



Worship Engagement in Later Life: Leading worship during Covid-19

Due to coronavirus, you may not be able to visit your local care home where you usually lead worship. If you are in good health and under 70 years-of-age, you may feel that you would like to still go in to lead worship and support residents, however we would suggest that you contact the individual manager of the care home that you wish to visit. This is to see whether it is possible, as it depends on the individual home's situation and what guidelines the overall provider has given.

In the likely scenario that you are unable to go into a care home during this period; here are some suggestions on what you could do from a distance:

1) Newsletter

You could draft a newsletter, where you collect and write different stories and reflections. If your residents are able, you could ask them to write something to go in it. If your care home has people living with dementia, maybe more photos would be useful, to keep them engaged and have something to look at. This could be sent by email to the home and printed, or you could drop it off and they could keep it for 72 hours until any potential risk of transmission has diminished.

2) Service sheet

You could include this as part of the newsletter, or you could simply put together a service sheet that residents could use to go through themselves. You can make this personal to your residents. This could be distributed in the same way as the newsletter.

3) Prayers

Alongside praying for your residents and staff, you could also send in some prayers. This could go in the newsletter or service outline as well. This could work in the same way as the service sheet in terms of distribution, or you could encourage staff to put them up around the home, to encourage each other.

4) Videos

Find out if there is the capability to show something on the screen for residents who want to watch it. If you are tech savvy, you could video yourself doing a service, part of a service or a reflection activity. You could send this to the activity coordinator, manager or upload it to YouTube and send them the link.

If tech is not your thing, maybe you can find a video that is appropriate for the residents' worship and they could watch that instead of you producing it yourself. For example, regular worship from MHA Starr Hills is broadcast on YouTube every Thursday afternoon.

Think, what would your residents want?