

Prayer diary

2 May–4 September 2021



Pray with us



Enabling all ages to grow in faith

Anna Chaplaincy
Living Faith
Messy Church
Parenting for Faith

Pray with us

If the Bible is the heart of BRF's ministry, prayer is its lifeblood. There is a short staff prayer meeting every day at 2.00 pm, where we pray for the most pressing needs of the day and often bring supporters' prayer requests before God. If you would like us to pray for you, please contact enquiries@brf.org.uk.

Our CEO, Richard Fisher, writes a weekly prayer email, reflecting on the concerns of the week and sharing the organisation's prayer needs. To subscribe to this email, please go to brf.org.uk/get-involved and click on the 'Pray' button.

And there's daily inspiration for your prayers on our Facebook and Twitter channels. We post prayers every morning at 7.00 am on Facebook and (for the early birds!) at 5.00 am on Twitter, covering a wide range of topics, from current news and events to the work of BRF's ministries. Many of these prayers are written by Martyn Payne, our volunteer prayer advocate, and we also share prayers from a variety of our authors and the contributors to our Bible reading notes. Follow us on Facebook (@[thebiblereadingfellowship](https://www.facebook.com/thebiblereadingfellowship)) or Twitter (@[brfonline](https://twitter.com/brfonline)) and look out for the posts.

Iris Jenkins, BRF's marketing officer, who is responsible for posting the daily prayers, says: 'We hope that our daily prayer posts on social media are a source of encouragement to the online BRF community and provide an opportunity to pause for prayer each morning amid the busyness of daily life.'

Dear Lord,

you invite us to pray.

Help us to know,

when we don't know what to ask,

when we struggle to find the words,

when we become distracted and fall silent,

that nevertheless our very desire to pray

for ourselves and others

is precious to you

and is used to grow your kingdom

in ways beyond our imagining.

Amen

'For this reason I kneel before the Father.'

EPHESIANS 3:14

Sign up for our latest news to keep up-to-date with what's going on at BRF at brf.org.uk/keepintouch.

Join us online for daily prayer

A person wearing a dark hoodie is sitting on a wooden ledge, reading a book. The scene is set against a backdrop of a sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person's silhouette is visible against the bright light. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Each morning, starting from Monday 17 May for six weeks, join us online to share BRF daily prayer. It will last approximately 6–8 minutes, and we hope very much that you can join us.

Each week we'll be guided through prayers, reflections and Bible passages by a different host.

For more information, please go to brf.org.uk/pray or email us at prayer@brf.org.uk.

17 May–25 June 2021 | 8.45 am daily, Monday–Friday
facebook.com/groups/brfpraywithus

Prayer has always been an opportunity for partnership

After all, why else should an almighty God gift human beings with a desire to pray? It goes without saying that God knows what is best for people and for this world and could order all things without needing either to ask our permission or involve us in any way. But that isn't how God is.

Our heavenly creator isn't a distant employer who allows the workforce a token say in how the show is run. Rather, Father God, from the beginning, determined not only to include us in the intimate circle of love that is the Trinity, but also to enlist our cooperation in the way project Earth is run. This is an amazing grace! Our God-given instinct to pray is actually God's invitation to each one of us to 'pray with God' for the outworking of eternal love in our lives and the lives of others.

Just as this is a fundamental truth for creation in general, so it must be the way forward in any project that aims to grow the kingdom of heaven on earth. Joining with God in prayer is God's way of making things happen at a personal level in our daily discipleship, corporately as God's people, and in mission organisations such as BRF. This is why we invite you each week in this *Prayer Diary* to be 'partners in prayer' with us in the same way that God invites us all to work together with the Son and the Spirit for the healing of the whole world.

Our fellowship in reading the Bible should naturally lead us into a fellowship of prayer. By joining together in daily or weekly prayer

for BRF, we are recognising that BRF's ministries and publications are powerless without this working together. Prayer has always been, and for BRF must continue to be, an opportunity for partnership.

As I have put this edition of the *Prayer Diary* together, near the beginning of 2021, the year ahead still looks very uncertain. I have suggested what we might pray for, but it is vital that each day our partnership in prayer is also a partnership with the Holy Spirit, so that you pray for those things that are good and kingdom-building, whatever circumstances prevail when you open these pages. If you would like us to pray for you, please email us at prayer@brf.org.uk.

God is our prayer partner, and God enables us to partner with each other so that together in BRF we may continue to grow God's kingdom. Thank you so much for being part of this vital partnership in prayer.

