

Thank God for seniors!



'SENIORS' (those aged over 55 years) are often the least valued and greatest under-used resource for good in our communities. Yet seniors have a life-time of experience and often have tried and tested skills. Even more important, they are in charge of their time! When they retire from paid employment, they might have 20-30 years of active life ahead of them!

The churches are potentially rich in resource by having a majority of such people. The average age of regular worshippers in the Diocese of Chelmsford is 63 years. Such people carry a 'grand-parent image', which is widely trusted in today's cautious culture. This means that seniors are well placed to relate to children and young people. The 'Messy Church' movement is largely staffed by seniors.

Since more than 70% of committed Christian people make their life-changing response to Jesus before the age of 18 years, youth/children's work, with an evangelistic edge, is vital for the Church.

But who is going to do it? Usually, younger adults are too busy with parenting and holding on to their jobs to do extra youth work. Those who have the time are the seniors.

There are also numerous other opportunities for pioneer mission and evangelism in our communities, many of which are still to be uncovered. Where are the people with the commitment and the time to do this exciting work? The answer is the same!

What is more, prayerfully engaging in pioneer mission, with all its challenges, is good for our mental health and general well-being. We all need spiritual purpose and creative partnerships with others to be fully alive. In this context we begin to witness the Holy Spirit making a difference to people's lives – real joy!

Sounds interesting? For more information on how to become involved, get in touch with Hugh Dibbens