

Social isolation

How can churches address social isolation amongst older people?....

If you are concerned about isolated older people in your community, [The Link Visiting Scheme](#) would like to hear from you. The charity, which began as part of a church community project in 1998 near Reading and focuses on befriending older people through regular home visits as well as providing a wide variety of social events and activities. Over 160 'Link Friends' now receive a regular visit from a volunteer within the local area and other projects operating alongside this include Understanding Computers Courses, Bowls Clubs, Pie & Pint groups for older men and singing groups.

The Link Visiting Scheme has now put together a comprehensive package which enables churches and Christian groups in other areas to set up a scheme in their area. Full training, advice and guidance are provided by those involved in running the charity in recent years.

If you represent a church or Christian group interested in setting up such an initiative, please see the [Link Visiting Scheme website](#) or contact Jeremy Sharpe on 0300 302 0225/ 07970 100131.

***'A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in His holy dwelling.
God sets the lonely in families.'* Psalm 68:5**