Assuring you of our prayers as we pray,



Martyn Payne
BRF volunteer prayer advocate

For God's work through Parenting for Faith

'Cell: being alone with God', underscored for me the oft-trumpeted truth that quality time with God is foundational to being a Christian.

George Lings, vice-president of BRF and author of *Seven Sacred Spaces* (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

The psalmist writes 'the sound of God's voice has gone out in all the universe' (Psalm 19). In other words, Radio God is always and everywhere on air. Prayer starts by tuning into that sound.



Pray with us for

- The strengthening of family life after the pressures of this pandemic
- The nurturing of positive discoveries made by families who spent lockdown time together
- The Parenting for Faith team as they help parents and children to live out faith together at home
- Rachel Turner as she speaks, writes and networks with other organisations
- Becky Sedgwick, Anna Hawken, Kate Irvine and Mary Douglas as they deliver training to support families through churches

Lord God,
 over this last year you have shown us many things:
 the fragility of our lives,
 our dependence on others
 and how special Christian community is.
 Help us to work through these lessons
 with humility and grace,
 as we rediscover the wonder and the strength
 of belonging to you and to each other. Amen

For God's work through BRF



'Life has its rhythms,' David Adam says. 'We all need to be able to cope with its ebb and flow. We have to survive its darkness as well as its light... To survive this intricate pattern, we need to have an overriding rhythm of prayer.'

The Celtic Year by David Cole (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

Prayer isn't a simple transaction of asking and receiving – at least not in the sense most of us hope for. Prayers aren't answered *when* and *how* we want. Prayer is a much more mysterious activity than that.

Pray with us for

- A deepening sense of vocation among all who work for, or volunteer with, BRF
- A shared vision among the staff team at BRF as they contribute to the growth of God's kingdom through their work
- The sense of togetherness for BRF staff members despite many now working from home and being scattered geographically
- The professional development of BRF staff by the management team of Jay Elliott, Olivia Warburton, Karen Laister, Sara Sheerin and Julie MacNaughton
- Inspired teamwork, to fulfil BRF's calling of enabling all ages to grow in faith

Lord, you have committed yourself to love us to the end.

Help us to respond with
 new depths to our loving,
 new heights to our praising,
 new lengths to our serving,
 new breadths to our praying,
 as we follow in the footsteps of Christ,
 filled with your Holy Spirit. Amen



For God's work through Messy Church

We need the transforming power of the gospel to shape and renew us. That is why a regular pattern for prayer and Bible reading is so helpful. It becomes the foundation upon which a Christian life is built.

Come and See by Stephen Cottrell (BRF, 2020)



Thought for the week

Prayer happens when the things on earth and in heaven agree; and because of Christ that agreement is already guaranteed on God's side, so it is now over to us to respond.

Pray with us for

- Creativity for Messy Church leaders as they engage with their Messy Church families
- A fruitful balance between face-to-face and online meetings as leaders begin to reimagine Messy Church post Covid-19
- Lucy Moore and Jane Butler as they inspire and encourage the network to step out even more boldly in mission
- All those involved in seminars, workshops and the big celebration planned for this Saturday's online *Messtival*
- Messy Churches to continue to be innovative, risky and ground-breaking in their mission and ministry

**Loving Father,
may all our experiences, conversations and thoughts,
be seasoned with salt,
be full of grace,
be alive with hope,
so that the things of this earth
might begin to taste of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen**

For God's work across the generations



Make sure that your daily time of reflection and prayer, study and reading, begins and ends in praise. Spend time thanking God for his act of creation, sing songs or read passages from the psalms out loud to remind yourself of God's goodness.

Journey to Contentment by Sally Welch (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

God's best answer to our prayers is God's partnership in our praying. Prayers may seem to be our own extempore words or words borrowed from others... in reality it is God's Spirit at work in both. Herein lies the mystery of prayer.

Pray with us for

- Sunday's Thy Kingdom Come events across the country, with a focus on praying for our friends and families
- BRF's all-age focus, with its resources and ministries designed to help individuals and churches pass on the faith
- Anna Chaplains sharing faith with the elderly in our communities, that they might have sensitivity and inspiration in their ministry
- Messy Church teams to give a good account of their faith and help many to come close to God for the first time
- Wisdom for parents at home taking the opportunity to explore their faith with their children

Faithful God,
 you offer us the gift of faith
 so that we can put our trust in you.
 Grant us in our turn
 faithfulness towards others
 so that they too may come to trust in you.
 Through Christ our Lord,
 Amen

For everyday discipleship

There is no labour greater than that of prayer to God... Prayer is warfare to the last breath.

