

A LETTER FROM REV RONA

Dementia-friendly Services – Re Member

In May the UK recognised Dementia Awareness week. You may have seen adverts or programmes relating to it.

As an Inclusive Church, something which has been voted on by our PCCs, the needs and care of every single person is our paramount concern. Somerset is statistically the county with the oldest population in the UK, and this is certainly something we experience in Church attendance.



I understand there are local groups and events to help those living with some form of Dementia, and those caring for them, and my intention is to meet them and discuss how we can join in. Our unique opportunity though, is to offer time and space for reflection and worship. Both of which enable everyone in our community to **remember** what it means to be a member. A member of a community, a congregation, a family, a group.

My plan is to introduce a short, simple, and profound service including hymns which everyone knows, other music, a short reflection and time of engaging with God's word in the Bible through creative means, enjoying refreshments and sharing simple prayers. Initially these services will be once a quarter and will take the place of the Holy Communion service at St John's. If they are popular then we will increase them to a monthly offering.

As memory is the key issue with Dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers, I have decided to call these services Re Member. What that means is that we can spend a focused, intentional, gentle, reflective time together as members of a community – and hopefully revive and restore those feelings of belonging.

Whether or not you have someone in your family or friendship group with memory problems, I urge you to come along and share some time with your community in Milborne Port. Jesus said that whenever we do things for 'the least of these' we do them for him. So even if you aren't a regular Church goer, you would be most welcome as we come together to remind each other of the importance of being a community, sharing our community and belonging.

*With very best wishes,
Rev Rona*