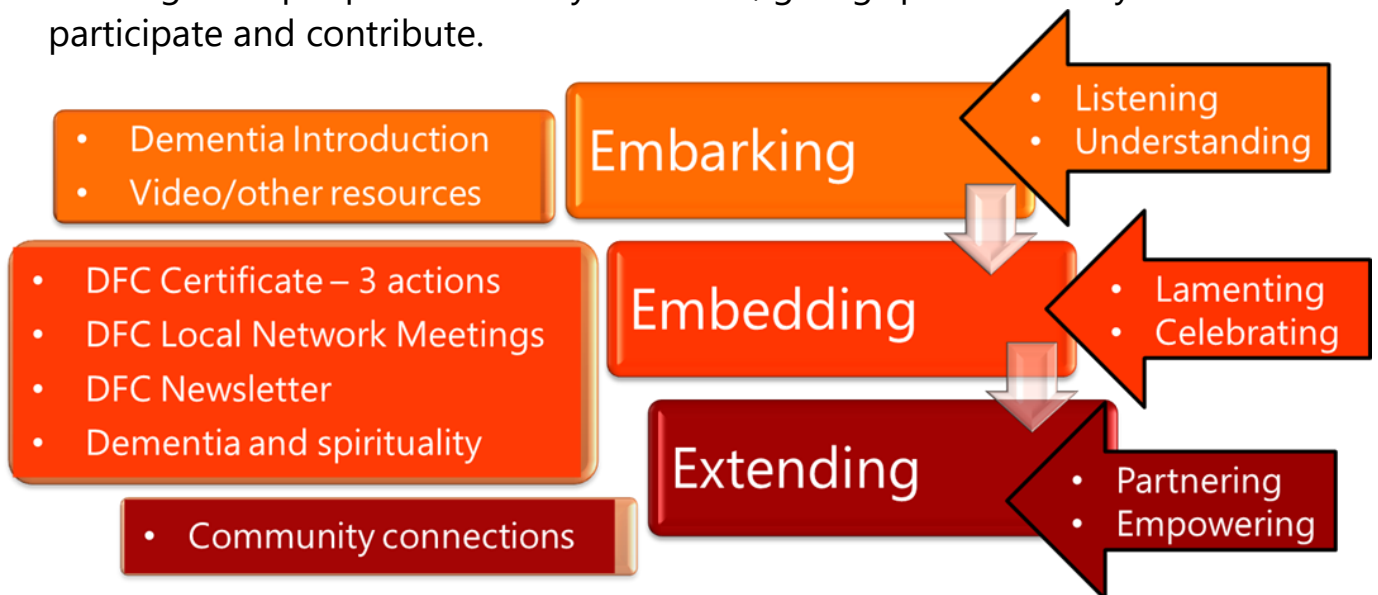




Becoming Dementia Friendly Church

**Our Diocese of Lichfield
Dementia-Friendly Churches
Network supports churches
across Staffordshire, north Shropshire and The Black Country
in becoming more dementia-friendly churches
at the heart of dementia-friendly communities:**

- Increasing dementia awareness, so that we understand more about dementia and can stay in step as patterns change through advancing dementia; and
- Welcoming and understanding, respecting and supporting, listening to and learning from people affected by dementia, giving space for everyone to participate and contribute.



Our three-stage framework for our Dementia-Friendly Churches network involves “Embarking, Embedding, Extending”, as more fully explained below.

Please do get in touch – it’ll be good to work together.

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Performance in Lichfield Cathedral
of “The Disappearance of Eliza Grey”, a dementia-focused play

Embarking

Getting started, naming and facing dementia together and sharing understanding and experience

Our network offers resources and support here, including:

- Dementia introduction/awareness – sharing key messages; and
- Video and other resources – taking the conversation further.

Listening & Understanding

- Are we ready to “learn from the expert”, the person with lived experience of dementia? We can ask what helps and what’s difficult.
- Do we understand enough about dementia to be able to stay in step, to support and keep connections?

I don't want to be pitied.
I want to be understood.

Ask us about it.
Dispel the myths.

Embedding

Making dementia-friendliness an on-going part of what it means to be a transformative church presence in our local community, as we continue to stay in step through lived experience of advancing dementia

Our network offers resources and support here, including:

- Dementia-Friendly Church Certificates, setting out three actions on dementia for the year ahead, signed by Bishop Michael Ipgrave, with over one hundred churches across the Diocese already participating;
- Dementia-Friendly Church Local Network Meetings, giving trusted space to share ideas, experiences and encouragement across our churches;
- Our Dementia-Friendly Churches Newsletter, sharing news and stories, resources and information so that no-one has to reinvent the wheel; and
- A focus on dementia and spirituality, with an opportunity to explore and deepen our faith, as we stay connected with God and each other through dementia.

Lamenting & Celebrating

- Is there space to acknowledge the cost and challenge of dementia – naming all that’s being let go of?
- And is there also space to affirm continuing life each step of the way, noticing the light shining through, even when patterns change?

Diagnosis is like a bereavement.

It’s not an end. There’s a life to live.



Dementia-Friendly Church Certificate



Sponsored Memory Walk organised by one of our churches

Extending

Making dementia-friendly connections across our community

Our Network offers resources and support here, including:

- Our Dementia-Friendly Schools Network for schools with a strong church connection <https://www.ldbe.co.uk/becoming-dementia-friendly-schools/>;
- Support in participating in local partnerships and initiatives, coming together with others taking action on dementia locally - perhaps working with the local surgery, schools, shops, home care providers, libraries, police and fire services, residential care homes and/or other faith or community groups and also with charities, such as [Alzheimer's Society](#), [Dementia UK](#), [Alzheimer's Research UK](#), [Dementia Carers Count](#), and [Age UK](#);
- [Our Dementia-Friendly Churches Blog](#) sharing stories, resource and encouragement and resourcing and empowering others to take next steps; and
- Other resources are freely made available on our website – and we're glad to share these within and beyond the Diocese of Lichfield.

Partnering & Empowering

- Within our local communities, who else is engaging with dementia and taking action on it? How can we work together?
- And how can we give a voice to people affected by dementia? Also, how do we empower volunteers, encouraging them too?

We can do so much more together.

There's so much still to give – giving in a different way.