

# A force for change

Anna Chaplaincy  
Impact Report 2021

New report\* reveals Anna Chaplaincy's significance to older people and their carers

by **Jenny Kartupelis** and  
**Julia Burton-Jones**

## Key findings

### Anna Chaplains...

- are usually over 60 years old (over 40%), volunteers (78%) and Church of England (83%)
- provide spiritual support to almost 9,000 older people – almost half of whom don't go to church
- feel their greatest impact is helping people feel 'loved and cared about', through companionship or advocating for those who feel alone or disempowered
- believe the pandemic has further demoralised older people and their carers.

### Anna Chaplains value highly BRF's support:

- helps them feel **connected** to each other
- provides access to **training, advice, guidance** and **resources**
- helps them gain **recognition for this ministry** within their home church.

#### Older people interviewed said:

*'She interprets the moment.'*

*'She provides a link between past and present.'*

*'I feel very close to her as a friend.'*

#### Care home staff said:

*'[Older people] feel more at peace, more hopeful.'*

*'We can talk with the chaplains about people we may be worried about.'*

### Anna Chaplains say their work helps older people...

- ❖ feel loved, cared for and have a greater sense of belonging
- ❖ find meaning in life and also grow in faith
- ❖ meet and relate to others in their community
- ❖ contribute to church and/or community
- ❖ have a voice
- ❖ avoid slipping through the net when frail
- ❖ gain better understanding and become more valued by local churches.

*'We are here to challenge their sense of having no value.'*

An Anna Chaplain

*'Love is the basis of Anna Chaplaincy, and shines through all their interactions.'*

Jenny Kartupelis, independent researcher

### Anna Chaplains want to see...

- **More positive attitudes**
- **Better facilities** • **More support**

#### Ideally placed to forge the way ahead

- Already working closely with the public, private and third sectors
- More Anna Chaplains coming forward from a variety of denominations
- Leading a national network of Anna Chaplains who are embedded in their communities, sensitive to local needs and often already working to bring change about.

Read the full report now at  
[brf.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy-impact-2021](https://brf.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy-impact-2021)

#### \* The report is based on:

- one-to-one interviews conducted by independent expert Jenny Kartupelis
- Anna Chaplaincy network internal survey conducted by Julia Burton-Jones.

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