

Dementia Action Week Prayers 2024

"Wherever we are, and whatever conditions we live with, the gates of prayer are always open to us; and even if we find we cannot pray ourselves, others can pray with us and for us.

I commend these prayers for people living with dementia. They speak clearly and simply of a God who is always close to us, and always attentive to the cries of our heart."

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE, 99th Bishop of Lichfield

**Prayer written by Alison Derwent,
especially remembering Heather, Nonny
and husband carer Andy**

Father we bring to you now all living with the bewilderment of dementia.

Give those who care, patience, love, stamina and spaces in which to feel free from stress.

Give all the sure knowledge that they are held in Your wisdom and guiding Love.

Amen

Prayer written by Geraldine Somerton

Dear Lord,

Please give me help and understanding as we journey through the unknown face of dementia.

As a carer, guide me always to find the best way to see through the confusion and delight in holding the hand of the person I love; and may the smile on his face shine through.

Amen

**Prayer written by Linda Gillion,
a guide at the Cathedral**

O Lord, only you know the battles we face, the tears we shed.

Help us to live this and every day under the shadow of your wing.

Give us patience to forebear whatever life brings us. courage to face it head on, strength to keep moving forward, laughter to enjoy ourselves and above all your love to encompass it.

Amen

**Prayer written by a child at St Paul's
Church of England School, Longton, Stoke-
on-Trent, contributed by teacher Mrs Boulton**

Dear God, we pray that those with dementia would feel free again.

May they always feel loved and welcomed.

Amen

**Prayer written by a Brownie, contributed
by Ivy Leese, Brownie leader at St Mary &
St Chad, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent**

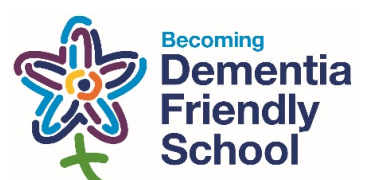
Dear Lord,

We pray for all affected by dementia.

In this difficult journey grant hope, comfort, peace and strength to everyone.

Amen

For more on the Diocese of Lichfield dementia-friendly church network, contact Sarah Thorpe, Dementia-Friendly Church Enabler on 0798 224 8949 or sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org or see lichfield.anglican.org/dementia-friendly-church/



Contributions received within Share a Prayer through Dementia 2024

Towards Dementia Action Week 2024, people were invited to write and share their own prayer through dementia, within our "Share a Prayer through Dementia" initiative, endorsed by the Bishop of Lichfield, The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave. We have chosen from these five prayers, three written by adults and two by children, as our Diocese of Lichfield Dementia Action Week Prayers for 2024 – as set out on page 1. We received many other powerful prayers and Bishop Michael is very encouraged by the wide range of prayers received. These prayers are written by people in different situations: some of the children who have written prayers are clearly grappling honestly with what it means to live with a progressive disease.

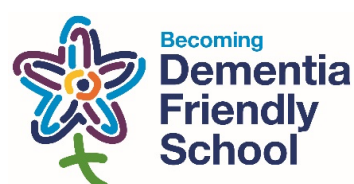
Dear Lord

Shine your ever guiding light on all those that need support,
caring for or living with the struggles of dementia.
Shine your ever guiding light and embrace them in their darkest days,
give them hope and strength and courage.
Shine your ever guiding light to show them where there is support
and allow them to live the best life they can.
Shine your ever guiding light to enable them
to continue with their faith in all its glory,
knowing that they are loved and cherished.
Shine your ever guiding light so that they know you are always by their side,
walking with them along this strange and sometimes frustrating path.
Surround them with kindness and compassion, that the light
will forever glow and bring comfort to them on their journey.

Amen

Dear Lord

You looked down on me, chose me, and singled me out,
As I lived as a good Christian and without any doubts.
Please help people to understand, dementia is not just for the old,
It has no parameters and preys totally uncontrolled.
Help people to not judge me, avoid me, for not remembering their name,
Forgetting words, losing my way, it's all part of dementia's game.
Lord, help me be brave, to fight, continue to survive,
With my friend's support, my family spurring me to strive.



Please be by their side and hold their hands tight,
As they walk dementia with me, with all of their might.

Amen

God of love and care,

we give thanks to you for the strength you bring to us all each day.
When our energies and some memories fade you sustain us through your grace.
We pray for all those whose journey changes,
as what was changes, as what will be changes
yet your love encompasses each step.
Help us to enter the spaces and places which may be unfamiliar to us on the paths.
Comfort and heal those who give their selfless, caring time
providing love and support that is all seen by you.
May all their hearts feel the warmth of your compassion
but especially those whose lives are slowing down,
memories fading and who may feel themselves to be on a lonely path.

Amen

Dear God,

Please be with all carers, especially children,
who find themselves having to stay at home
in order to keep a loved one safe.

