

Ministry with older people and emerging from lockdown

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Inspiring and equipping Christians to **reach**, **serve** and **empower** older people in every community, through the local church.

*“...they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green”. **Psalm 92: 13- 14***



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This session:

- Recognising challenges & setting the context
- Ministry with older people: Why?
- Ministry with older people: How?
- Faith in Later Life: Resources & Community



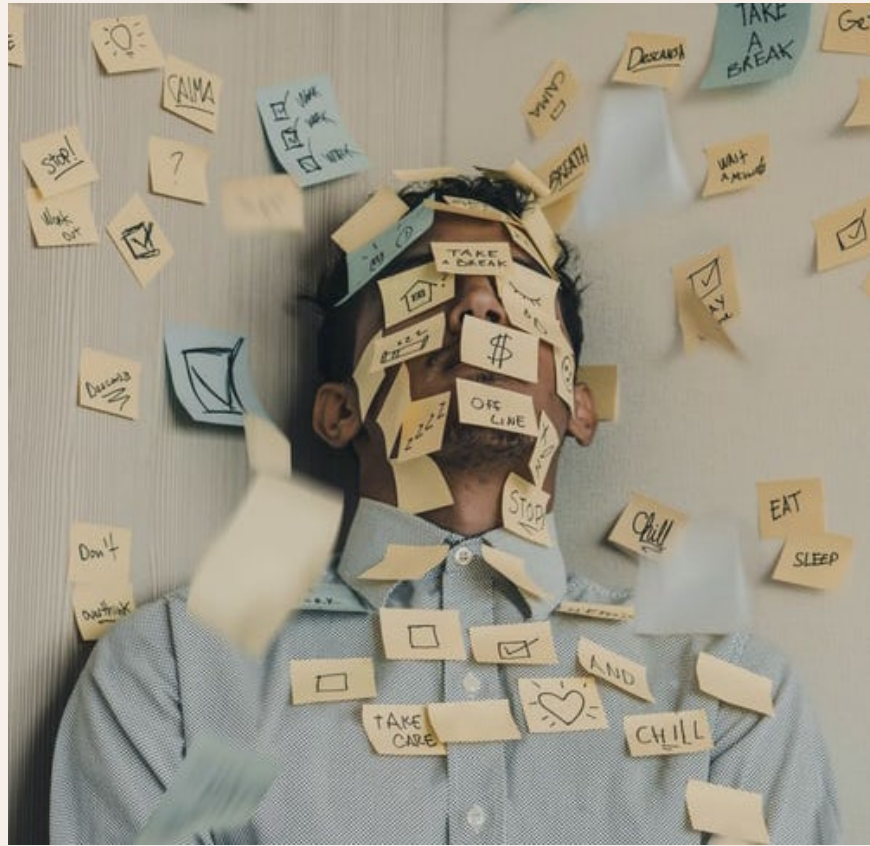
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Church leadership during Covid?



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Societal Context

11.9 million
older people in
the UK



Over 5 million older people
say that the TV or their pet is
their main company

41% of older people feel
out of touch with the
pace of modern life

Over 1.2 million older
people are **chronically**
lonely

A million+ older people go for over a
month without speaking to a friend,
neighbour or family member.

Ministry with older people: Why?

- ✔ *What is older?*
- ✔ *God designed old age*
- ✔ *We serve and receive!*



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God designed old age on purpose

To radiate His graciousness and righteousness (Proverbs 4:18), to share experiences; to tell out His works (Psalm 78, 71, 145...); to teach and encourage the younger generation (Titus, Timothy).

'...they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green...' Psalm 92: 13-14

Old age is a blessing from God

'With a long life I will satisfy him and let him see My salvation.' Psalm 91:16

'you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.'
Genesis 15:15



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Opportunity!

- 🌱 *Prayer*
- 🌱 *Experience*
- 🌱 *Wisdom*
- 🌱 *Maturity*
- 🌱 *Perspective*



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Ministry with older people: How?

