

# Do you care about the spiritual well-being of older people?

Anna Chaplaincy can equip you and your church for more effective ministry.

With a rapidly ageing population, older people's ministry has never been more crucial. Anna Chaplaincy for Older People helps volunteers and church workers develop their confidence, practice and impact, as part of a supportive and respected national network.

'I have found my calling, and there is a joy in serving those in the winter years of life.'

John, an Anna Chaplain

'Having a trained person going into one of the care homes locally has increased our confidence.'

Sheila, an associate vicar



## Giving older people the support they deserve

Older people's ministry may not always have had the resources or profile of other church activities, but a rapidly ageing population means spiritual support in later life is needed more than ever.

In 2018, there were 1.6 million people aged 85 years and over in the UK; by 2043, this is projected to nearly double to 3 million.

Source: National Population Projections 2018, ONS, October 2019

## Equipping you for ministry

Perhaps you're someone who has been quietly supporting older people for years. Or you're a church leader with a vision for later-life ministry. Whatever your starting point, Anna Chaplaincy can help you and your church develop the confidence and skills to really make a difference.

As part of the **ecumenical Anna Chaplaincy network**, you'll have access to:

- a range of regular training opportunities
- the support of the Anna Chaplaincy for Older People leadership team at BRF
- a highly motivated, knowledgeable and experienced national network of people involved in the same work
- a forum for discussing challenges and ideas
- the *Anna Chaplaincy Handbook* with best-practice guidelines

*'The Anna Chaplaincy resources are first-class; the best thing is meeting people involved in the same kind of work, sharing experiences, picking up new ideas.'*

Graham, an Anna Chaplain

*'I believe God's Holy Spirit has got hold of this thing called Anna Chaplaincy. If the Holy Spirit has got hold of it, who are we to stand in its way?'*

Revd Andrew Micklefield, Church of England General Synod, 2019

## About Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplaincy for Older People has been around for a decade and is a ministry of BRF, an established Christian charity (and provider of Messy Church, Parenting for Faith and Living Faith ministries). We're one of the leading UK charities offering training and networking in older people's ministry.



**There are around 200 men and women in our Anna Chaplaincy network in the UK, as well as volunteer Anna Friends who support them.**



**Anna Chaplaincy** is headed up by former broadcaster **Debbie Thrower**, who originally founded the ministry in her local town – Alton, Hampshire. Debbie is a licensed lay minister and canon emeritus of Winchester Cathedral.

*'Anna Chaplaincy is a gracious offering from a local church to its community, including people of strong, little or no faith. Anna Chaplains are good listeners and are responsive to people with complex needs and a wealth of lived experience.'*

Debbie Thrower, BRF's Anna Chaplaincy pioneer



**Julia Burton-Jones** works with church organisations across the UK to develop Anna Chaplaincy teams in a variety of contexts, having pioneered this ministry in Kent and south-east London.

*'Having worked for many years in the field of dementia care, I can see how spiritual care can be neglected when a person has memory problems. When it is offered well, it makes a world of difference to the individual's sense of self.'*

Julia Burton-Jones, Anna Chaplaincy church lead

# Your Anna Chaplaincy journey starts here!

**Anna Chaplaincy for Older People** is for those who sense a calling to this work and the churches or Christian organisations who commit to supporting, mentoring and commissioning them.

## Could you be an Anna Chaplain?

We'll help you explore your calling to this ministry, provide training and ongoing development, welcome you to our supportive and generous network and affirm you in your continuing ministry.

## Interested in exploring Anna Chaplaincy for your church?

We'll support you as you recruit, manage and supervise your Anna Chaplain(s), helping to nurture and develop them and providing accountability.

Sign up to hear about the latest news in older people's ministry at [annachaplaincy.org.uk/](https://annachaplaincy.org.uk/) **blog**, or browse our website and get in touch for an informal chat.



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Anna Chaplain Debbie Gurling  
(*right*), with volunteer Anna Friend  
Dot Pooler



Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin  
commissions two Anna Chaplains  
in Folkestone

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