Abba Agathon, cited in *Seven Sacred Spaces* by George Lings (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

In the last book of the Bible, Christ describes himself as ‘the Amen’, which means Jesus is God’s ‘yes’ to our prayers, the one alongside us in our praying and the one who assures us of God’s blessing.



Andrew Roberts, pioneer of Holy Habits

Pray with us for

- A deepening of our own Christian discipleship at work and at home
- The development of holy habits that will root our faith in God, and for Andrew Roberts in pioneering resources to do that
- Those who were involved in the Holy Habits online home group earlier this year and the ongoing blessings from that experience
- The dissemination of creative faith-at-home resources coming from BRF through its online materials
- God’s blessing on those reading BRF’s Bible reading notes at home today, that this discipline will bear fruit in their lives

Lord, you are love
and in you is no unlove at all.
May your love be at work in us this day,
so that we might be all love too.

Thank you
for all the love we have witnessed,
for all the love we have received
and for all the love you’ve enabled us to share,
because without love we are nothing. Amen

For all who volunteer with BRF



Hannah Tarring,
Messy Church
volunteer

Prayer changes us as we wait and hope. We become more aware of the needs of others, more aware of the presence of God, more aware of God, even in the silence of unanswered prayer.

Journey to Contentment by Sally Welch (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

‘Prayer is one of the great gifts from our amazing God. The creator of the universe, who is also our loving Father... cares about the minutiae of our lives just as much as the fate of his beautiful planet.’

Becky Sedgwick,
Parenting for Faith local coordinator

Pray with us for

- BRF volunteers who support the work of BRF’s ministries
- Volunteers who support Messy Church with their particular skills in the new national teams
- Volunteers who distribute Bible reading notes in churches and act as advocates within their denominations
- Jane Butcher, in her role as volunteer advocate, as she helps our BRF network to grow and feel valued
- Energy and vision for volunteers working with Parenting for Faith and Anna Chaplaincy

Lord God,
whose faithfulness is heaven-high,
whose forgiveness is ocean-wide
and whose friendship is earth-deep,
remake us in the image of your Son,
to care for each other and for your world,
so that once again you may delight in creation
and declare it to be ‘very good’.
Amen



For God's blessing on the BRF staff team

Closely structured prayer proves to be the platform from which spontaneous prayer bursts. I have learnt to value both elements.

Seven Sacred Spaces by George Lings (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

As we pray, we lift our eyes beyond the 'now' of own struggles and the griefs of those for whom we pray, to catch a glimpse of the bigger picture and the long view, which is God's eternal perspective.



Claire Proudman, in our supporter services team

Pray with us for

- The BRF team, whether working from home or in the office, that there may be a strong sense of belonging to the BRF family
- John Chapman and Tabitha Griffiths, who maintain the office systems
- Iris Jenkins, Debbie Clayden and Eley McAinsh, who work in the marketing and communications team
- Alison Beek, Rachel Tranter, Daniele Och, Adrian Serecut, Stuart Holley and Felicity Howlett, who work in the content creation team
- Lisa Bell in finance, Maddie Jane and Jenny Smith, who support BRF's ministry teams, and Claire Proudman and Kirsty Yu in supporter services

Lord Jesus Christ,
 stir up in us a godly passion
 for our neighbours and friends
 who have not yet experienced
 the welcoming love of our Father God.
 Amen

For God's blessing on families

I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me.

C.S. Lewis, cited in *Journey to Contentment* by Sally Welch (BRF, 2020)



Thought for the week

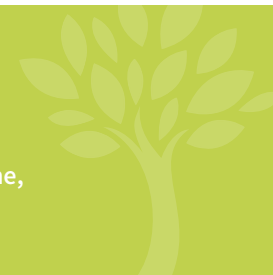
'And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

EPHESIANS 6:18

Pray with us for

- Families who, following the pandemic, are struggling to hold things together with education, health and well-being
- Families who are mourning the loss of grandparents and other relatives as a result of the pandemic
- Families who have little or no experience of Christian witness, that they may be befriended by those who know Jesus
- Families who learnt new things during the pandemic about the value of being and praying together, and help for families who were torn apart by domestic violence exacerbated by the pandemic
- For BRF staff members who are having babies this year, including Anna, Martin and David

Loving God,
 come close to Christian parents in our congregations.
 As they seek to nurture faith in their children,
 may they be blessed by the faith of those in their care,
 so that together they can create 'little churches' at home,
 through the presence of your Holy Spirit.
 Amen



For God's work through Anna Chaplaincy



Holy Spirit, may I allow you to work in me more, so that the fruit of the Spirit becomes ripe in me and is evident to all through the life I live and the person I am. Amen.