Amen

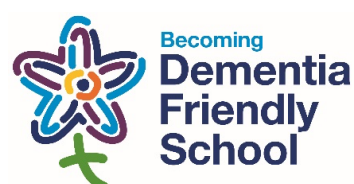
Loving Lord

You are the light
when our earthly bodies grow weary and faint.
You are the constant,
as we are reminded through the history of this Cathedral
and the ministry of Saint Chad,
who offered, healing, hope, and peace of mind to all that follow you.
We pray now for the gentle breeze of your Holy Spirit,
to guide us on our journey of life.
Thank you that you are the Good Shepherd
that always protects his sheep,
now and forever more.

Amen

Dear Father in Heaven,

We share our prayers for the people living with dementia.
We pray for the people that are living with this illness



and all the families and friends who are living through this with them.
Give them care, love and a deep understanding
of all the problems of this difficult illness.
May God's love and understanding help them all.

Amen

Dear Lord,

When my mind can't focus and words fail me,
come by your Holy Spirit and keep me
peaceful and safe in your loving care,
In Jesus name, **Amen**

Some thoughts when addressing a dementia prayer:

We cannot separate brain from heart
Try as we will, they will not part
However hard we try to train
We cannot take heart from brain

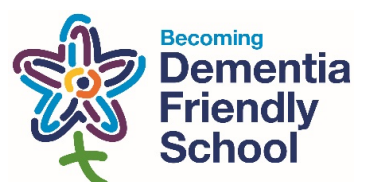
As with the forget-me-not flower
Which intermingles by the hour
The brain is guided by the heart
The heart and brain do not part

'I forget what I'm asked, oh dear me'
'I cannot decide what to have for tea'
'I cannot remember where to go'
'I have happy days in amongst it tho'

My many mood changes cause confusion
Words come out all wrong
I'd like to be able to make a decision
I know I'm happy when I belong

I love to travel, go on a journey
Especially if the sky is stormy
Just steer away from the crowds
And where the music is too loud

My prayer would be for the very young
Who suffer from dementia -ities



We elderly folk have had a good life.
Please be with those in their fifties

Prayers written by children at St Paul's C of E Primary School, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent

and sent in my Mrs Hayley Boulton, class teacher and Christian
Distinctiveness Lead.

Almighty God,

we pray for those with dementia,
so gift them with peace, healing and love.
Give the families patience
and help us to know how best to offer support.

Amen

God

I pray for those with dementia.
Keep them safe and watch over them.
Guide them through life and give them happiness,
help them to see the world more clearly.

Amen

God

We pray for those families
who support someone with dementia.
May they remember the person they love
and give them strength when they have none.

Amen

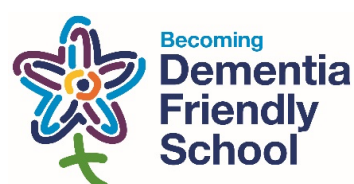
Dear Father

We pray for all the sick people in the world
especially people living with dementia.
May we send our love and prayers
to all who need your help and guidance at this time.

Amen

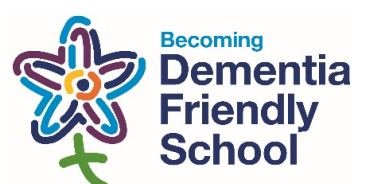
Heavenly father,

Bless all who living with dementia.
Be with families and those who care for them.



When they are tired and weary
please give them extra strength.
May they rely on your resources
and not on their own.
May they know the ministry of angels
standing in the gap for them.
Give them Godly wisdom
In how best to care for those they love.
For you, Lord Jesus Christ, are our Good Shepherd
and our redeemer in whom we put our trust.

Amen



Prayers written by the Brownie Pack led by Ivy Leese at St Mary & St Chad, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Our Father who art in heaven

Please help all with dementia
to give them hope and peace in life.
Please make some people help them
at times when they are confused
and forget where they live.

Amen

Dear God

We pray for people who have dementia
and help people to get better
and help them to remember stuff
and we pray for people in need
and needing help with stuff.

Amen

Heavenly God

We pray for all people with dementia.
We will try to help people with dementia.
I hold hope and love for all people with dementia.

Amen

Dear Heavenly Father,

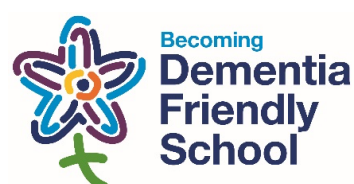
I pray to you to help
the ones with dementia
on this hard journey.

Amen

Dear Lord,

I wish I could help people with dementia
but sadly I can't
but I hope the people with dementia
can see their loved ones.

Amen



Dear Lord,

We respect all these loved ones
with the illness of dementia.

Grant them hope, peace and strength on this journey.

We wish them all the best.

Amen

Dear God

I hope that people with dementia
will recover from their battle
and start to remember their family and friends.

We hope that they will feel better.

We pray for them every second we get.

We do hope that they will recover from dementia
with their strength.

Amen

I also hope that people with dementia will be guided by God.

Heavenly father,

I hope that all people fighting dementia
with this journey will overcome
this hard fighting battle.

We all feel the pain they feel.

We hope that they may recover from this hard battle.

We hope that they will also feel better
if they don't remember things.

But we will pray for them to feel better.

Amen

