



Offering spiritual care in later life

Introduction to Anna Chaplaincy for Older People

Anna Chaplaincy is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a Registered Charity (233280)



Enabling all ages to grow in faith

Anna Chaplaincy is part of The Bible Reading Fellowship. Other BRF programmes/ministries include:

> Living Faith Messy Church Parenting for Faith



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The growing need for Older People's ministry

- Changing demography
- The need for spiritual and religious care
- A 'ripe' time for ministry top people in their later years asking 'big questions'

Increasing ageing population

- In the UK there are now more people aged 60 and above than there are under 18 – for the first time ever
- Two million people over 75 years of age live alone
- The number of those over the age of 85 are expected to nearly double by 2043
- There are around 850,000 people living with a dementia (set to more than double to two million by 2051)

The need for spiritual care

The need to give and to receive love

The need to sustain hope

The need for something and someone to believe in

The need for creativity

There's a need to achieve spiritual wholeness

In old age...

We tend to be more reflective - more about 'being' than doing

A time to consider death

The 'good news' of the hope of eternal life is ever more welcome at this stage

Anna Chaplaincy for Older People – offering spiritual care

- Community based (going where people are, to those in need)
- No distinction between churchgoers and nonchurchgoers (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 200 Anna Chaplains and those in equivalent roles (e.g. Older People's Pastor)
- Emerging ministries to older people, often by older people themselves
- Wide ecumenical spread: Anglicans, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, Free Evangelicals etc.

Ministry includes...

- Accompanying walking alongside
- Listening to people's 'stories'
- Sensitive spiritual care
- Diverse contexts to those who are housebound, care homes retirement facilities, community groups, dementia-friendly cafés ... and many more

Ministry includes...

- Working with older people
- Supporting relatives
- Supporting staff working with older people
- Working with churches
- Working with the community
- Working across generations

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 and supported by BRF, Bible Reading Fellowship, through the national Anna Chaplaincy Network

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 in the wider community
- Reaching out to people of strong, little or no faith

Advantages of Anna Chaplaincy for older people

- Extensive network of those working in older people's ministry raising professional standards
- 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)

- Churches recruit and manage their own Anna Chaplains
- Anna Chaplains are line managed and supervised locally
- They typically offer one day a week minimum
- Strategic task: spot gaps in provision, lead worship in care homes, manage volunteers (Anna Friends)
- Catalysts for new ideas

BRF's Anna Chaplaincy core team developing it nationally

Debbie Thrower – Founder and Pioneer

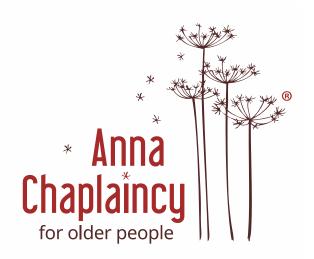


 Debbie Ducille – Church Lead (lives in Birmingham)

Alex Burn and Wendy Hopkins– Coordinators







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