The Celtic Year by David Cole (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

The poet Tennyson wrote, 'More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.' Our prayers are the indispensable building material for the kingdom of God on earth.

Pray with us for

- Positive outcomes from the pandemic, which refocused us on the vulnerable and our responsibilities towards them
- Advocates for older people in our churches, who will value the gifts that they bring
- That Anna Chaplains might be blessed by good leadership and adequate financial support
- Debbie Thrower, Julia Burton-Jones, Alex Burn and Wendy Hopkins as they work together to support the Anna Chaplaincy movement
- Fruitful partnerships between Anna Chaplains and the governing bodies of denominations and national networks with a care for older people

**Faithful God,
who promises to bless us,
our children and our children's children,
teach us to honour every generation,
so that none is left out or left behind
in the ageless kingdom of Heaven.
Amen**

For God's guidance in decision-making at BRF

Work and prayer are opposite sides of the great coin of a life that is both holy and useful, immersed in God.

Joan Chittister, cited in *Seven Sacred Spaces* by George Lings (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

Maybe it is a happy coincidence that the word 'prayer' rhymes with 'air'. Just as oxygen around us is vital for physical life, so prayer is essential for our spiritual health. Christians believe that prayer is part of our life-support system.



Pray with us for

- Richard Fisher, that he may find joy and fulfilment in his role as a Christian leader
- Wisdom for the Anna Chaplaincy working group, which includes Jill, Brian, Catriona, Lindsay, Sally and Erica
- Encouragement for Lucy Moore, with the silver team of 'Messy elders', including Alison, Charis, Jane, Paul and Martyn
- Inspiration for Rachel Turner and The Vine Trust, who support the Parenting for Faith team
- Good counsel and prayer support from the BRF trustees, remembering particularly Colin Fletcher (chair), Christina, Peter, Alistair, Sarah, Jane, Paul, Andrew and Mike

Holy Spirit of God,
just as you come alongside
to convict, counsel and comfort us,
lead us to wise friends who will
bring your words to us,
show your love to us
and be your presence with us,
as companions on our journey through life,
for your name's sake. Amen



For God's guidance and wisdom for BRF writers

Philippians 4:13 is known as the 'ten-finger prayer', as each word corresponds to the fingers of both hands. Instead of counting to ten in times of anger or stress, try taking a deep breath and counting off this 'prayer' on your fingers, one by one.

Journey to Contentment by Sally Welch (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

Jesus prayed for his friends and for those who would believe him through their witness (see John 17).

Jesus continues to pray for us now in heaven (see Hebrews 7:25).



Martin and Margot Hodson, BRF authors

Pray with us for

- BRF's authors, that they may be gifted with insightful and encouraging words
- Inspiration for Olivia Warburton as she commissions Advent and Lent books
- BRF's digital communications team as they respond to the growing demand for effective social media content
- Inspirational BRF writing, both in print and online, that it might bear fruit for the gospel and 'not return to God empty'
- Writers of BRF's Bible reading notes, that they will find God's timely and personal words for those who read them

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of another week in which you call us:
 to bless our neighbour,
 to welcome the stranger,
 to pray for our enemies,
 to look after your world,
 to share the good news of your love
 and to become more like Jesus,
 through the power of your Holy Spirit in us. Amen

For supporter generosity and BRF's financial health

Prayer is the place where our perspective broadens and our understanding deepens. It's the place where God's Spirit shows us what we need to see.

Prayer in the Making by Lyndall Bywater (BRF, 2019)



Thought for the week

Prayer is more mysterious than we realise. Whatever words we eventually use in prayer actually come from God in the first place. God is enabling us to join with heaven in a continuous dialogue of prayer.

