

BRIXTON S.W.

Enabling all ages to grow in faith



BRF

Sharing *the* Story



brf.org.uk/centenary



Living Faith

Resourcing your spiritual journey



Living Faith is both the newest and the oldest of BRF's ministries, dating back to 1922.

In 2020 Living Faith became the name which captured the five series of Bible reading notes, the annual publishing programme and events focused on the areas of Bible reading, prayer, spirituality and discipleship.



Living Faith encourages people of all ages to go deeper in prayer and in their relationship with God, and enables them to grow as Christian disciples, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

'You are an incredible organisation keeping us all afloat, and enabling us to grow – whatever stage of our Christian life or journey.' **Nicola, New Daylight reader**

Anna Chaplaincy

Offering spiritual care in later life



Founded in 2010 by Debbie Thrower in Alton, Hampshire, Anna Chaplaincy became part of BRF when other churches wanted to adopt the same approach to older people's ministry.

Today, BRF's Anna Chaplaincy team supports a growing network of nearly 200 Anna Chaplains and 1,500 volunteers, who offer spiritual care and support to older people.

BRF's support for the network includes training, resources, residential events, forums, meet-ups and consultancy.



'BRF has a genius for scaling up good grassroots ideas. Now we're seeing our vision in action – to bring comfort and succour to older people in many more parts of the country – and one day, maybe, to all parts!'

Debbie Thrower, Anna Chaplaincy pioneer



The early years

1922

The Fellowship of St Matthew is founded by Revd Leslie Mannering in Brixton. The first daily Bible reading notes are published on 1 January 1922.



1926

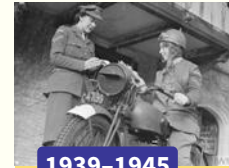
The Fellowship of St Matthew is renamed The Bible Reading Fellowship. Monthly circulation reaches 1,500 copies.

1929

Monthly circulation reaches 20,000 per issue.

1939–1945

At the start of World War II, a special services edition of BRF notes is produced. By the end of the war, readership has increased by 80,000.



1924

Other churches in Southwark Diocese start using BRF notes and circulation reaches 500 copies per month.

1927

At a retreat in Carshalton, Surrey, to discuss BRF's future, it is agreed that 'the Spirit must have free play'.

1930

BRF appoints Miss Margery Sykes as its first employee.



Milestones

1947

BRF celebrates its silver jubilee at an event attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. In her address she testifies to using BRF notes herself.



1961

Circulation of BRF notes passes 500,000 copies per issue.

1988

Richard Fisher joins BRF and goes on to steer the charity through the next three decades of growth and change.



1999–2020

For just over 20 years Barnabas in Schools provides RE Days and INSETs, helping primary schools explore Christianity creatively.



2012–2018

Who Let The Dads Out? is part of BRF for a season – inspiring and resourcing churches to support fathers, father figures and their children in sharing faith together.



2016

Parenting for Faith becomes part of the BRF family of ministries. Rachel Turner joins the staff team.



1952

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother becomes Patron.



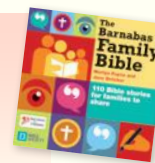
1983

Publication of *A Feast for Lent* and *A Feast for Advent* by Delia Smith, establishes BRF as a leading publisher of Lent and Advent resources.



1995

Barnabas Children's imprint is launched.



2008

Messy Church becomes part of BRF. Lucy Moore begins a new pioneering role, leading and developing the Messy Church movement.



Anna Chaplaincy becomes BRF's first chaplaincy ministry with Debbie Thrower joining the staff team.



Parenting for Faith

Equipping parents to raise God-connected children and teens

Founded in 2005, Parenting for Faith started when God gave Rachel Turner a vision to support families to nurture faith in the home.

parenting for faith®

The Parenting for Faith team at BRF now offers courses for parents and church leaders, resources, training for children, youth and families workers and online communities. Over 900 churches have run Parenting for Faith courses.

Parenting for Faith helps thousands of parents and carers to grow in confidence and skills to share their faith with their children and nurture faith in the home. It also enables church workers to create communities that support parents and children in this journey.



‘Being part of BRF has enabled Parenting for Faith to learn from a century of wisdom in how to equip and reach individuals and churches to nurture faith in everyday life.’

Rachel Turner, Parenting for Faith pioneer

Messy Church

Church, but not as you know it!

Founded in 2004 by Lucy and Paul Moore in Cowplain, Hampshire, today Messy Church is an international movement.



