

Mary's Story: Early onset dementia



- ◆ Mary is 54 and lives in the small village of Ide Hill, Kent with her husband, John, the local parish vicar. Mary plays an active part in the community; organising weekly bible study mornings for the local women, visiting the elderly parishioners and running the Friday assemblies at the church primary school, amongst many other duties. Her only daughter Eve is driven and ambitious, works in London and has recently married her long time boyfriend, who has begun his law training contract in Cambridge. They have decided to move from Sevenoaks to accommodate both jobs and Mary is missing them hugely, particularly after spending lots of time together, arranging the wedding.
- ◆ John has recently been suffering from a slightly raised blood pressure, due to Mary being a victim of credit card fraud, after leaving her card in a machine whilst on a trip to meet Eve in London. As a result, he has been diagnosed with raised blood pressure and Mary regularly collects his prescription from the local pharmacy. Last week, when Mary went to collect John's medication, a new member of staff served her in the pharmacy, and making sure he followed correct procedure, asked Mary her postcode. In a state of panic, Mary couldn't remember her postcode, after only having just quoted it the other day to her credit card company. She left the pharmacy feeling confused, upset and angry, very unlike her normal cheerful self.
- ◆ Over the next couple of weeks John has begun to notice Mary becoming much more withdrawn, particularly at their Sunday lunches with members of the parish, where she is often distracted and less engaged in the conversation, occasionally snapping at John for no reason. Mary, after much persuasion from John, makes an appointment with her nurse practitioner, deciding that she doesn't want to bother her GP with something this insignificant.