Pray with us for

- Julie MacNaughton, BRF's head of fundraising, thanking God for the creativity, ideas and passion that she has brought to BRF in the past twelve months
- Fruitful initiatives by the BRF fundraising team – Tracey Silvermore, David Cowen, Martin Gee and Sarah Dunkley-Smith
- God's provision for the future mission and ministry of BRF in these times
- Prompting from the Holy Spirit among donors and regular supporters of BRF's work, to give what they can, when they can
- Positive conversations with major donors and trusts who support our work

God of every sparrow that falls,
 every hair on our head,
 every worry on our minds,
 thank you that nothing about us
 is unimportant to you.
 Safe in the assurance of your keeping,
 may we in our turn
 spend ourselves in the service of others,
 offering them the same attention and care,
 with which you love us. Amen

For Christian discipleship through BRF's ministries



Prayer should be short and pure, unless perhaps it is prolonged under the inspiration of divine grace. In community, however, prayer should always be brief.

The Rule of St Benedict, cited in *Seven Sacred Spaces* by George Lings (BRF, 2020)

Thought for the week

Jesus' prayers were answered, even though the answer was the apparent defeat of the cross before the victory of the resurrection.

Pray with us for

- The insights from the Messy Church discipleship pilots from last year and how these can be taken forward and made more widely known
- Debbie Thrower, Rachel Turner and Lucy Moore in their own personal discipleship as BRF ministry team leaders, especially at the pressure point times in their work
- The influence of Andrew Roberts' Holy Habits resources and online material, which encourage churches to become places of active discipleship and mission
- Jane Butcher as she nurtures and encourages active discipleship among BRF's growing number of advocates and volunteers
- Our own personal discipleship and our involvement in one of the BRF communities

Lord, your heartbeat for our world is love and that love also holds all things together. Take our small attempts at loving others and weave them into your rescue plan for the whole world, as you work out Christ's down-to-earth love in us and through us, and grow your kingdom this day. Amen

For the editors of BRF Bible reading notes



As we turn in prayer to God, the great Creator, we become vessels of creative energy and desire. We long to give expression to the gift we have received, and as we do so, the act of creation becomes a prayer in itself.

Creating a Life with God by Daniel Wolpert
(BRF, 2014)

Thought for the week

It seems that an instinct to pray does not lie far below the surface, even in our increasingly secular western culture. Deep down human beings believe in prayer.

Pray with us for

- Daily encouragement for readers of *New Daylight* and inspiration for its editor Sally Welch
- Weekly insights for readers of *Guidelines* and wisdom for its editor Helen Paynter
- Guidance for Daniele Och as he works with The Upper Room in Nashville and gathers UK contributions for *The Upper Room* and its international readership
- Inspiration and encouragement for those reading *Day by Day with God* and God's guiding hand upon its editor Jackie Harris
- Spirit-led vision for Eley McAinsh as she commissions and edits *Bible Reflections for Older People*

Word of the Father,
inspire our words this day,
speaking to us through the words we hear from others
and the words we read in our Bibles, daily notes and books,
so that we might share words of encouragement with others.
Amen

For BRF's Living Faith ministry and its influence

Prayer is the place where we draw nourishment from God. We bring our needs and we draw on his provision; we bring our failures and we draw on his grace; we bring our brokenness and we draw on his healing.

Prayer in the Making by Lyndall Bywater
(BRF, 2019)

Thought for the week

Prayer is, at its heart, about reminding ourselves every single day that God made us, God loves us and God is with us. Everything else flows from these eternal truths.



Pray with us for

- BRF's new Advent book for 2021, *The Whole Christmas Story* by Jo Swinney, that it may be a blessing to all those who read it
- The reach and influence of BRF's range of books to support church leaders, including *The Space Between* by Mark Bradford
- The ongoing promotion and sales of books that support BRF's all-age ministries
- The writers of *Get Messy!*, who are now producing creative material for face-to-face, online and Messy Church at home
- The designers and proofreaders of BRF's books, that they may experience God's guiding hand at every stage of production

Thank you for welcoming us into your kingdom through the cross of Christ: a kingdom where the unforgivable are forgiven, the undeserving are rewarded, the unlovable are loved, the wayward are rescued, through Christ our Lord, Amen

For God's blessing on the elderly and the vulnerable

Make friends with stillness; make friends with silence; make friends with solitude – these are some of the ways God will speak to us.

Prayer: A beginner's guide by Jane Holloway
(BRF, 2009)



Thought for the week

Christian prayer is the language of those who choose to live for God in the company of Jesus, whatever is happening in their lives and wherever they find themselves.

