

WEBINAR LEARNINGS

Practical ideas for serving Older Generations



1/ THE NEED TO FIND BALANCE

Balance the digital and the personal. It's easy to jump straight to work out what can we do online as churches, and so we should, but we need to also hold on to the personal in this time. Balance between fresh innovation and pastoral response.

2/ MOBILISING PEOPLE TO SERVE

This is an opportunity to mobilise people to serve in fresh ways. It's a time actually develop and build every-member ministry.

3/ OLDER DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN TECHNICALLY ILLITERATE

It might be unnatural for many and impossible for some, but don't automatically rule people out.

PHONE CALLS



- Questions like 'What is life like for you at the moment?' or 'In what ways are you finding it difficult to do what needs to be done during this period of lockdown?' are softer, more open ways to identify need than 'how can I help you?'
- Rotating around who rings and chats to each person.
- How often do people need contacted to feel connected – some more than others.
- Take it in turns to ring people – change people around so not the same people ringing

WRITING LETTERS

- Writing letters Sending things in the post as well as letter – palm crosses etc

MUSIC



- The power of music to evoke memories and emotion in a way that is helpful and comforting. Churches have been capturing instrumental music of familiar songs and getting this to their older members.
- Encouraging younger people to record/ sing older songs and play them to older people.

VIRTUAL PRAYER WALKS

- Give people a route to follow in their local community and some thoughts to consider as they might be out on a walk.

DELIVERIES

- Dropping handgels to doors with a note of encouragement when restrictions have eased

DAILY CHECK IN'S

- Check in with those in your neighbourhood at the gate or doorstep, where people are encouraged to come out of their house at a certain time to shout across a fence, see other people's faces and generally check people are doing okay.

EXTENDED FAMILIES

- Considering linking up your church or community as extended families – looking out for each other, praying for each other, delegating some of the pastoral care to the church.

SIGNIFICANT LIFE MOMENTS

- Keeping note of others significant life moments (birthdays/ anniversaries) and making a special effort, particularly for those living alone

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DELIVERIES

- Delivering Christian magazines or newsletters
- Food drop offs
- CDs of recent services

PRAYER RESPONSE

- The words 'prayer' and 'what can I do in isolation' are popular google searches. Consider including prayers on your church website and things to do.

FUNERALS

- You could think about doing a memorial or thanksgiving again at another point.

WHATSAPP

- Make a WhatsApp group – not just contact but maybe a thought/verse for the day

ZOOM CALLS

- Invite others for a bible study on zoom ([check out Zoom guidelines here](#))

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

- Telephone system for sharing sermons etc ([read article on how to create here](#))

BUDDY OR ADOPTION SYSTEM

- where younger members of the church have made themselves willing to do shopping or collect prescriptions for vulnerable members of the church. In some cases this is centrally organised by leadership and in other places it's delegated out where individuals are assigned some older members to regularly touch base with. I think, either way, it enhances the whole-body ministry concept. So how can you divide up responsibilities across the church? Ask people to step up. Give people a list of people they can get in touch with.

RESOURCES

- Resource Offered: It's called Calm for the Soul - Readings and Prayers in Anxious Times Contact: ruthgyves@gmail.com