

VOICES OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY
DEMENTIA from conversations on
dementia and spirituality/faith
shared at the "Dementia &
Spirituality" Training Session on
23 September 2021
DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD
DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCHES

I don't
know
what to
do

I've been
in
lockdown
for years

I am who I am
today. Not who I
was yesterday. Yet
still in the image of
God. Who do you
think I am?

I need my hour to
myself in the
morning to walk in
the garden and talk
to God. (family
carer)

I've got
no-one to talk
to. (family
carer)

God will not
burden me
beyond my
means

I pray with my wife
everyday. What we
can recall does not
matter because God
hears us as we are
and we listen as we
are, where we are.

Where is God,
why is he
doing this?

Over the past 18
months during Covid
my physical and
emotional energies
can become drained.
It is difficult to
separate the impact
of Covid versus
developing dementia.
(carer)

Emotional effects
are that death of my
husband several
years ago has
become to feel
recent again

As a domiciliary carer,
over 20% of clients
had dementia - as did
my uncle and before
care work my mother
had brain tumour
with appearance of
dementia. All were
very different people.
All were still lovely
people.

I wish I could
remember. Yet it is
in the struggle and
frustration to
remember that I
despair. When I
stop struggling and
accept where I am I
can find a peace.

It is very important
for me to be around
a few people who
have a true and
genuine
understanding of
the everyday
challenges of life as
a carer

Trust and all will be
well. Bible verse
Luke 10 30-31 the
Good Samaritan - I
am their Good
Samaritan because I
don't pass her by.

God helps me
keep things in
perspective
and not feel
helpless
(carer)

I've lost
him but
he's still
here

Let my
emotions rule
my reactions
& then feel
very guilty

The strongest
energies at the
moment are
intellectual
(weakened some
days) and spiritual
(stable). (carer)

As a listener
to the above I
found myself
needing to do
the same. Not
very easy.

Ron was a driver
losing his licence
was agony that he
never accepted. God
& church never a
part of his life

God is with me all
the time and calms
me if I am fed up
with a life of
forgetfulness! And I
know he will
continue to follow
me until I go to
meet him.

As Waterways
Chaplains we might
meet people on
canal but then not
see them again for
some time.

It's getting harder
and harder, but
Brian gave me a
piece of his work
which has got those
words from the
Bible about love...
1 Corinthians 13...

Hello, this is God. I
will be handling all
of your problems
and concerns today.
That's my job. Your
job is to give them
to me and then trust
me. Have a great
day.

My faith
remains
strong, I feel
that God is
with me in my
dementia.

Church feels a safe
place where I can
turn up and know
that I will be cared
for and understood

I can't blame
God for my
diagnosis

Trying to remain
part of church
community is
important to me,
joining in services
for as long as
possible.

God remains
my support
and I confide
in him as I
always have.

to carry on
doing things
which are
familiar

Go out of my
way to sort
something &
interpretation
totally
different

Feel like I am
following
Jesus on his
way to the
cross

... and when I get
really angry I read
this, it's on the
mantelpiece and I go
into the living room
and read it no matter
what the time, day or
night and it ALWAYS
calms me down.

Q: Has his
dementia
affected your
faith? She
said: No it has
deepened it.

Trust and all
will be well
following in
the footsteps
of St Chad.

I can't
do
church

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