

Why this conference?

Older people give massive value to our society and to our churches in myriad ways, not least in the vast amount of time and expertise given in volunteering. But have we really woken up to this?

How do we better value older people so that the focus is on the **opportunities** our ageing congregations offer, rather than the challenges? And how do we as individuals prepare for later life?

Keynote Speaker:



Ann Morisy, Community Theologian and author of best-selling books *Beyond the Good Samaritan* and *Journeying Out*, as well as *Borrowing from the Future – A Faith-Based Approach to Intergenerational Equity* (Continuum 2011). Ann lectures widely and leads workshops, both in the UK and abroad.

Mass will be celebrated at 12.30pm in the Cathedral by Bishop Marcus Stock, followed by light buffet lunch (provided) and a chance to explore some practical responses.

'*Called To Be Old*' is the title of an ecumenical report produced in Leeds more than 20 years ago (1992). One of its key contributors was Sister Vivien Bowman, a religious sister from the South Leeds community of the (international) Society of the Sacred Heart. Sr Vivien died in 2013, and her Society has given a very generous donation to Growing Old Grace-fully, the organisers of this event, to encourage reflection and action on 'the blessings of ageing' (one of Sr Vivien's phrases) - as well as its challenges.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone involved in Older People's issues in a Church, Care or Community setting, including Clergy, Church Pastoral Leaders, Carers and Older People themselves.

Cost (including light buffet lunch):

£10 (£5 for unwaged) *

Booking Form – 'Called To Be Old'

Title..... First name.....

Surname.....

Organisation / Parish.....

Address.....

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.....Postcode.....

Email

Contact Rachel on **07702 255142** or email growing.old.gracefully@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

OR

Return this form to:

Rachel Walker, Growing Old Grace-fully, Diocese of Leeds, 11 North Grange Road, Leeds LS6 2BR

* Cash or cheques made payable to Growing Old Grace-fully

More about us

We are a charity seeking to raise awareness of the spiritual needs of older people across the Diocese of Leeds. Increased life expectancy is something to celebrate, but we also appreciate the challenges to us all, including the Catholic Church. In particular, we want to support and share the good work that is already taking place in parishes and deaneries that celebrates the gifts of older people and recognises the fruits of ageing.

Our programme has been shaped by what older people have told us they want and need and includes:

- Supporting and sharing best practice in parishes and in deaneries through our website www.growingoldgracefully.org.uk
- Organising Days of Recollection in different venues
- Support sessions for Carers
- Workshops on Living Well, Dying Well
- Supporting Leeds in becoming a dementia-friendly Diocese, including running events on “Welcoming People With Dementia”

If you would like to discuss how Growing Old Grace-fully might help support older people in your parish then **call Rachel on 07702 255142** or email growing.old.gracefully@dioceseofleeds.org.uk



Diocese of Leeds, 11 North Grange Road, Leeds LS6 2BR

www.growingoldgracefully.org.uk



“Called To Be Old”

**A gathering to reflect on older people’s
gifts to the Church and to society
(includes midday Mass)**

at
Wheeler Hall,
Cathedral Church of St Anne,
Great George Street, Leeds LS2 8BE
on
Friday 16th October 2015
10.30am – 3.30pm