

## Mavis's Story

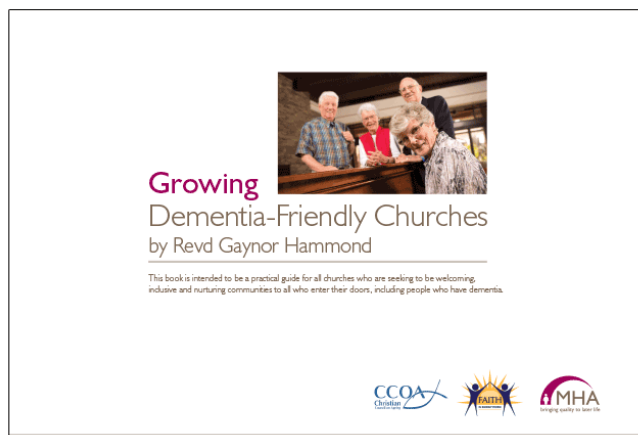
### Can a loving church community be dementia UNfriendly?

For years Mavis had enjoyed being on tea and coffee making duty after church. She used to bake delicious cakes to eat with the refreshments, so everyone was pleased when it was her turn on the rota. However, things changed: she developed dementia and no longer baked her lovely cakes. In fact most of the time she even forgot to bring milk and biscuits. The catering team had a meeting and because they cared so much for Mavis and knew it distressed her when she forgot things, they decided that it would be best if they 'retired' her from the duties.

They presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a thank you and explained to her that she had been doing it faithfully for so many years and now it was time to come off the rota and to be 'waited on'. This decision was taken out of a genuine care for Mavis, the assumption being that she had done her bit; it was time now for others to serve her.

But for Mavis, it just exacerbated her feelings of no longer being useful and she became very depressed now her role was ended.

### What do you think the church catering team might have done to support Mavis so she could have still enjoyed serving others?



This is an excerpt from Revd Gaynor Hammond's *Growing Dementia-Friendly Churches* available at £5 from [www.fiep.org.uk](http://www.fiep.org.uk) or email [faithinelderlypeople@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:faithinelderlypeople@yahoo.co.uk)