Pray with us

Anna Chaplaincy | Living Faith

Messy Church | Parenting for Faith





4 MAY - 6 SEPTEMBER 2025

Prayer diary

Inspiring people of all ages to grow in Christian faith

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:6–7, NIV).

In his closing remarks to the faithful Christians in Philippi, Paul encourages them to pray, acknowledging that the best answer to all their prayers is God's supernatural peace. Clearly, prayer and peace belong together.

This year 8 May is the 80th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty following six years of war in Europe. Maybe your church and community are celebrating this milestone moment? However, whereas peace between nations and communities has always proved elusive, peace in our hearts is possible; and this is where true peace begins. Lasting inner peace can be experienced because of the offer of peace with God made possible through Jesus Christ on the cross.

This is where our praying must be rooted. Coming home to God, and being at peace with God, is the inspiration for our prayers for peace for our neighbours, friends, communities, the work of BRF Ministries and ultimately, the world. Please pray with us over these next four months that God's peace will guard, resource and overrule in the events, programmes and lives highlighted in the

weeks to come. Let the peace you receive overflow into your praying with us. Perhaps the prayer below is a place to start.

Thank you for continuing to pray faithfully with us for BRF Ministries and for so much more besides!

Yours prayerfully



Martin

Martyn Payne
BRF Ministries volunteer prayer advocate

Loving Father,
turning to you in prayer is like coming home;
listening for your voice is like longing for the dawn;
stilling our souls before you
is like sitting down at a banqueting table.
Here we are this day,
ready to feast,
poised to listen
and eager to experience your presence
and pass on your peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the renewal of our commitment to pray

The heart is warmed by the Spirit of God who helps us pray, even when we do not know how to pray... interceding with sighs too deep for words. For then, even the prayers of non-believers may rise to the heavenly throne of God. Here is hope for those without hope, for those who do not know what hope is.

Gordon Giles, *A Calendar of Carols* (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Prayer starts by coming home to God, and in God's presence being reminded by God's Spirit that we are beloved children, with whom God is pleased.



Pray with us for

- the staff team meeting daily to pray for the work of BRF Ministries
- Richard Fisher, who compiles the weekly prayer email and encourages supporters
 of BRF Ministries to join us in prayer
- Martyn Payne and Karen Laister as they prepare this four-monthly Prayer Diary
- the communication team who select prayers and quotes for social media, and prayers for services such as the 80th anniversary of VE Day this Thursday
- our own commitment to pray for BRF Ministries, asking that we might remain faithful and focused, praying at all times in the Spirit for the work of BRF Ministries



God of light,

who helped to keep the home fires burning during the dark days of war in Europe, set our lives alight today in a time of peace, so that we shine as lamplights, keeping the darkness at bay and holding on to that precious peace that was won for us in history, and supremely on the cross for eternity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For God's timely provision of finance

In Mark 9:23–24 we read... "Everything is possible for one who believes"... the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" It's that prayer of doubt-tinged hope and faith which I so resonate with and believe to be important for each of us.

Naomi Aidoo, *Finding Flourishing* (BRF Ministries, 2024)



Thought for the week

Prayer is not some sort of business transaction with God. Prayer is about nurturing a relationship, out of which flows God's work in us and through us into the world.

Pray with us for

- a good response to our annual appeal, giving thanks for those who support BRF Ministries with gifts
- for the fundraising that enabled BRF Ministries to give free copies of *The Upper Room* to chaplains ministering in hospitals, prisons, hospices and nursing homes
- for the charitable trusts and foundations who support BRF Ministries
- the fundraising team exploring new initiatives to generate funds
- the supporter services team dealing with the recording of donations, gift aid and providing admin support to enable BRF Ministries to raise funds

Loving Shepherd,
you gave your life for us, your sheep,
to bring us safely home to the Father.
On our journey through life's hills and valleys,
guide us to green pastures,
lead us beside still waters,
watch over us in dangerous places
and keep us safe within the fold of your love,
now and always.
Amen.



For making disciples through our Bible reading notes

Jesus gives three sets of teaching on prayer. Together, they remind us that prayer is not a formula but, first and foremost, about who we pray to: God, who loves us as a parent loves a child, and who will only give us good things. Jesus' teaching on prayer, first and foremost, directs the disciple towards God and his faithfulness.

Isabelle Hamley, Guidelines, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

It can sometimes help to frame your prayers as questions to God and then very deliberately to leave space for God's answers.



