

# Anna Chaplaincy: Embedding Spiritual Care in your Community.

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## Offering spiritual care in later life

## BRF Ministries is the home of:

Anna Chaplaincy  
Living Faith  
Messy Church  
Parenting for Faith



As a charity, we rely on fundraising and gifts in wills to deliver Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. Your gift helps us impact thousands of lives each year. Please support our work.

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# Anna Chaplaincy for Older People – offering spiritual care

- Named after Anna in Luke's gospel: a wonderful role model
- Community based (going where people are, to those in need)
- No distinction between churchgoers and non-churchgoers (47% of older people served are not church members\*)
- Inclusion of relatives, carers, and care professionals
- Person-centred and non-judgemental
- Ecumenical (wherever possible)

\*Anna Chaplaincy Impact Report 2021



# Growth of Anna Chaplaincy

- Started in Alton, Hampshire in 2010 with former broadcaster Debbie Thrower
- Now more than 430 Anna Chaplains (April 2025) and those in equivalent roles (e.g. Older People's Pastor), plus Anna Friends and volunteer teams
- Emerging ministries to older people, often *by older people themselves*
- Wide ecumenical spread: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Church of Scotland, Congregational network members etc.



# Ministry includes...

- Accompanying – walking alongside
- Listening to people’s ‘stories’
- Sensitive spiritual care
- Diverse contexts – to those who live alone, care homes, retirement facilities, community groups, dementia-friendly cafés ... and many more





# Anna Chaplains for Older People

- May be lay or ordained, male or female, paid or voluntary
- It's a vocation - gifts for this ministry are recognised and an individual candidate supported by local church; a chaplain is 'sent'...
- Linked to and supported by BRF Ministries through the national Anna Chaplaincy Network. *A Head Licence Agreement must be in place with BRF Ministries to use our trademarked name and logo.*

# Key principles of an Anna Chaplain role

- Appointed and authorised by, and accountable to, their local church, or group of 'Churches Together'
- Ecumenical and community based
- An advocate and champion of ageing in the wider community
- Reaching out to people of strong, little or no faith



# Kendal Anna Chaplaincy team

- Established Anna Chaplaincy ministry in 2019

- 1 Anna Chaplain
- 4 Anna Friends
- 7 volunteers



- 5 Care Homes within Kendal - at each facility:
  - monthly church service or music therapy session
  - individual pastoral visits and end of life prayers.



## Monthly Kendal Tea Service at Holy Trinity Kendal Parish Church

For:

- people living with dementia,
- their carers, and
- anyone else interested



This daughter tells of the impact attendance at a Tea Service has on her mother.

“The service gives her a chance to have a sing of some of her favourite hymns which she still manages pretty well loud and proud. She enjoys the friendship afterwards with tea and cake and even though she no longer recognises people she feels she belongs. Mum regularly reads the program singing and says the whole event out loud. Having sang her song she then carries on for ages and is clearly happy.”



