service focussed on how we are all in relation to God, known by God and loved equally by God. He knows us all by name (hence the name badges worn by all) and that love is shown to us even though we may have an illness. At the conclusion of the short address there was an act of encouragement. The intention was to have an act that those living with dementia could do for those who were carers too. It was intended that instead of receiving ministry, those living with dementia and those caring for loved ones with dementia could share in a ministry to each other and therefore all were asked to anoint each other with oil. Anointing with oil is an historic ministry within the church, both as a sign of blessing and a sign of healing. This also brought in a sense of touch. It was felt it was positive to affirm that those who normally are cared for were able to share in this ministry equally and it was affirming to see those living with dementia anointing those who are normally their carers as well as loved ones. During the administering of the oil positive images of hope, comfort and love for one another and by God were displayed on large screens.

Finally, all held hands at the end for the final blessing.

Strength for the Journey



Trinity Church
Meole Village
26th May 2018

Welcome

Leader: We come in worship to God
All: **In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world**
Leader: We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus
All: **And who knows us by name**
Leader: We come with our faith and doubts
All: **With our hopes and fears**
Leader: We come as we are
All: **We come to God in worship**

Hymn: Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.

O King of glory, my victory won;
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Opening Prayer

Reading: Psalm 23

Hymn: The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be

Prayers: All are invited to write a person or place or situation on their flower for their own prayer

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

Prayers

Reading John 10:1-5,14-15

Short Address

Act of Faith

Hymn: Lord, the light of your love is shining
 In the midst of the darkness, shining
 Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
 Set us free by the truth you now bring us
 Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Blessing

We wish to thank all who have contributed to this service
and given their time freely.
Special thanks are extended to Trinity Church at Meole Village
for hosting this service.
All are welcome to join together in the Trinity Centre
for refreshments after the service.

“COURAGE” TO LOVE – OPENING PRAYERS

Let us remember that we meet in the presence of God who loves us:
Who knows us better than we know ourselves,
and perhaps better than we want or are able to know ourselves sometimes.
Who knows our needs before we ask;
And who, knowing us completely, loves us
With a love that is rich and warm, intimate and detailed,
And yet more vast than we can ever begin to imagine.

As I pray, I'll say the words: **God who knows us,**
Please respond with the words **God who loves us.**

God who knows us,
God who loves us

O God our creator, your love is our home and our refuge,
A sure defence against the storm,
A strong tower where we can take shelter
From the overwhelming wave of loss and struggle,

God who knows us,
God who loves us

O God our Saviour, your love is our guardian and our guide
A staff on which we can lean
In times of anxiety and weakness,
A support when we are burdened by the weight of others' need.

God who knows us,
God who loves us

O God our Life, your love is the energy
Which takes us into each new day;
The faith which gives us courage to love and be loved,
The joy which renews us in hope.

God who knows us,
God who loves us

O God our Creator, our Saviour, our Life,
Your love is the refuge which holds us,
You are steadfast as a rock beneath our feet,
And your word is our secure foundation.
In our walk with you, and our walk with each other,
Guide and protect us in your love.

God who knows us,
God who loves us.

Amen.