With over 3,500 Messy Churches worldwide, it's a way of being church for families based on the values of being Christ-centred, for all ages, enabling creativity, offering hospitality and celebration.



‘Through BRF’s faith in the original concept, its long-term investment, support and commitment, Messy Churches have been able to reach families across four continents with the love of Jesus.

There are many wonderful ministries that spring up in local churches: God has used BRF to help this one spread far, wide and deep to grow the kingdom.’

Lucy Moore, Messy Church founder



Sharing *the* Story

since 1922

We're delighted to introduce the theme for our centenary year:

Sharing the Story

We're sharing the story of BRF, celebrating the work of the past 100 years, from our first Bible reading notes to the ministries we champion today:

Anna Chaplaincy, **Living Faith**, **Messy Church** and **Parenting for Faith**.

We're sharing the story of the Bible, celebrating how it has spoken to countless people over the years and continues to speak today.

We're hoping that you will share your stories of faith with us as God's story works itself out in our lives.

Will you share your story of being involved with BRF?

Email us at centenary@brf.org.uk or visit brf.org.uk.

We are gathering stories from people who have been involved with BRF.

These include Catharine, who was prepared for confirmation by BRF's founder, Leslie Mannering; Beryl Fudge, who has been a lifelong reader of the notes and remembers the silver jubilee; and Eileen in Saskatchewan (Canada), who is a life member and was first introduced to the Bible reading notes in Sunday school.

To share your story, email us at testimonies@brf.org.uk.

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Celebrating our centenary

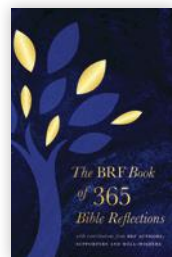
BRF centenary rose

The BRF centenary rose is an exciting new initiative to help celebrate the charity's 100th year. 'Cream Abundance', a gorgeous floribunda, is a tribute to God's abundant provision for BRF over the last century.
brfonline.org.uk/rose



Centenary classics and publishing highlights

In October 2021 we launched *The BRF Book of 365 Bible Reflections*, and during 2022 we will be republishing some old favourites, including a boxed set of *The People's Bible Commentary: The Gospels and Acts* in April 2022. Other much-loved classics include Simon Barrington-Ward's *The Jesus Prayer*, Brother Ramon's Lent book *When They Crucified My Lord*, Mike Coles' translation of well-known Bible stories into Cockney and Martyn Payne's seminal resource *How to Tell a Bible Story*.



The BRF Lent and Advent books for 2022 use the theme of sharing the story to reflect on these key seasons.

To complement *The BRF Book of 365 Bible Reflections* we will be publishing *The BRF Book of 100 Prayers* at the end of the year.

Centenary service

Save the date to join our online Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on **24 April 2022**, with Canon Dr George Lings, Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE and Canon Dr Christina Baxter CBE. The service will include readings and prayers and will also feature BRF's ministries. At the end of the service there will be an act of dedication.

During the year we will be holding events that will feature our centenary. These include the Messy Church International Conference (May) and the Festival of Prayer (July). More events are being planned.

To keep informed about our centenary events and activities, visit brf.org.uk/centenary.



How can I get involved in BRF's centenary?

Become a Friend of BRF

'I became a friend of BRF twelve months ago as I was impressed by the work being carried out and I wanted to help fund it to ensure it was available for future generations.'

Julie, BRF supporter

We are heavily reliant upon fundraising and gifts in wills. A great way to support us is to become a Friend of BRF, with a regular monthly donation from £2. To find out more and to become a friend, visit brf.org.uk/friends.

Volunteer



'I have loved being able to share the story, values and vision of Messy Church with different churches in different locations, and then to journey with the leaders who have become close friends.' **Charis Lambert, volunteer for Messy Church since 2007**

During our centenary and beyond, you can help us in sharing the story of the Bible, BRF and the way God transforms lives through our ministries. To become involved as a BRF local church champion or networker, please visit brf.org.uk/volunteer.

Pray



'It is such a privilege to find words and phrases to help people pray. This is a whole new ministry that the Lord gave me "for such a time as this".' **Martyn Payne**

Martyn Payne is BRF's volunteer prayer advocate, compiling the four-monthly *BRF Prayer Diary* and contributing prayers for social media.

Prayer and fellowship have been foundational to BRF and during the centenary year we would love to encourage more people to pray for our work. If you would like to pray for us, please visit brf.org.uk/prayer.



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

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