- Don't make digital assumptions!
- Gentle encouragement can go a long way.
- Think innovation, but keep it simple.
- Acknowledge legitimate fear



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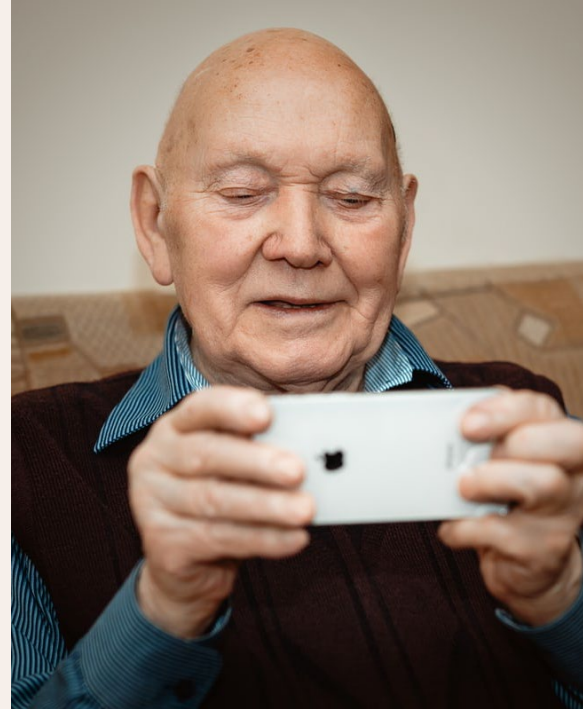
What is your church culture like?

- Recognising elderhood
- RAISE expectations: preach on seniors' value and purpose
- **Involve** as co-workers – ask for their ideas for *everything*: outreach, prayer ministry, blessing the young...
- Enable them to 'tell out' God's faithfulness.



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Do you work from home?



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Emerging from Lockdown: Suggestions

- Pray!
- Encourage all in your churches to be intentional calling and visiting older friends and neighbours, bring church TO them if necessary.
- Consider inviting seniors to small Garden Gatherings to increase confidence, encourage church members to host these.
- Share 'Daily Hope' free 24/7 telephone number with seniors, especially for the those who are housebound, unable/afraid to come out to church (0800 804 8044).
- Encourage church members to accompany older members of congregation to church, to build confidence and reassure.



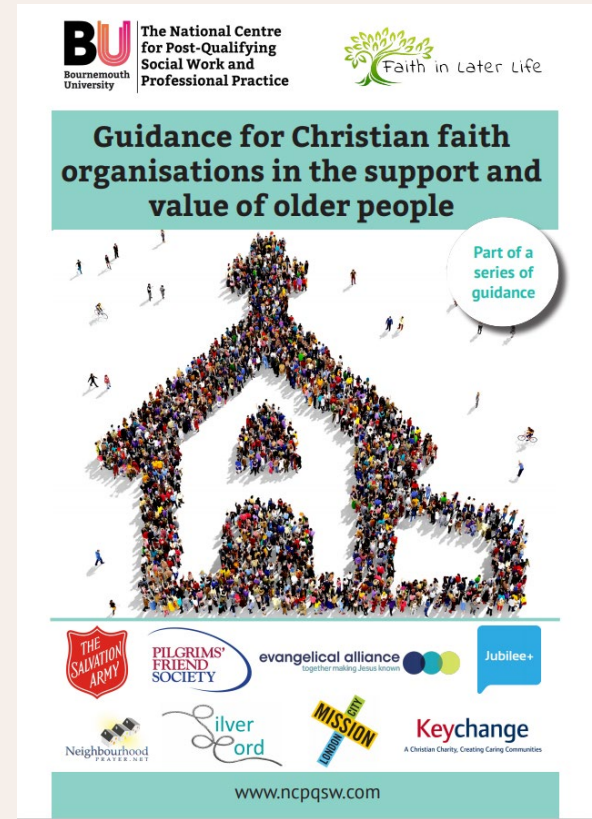
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Resources



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

www.faithinlaterlife.org



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Join our 'Church Champion' community

- Monthly 'training'
- New resources
- Regular feedback
- Social media support
- Annual conference



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Time for questions...



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