Pray with us for

- Lessons learned during the Covid-19 crisis, which disproportionately affected the elderly, poor and marginalised
- Those who work in care homes following a difficult 18 months
- Debbie Thrower, Julia Burton-Jones, Alex Burn and Wendy Hopkins in the Anna Chaplaincy team as they advocate for older people
- Eley McAinsh as she edits *Bible Reflections for Older People* that its themes may be a comfort and hope for its readers
- The more than 150 Anna Chaplains who speak up for the elderly when dementia and issues around care for the dying are discussed

**Father God,
help us to be witnesses to a fearful world
of your love that casts out fear,
of your love that is as strong as death,
of your love that never ends,
because your banner over us is love.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen**

For faithfulness in prayer by BRF supporters

Do not practise long, drawn-out devotions, rather give yourself to prayer at intervals, as you would to food. Pious humbug is an invention of the Devil.

The Rule of Comgall, cited in *Seven Sacred Spaces* by George Lings (BRF, 2020)


Thought for the week

The apostle Paul writes, ‘all things are yes in Christ’ (see 2 Corinthians 1:20). In other words, our prayers have already been answered, even before we pray them; and so our praying is all about us discovering and delighting in those answers.



Pray with us for

- Ourselves as we deepen our own prayer lives using the quotes and prayers in this diary to help us pray with BRF
- Existing and planned BRF publications that encourage us in our prayer life as disciples of Jesus
- Regular gatherings for prayer online by the different BRF ministry teams
- The BRF Messy Church gold team, which is specifically tasked with praying for the movement
- Those who write and curate social media prayers for BRF and for Richard Fisher as he writes the regular online prayer bulletin



Living Lord,
as we open the pages of your word
and as we spend time in prayer,
may we hear your Spirit's voice
speaking through the stories from long ago,
showing us the next step
on our path to abundant life.
Through Christ, the Word made flesh,
Amen

For God's work through children and young people

When we pray, we're not telling or even asking God to do things; we are participating in a love relationship, and you don't need many words for that.

When You Pray by Joanna Collicutt (BRF, 2019)

Thought for the week

Just as we know that there are sound frequencies outside the range of the human ear, in the same way the voice of God seems to be silent but in truth is always present.

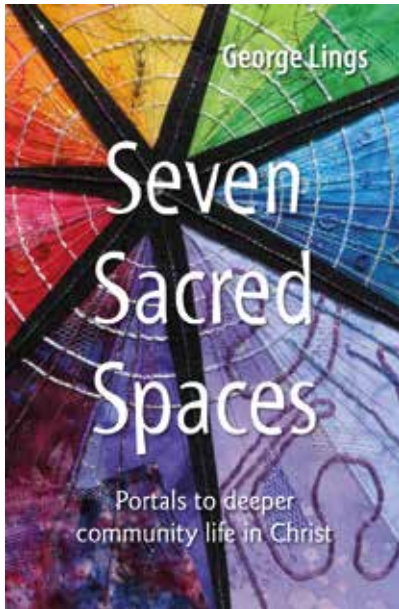


Pray with us for

- The children of Christian families who are supported by the regular online encouragements to parents from the Parenting for Faith team
- The Messy Church young leaders group that came into being during 2020, which is continuing to play a key part in the direction of the movement
- Children from schools who visit nursing homes to reconnect the generations, as part of Anna Chaplaincy initiatives
- Children in schools and church groups who use the online resources from the BRF resources hub
- BRF advocates and supporters who, inspired by BRF publications, work with children in their churches

**Father God,
you have invited us into your family through Christ;
help us to love, honour and depend on each other,
so that, from generation to generation, we reflect
the glorious togetherness of heaven.
Amen**





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Seven Sacred Spaces

Portals to deeper community life in Christ

George Lings

‘George Lings is a radical, one who believes that we should explore the deep roots of faith if we are to live well. *Seven Sacred Spaces* distils the wisdom of decades of looking, listening and reflecting. Read it if you want to be a deep-rooted Christian today. I recommend it very, very highly.’

Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool

BRF is proud to have published this thoughtful and thought-provoking book, in which **George Lings** brings to life the ‘seven sacred spaces’ of traditional monastic communities – cell, chapel, chapter, cloister, garden, refectory and scriptorium – and demonstrates their profound relevance for contemporary Christians.

He writes: ‘For me, there need be no gap between belonging to Jesus’ church and having a shared Christian life worth living. I admit immediately that for many people there is a chasm between these two. My discovery has been to see that the seven sacred spaces approach is one way in which that disturbing gap can close.’

For more information, go to brfonline.org.uk.

**CHURCH
ARMY**
.ORG

The BRF prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word,
to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love.
And in so doing, may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly
and follow more faithfully in the steps of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forevermore.
Amen

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