

Church pleads for volunteers to help with dementia care

By Laura FitzPatrick

THE Church of England is urging volunteers to work with dementia sufferers for one day a week as it aims to try to ease the social care crisis.

Acknowledging that by 2040 the number of people aged 75 or over will double to 10 million, the Church wants to train one individual as an "Anna Chaplain", a volunteer responsible for elderly care, in each parish.

Anna Chaplains are named after the widow who appears with Simeon in Luke's gospel as a role model for faithful older people.

It follows research published by the Alzheimer's Society yesterday that reported the inflated expense of social care for dementia sufferers.

Analysis revealed how those with dementia have spent almost £15 billion of their own money on social care while awaiting promised Government reforms.

The Church also plans to ask the Government to provide a progress report on its "Challenge on Dementia 2020" strategy which aims to make the UK a world leader in care for the disease.

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