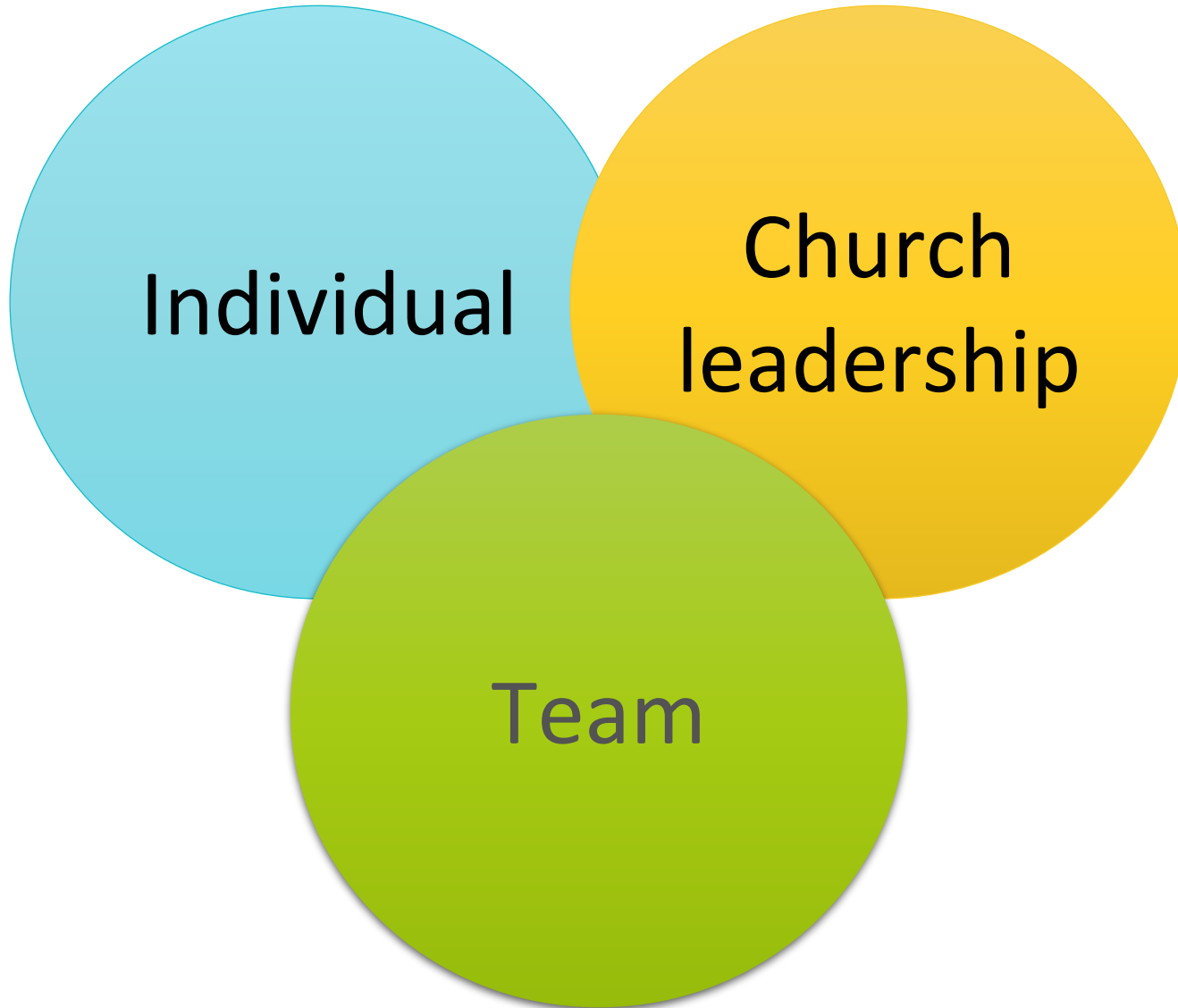
# Tarleton, Lancashire

- Anna Chaplain Commissioned September 2024
- Ministry includes:
  - Care home
    - monthly Holy Communion
    - monthly visit for relationship building
  - Simeon and Anna Prayer Guild - for people who are housebound (visits and newsletters)
  - Diamond Disciples Group - intergenerational

“I’m loving it”



# What needs to be in place



# Advantages of Anna Chaplaincy for older people

- Extensive network of those working in older people's ministry raising professional standards and best practice
- Online training courses and BRF materials - relevant publications and blog
- <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/blog>
- Regular online get togethers, themed events and an annual gathering for teaching and sharing
- Sharing of a wealth of experience, including 'Messy Vintage' (Messy Church for older people)





# BRF's Anna Chaplaincy national team

- Debbie Ducille – Ministry Lead



- Julia Burton-Jones – Training and Development Lead



- Marian Muskett and Jane Butcher – Coordinators



Debbie Thrower – Pioneer and VP  
for BRF Ministries



Do not forget that the value and interest of life is no so much to do conspicuous things as to do ordinary things with the perception of their enormous value.

~ Teilhard de Chardin, 2001.



To find out more, please visit  
**[annachaplaincy.org.uk](http://annachaplaincy.org.uk)**