

Dementia has become a growing area of pastoral concern at Wesley as we have become increasingly aware of its impact on members, staff, volunteers and centre regulars. For over a year now we've been discussing how we might make a helping contribution through our weekday mission.

We are not alone in being concerned about dementia: it now affects 850,000 people in the UK, with numbers set to rise to over 1 million by 2025, and predicted to reach 2 million by 2051. Dementia cafés are increasingly common across the UK, providing safe, stimulating environments for those living with dementia and their carers. Alzheimer's disease is the cause in 60-80% of cases but there are many other diseases that can cause dementia.

Another growing social problem is loneliness, also referred to as social isolation. Thanks to the profile given to the phenomenon by the late Jo Cox MP, the government has appointed a Minister for Loneliness. Numerous funding bodies now direct grants and tenders at projects designed to reduce social isolation.

There are many potential causes of social isolation including bereavement, unemployment, mental or physical illness or disability. However, those living with dementia and their carers are both

particularly vulnerable to social isolation. In our creative thinking about what difference we can make through our weekday work, we felt we wanted to offer a safe space for those living with dementia but within a wider social mix, including others experiencing social isolation.

The Hive

So, our new project is to do just that, and it's called The Hive. It is a multi-activity session held in our refurbished worship area, which offers the space for many activities going on at the same time, like knitting, memory conversation, board games and table-top quizzes. The volunteer team includes our own Gillian L and Jan McC, as well as Fran D who volunteers with bread making on Wednesdays.

Our aim is to make the sessions participant-led, so we will be asking everyone about their interests and what they would like to do. The sessions will also offer a good pastoral connecting point, both for church members and those in the wider Wesley family. In that sense, The Hive is an opportunity for us to share together in offering hospitality and care to the wider community. Sessions are monthly on the fourth Thursday over the summer, after which we hope to increase to twice monthly.

News from the Church Family

Birth Congratulations:

Thanksgiving & Baptisms:

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Our aim is a weekly session, but we recognise it will take time to build up the volunteer team needed to support this.

You can help by....

1) Participating: come along to part of a session or drop in when you can

2) Volunteering: there are various roles – contact

Andrew for information

3) Spreading the word: take some postcard invites from the literature holders at Wesley to give to those you know who might value The Hive.

Andrew Herbert: Mission Development Officer

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Birthday Milestones:

We remember and give thanks for the life of:



The Wesley Church Centre
St. John Street, Chester

June 28th:

The World Cup

Table top quiz

Historic video footage



Summer Sessions 2018
Thursdays 10am-noon

Plus knitting, games, conversation and music

*Bring your friends!
Bring your ideas!*

Dementia inclusive

July 26th:

Railways

(80th anniversary of Mallard achieving 126mph)

Table top quiz

Historic video footage



August 23rd:

Summer Holidays

Bring your old holiday photos