Pray with us for

- readers of our Bible reading notes, that the notes would be exactly what they need to hear right now
- the editors of our Bible reading notes Gordon Giles, Jackie Harris, Eley McAinsh, Daniele Och. Rachel Tranter and Olivia Warburton
- those who edit, design and proofread the notes
- those writing for future issues of the Bible reading notes, that they would listen to God and write wisely
- that people's hearts would be moved to donate to enable others to have access to Bible reading notes to connect the readings with everyday life



Word of the Father,
as we encounter sacred words from you
in the pages of scripture,
in the reflections of scholars
and in the lyrics of songs,
may our hearts burn within us
on hearing your voice speaking to us this very day,
for the sake of our family and friends,
our community and our world
and for ourselves. Amen.

For God's blessing on Parenting for Faith

In prayer... we do not always need to outline the desired solution, but rather present our petition to God trusting that God will know the best outcome better than we could ourselves.

Olivia Warburton, Guidelines, Sep-Dec 2024



Thought for the week

When we pray, we are choosing in faith to step into the bigger reality in which we live, which stretches beyond the ordinary, time-limited dimension of our existence.

Pray with us for

- The Parenting for Faith team as they plan and deliver resources, courses and training, both face-to-face and online
- Anna Hawken, ministry lead, that the Lord might guide and inspire her in the decisions she takes on behalf of Parenting for Faith
- Team members, Kate Irvine and Becky Sedgwick, that they may experience God's presence as they pray and serve together
- Fruitful partnerships between Parenting for Faith and other local and national networks who work with Christian families
- Family members attending courses online or reading Parenting for Faith publications, that they may be encouraged in their nurture of young lives for a life of faith

Thank you, gracious God, that your everlasting love never gives up on us; always hopes the best for us and is forever working to bring good out of the mess in which we find ourselves. All through the cross of Christ.



Looking for prayers to use in intercessions?

Our website now includes seasonal and topical prayers to use in churches, small groups or personal prayer. Here are two prayers for Pentecost.

Wind of God, direct us.

Peace of God, surround us.

Water of God, refresh us.

Whisper of God, counsel us.

Silence of God, still us.

Spirit of God, fill us,

revealing Jesus to us and in us for your glory.

Amen.

Holy Spirit of God,
as you come alongside to convict,
counsel and comfort us,
bring to mind your words to us,
pour into our hearts your love towards us,
fill our lives with your gifts to share with others,
and be a never-failing presence within us,
on our journey through life for your name's sake.
Amen.

brf.org.uk/prayers-for-intercession

For making disciples through our publications

If we follow Jesus' teachings and get to know him as a personal friend and Saviour, we, too, can find ourselves transformed and able to live in a new way. Through reading the Bible, prayer and joining in fellowship with other Christians, we also can be equipped to serve God in new ways and to make a difference in our world.

Margaret Martin, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024



Thought for the week

Words of scripture, read or remembered, help us tune in to the voice God and to the awareness of God's Spirit at work in us and the world.

Pray with us for

- all BRF Ministries authors, past and present. Thank God for their creativity, dedication and wisdom
- BRF Ministries commissioning editor Natalie Watson, as she works with authors to create proposals for new publications
- the marketing and communications team who promote our books and resources
- the content creation team as they edit, design and proofread resources of all kinds
- readers of our resources, that they would speak into people's lives and provide enrichment, challenge and inspiration



Lord God,

You created us in your likeness with an instinct for compassion; a lively conscience; and a longing for connectedness. Nurture these divine gifts in us and in all your children, that this earth might once again be filled with the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea. For your name's sake. Amen.

For a fresh experience of the work of God's Holy Spirit

When our connection to God is broken, we are diminished. The most powerful way to reconnect with the Spirit is through prayer. Indeed, daily prayer is our lifeline to God's life-preserving grace... Prayer is our spiritual life's power supply.

Earnest S. Lyght, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024



Thought for the week

The Spirit within us is always praying 'Come, Lord Jesus... May your kingdom come'. It can help us into a time of prayer to join in with the Spirit as we repeat this often, in time with our breathing in and out.

Pray with us for

- God's Spirit to be poured out in abundance on young and old in the kingdom of God
- God's Spirit to draw together the generations for the growth of God's kingdom and the glory of God
- God's Spirit to help communicate the truth of the gospel in a language and media that people will understand
- God's Spirit to guide trustees to new opportunities for BRF Ministries for the sake of the gospel
- God's Spirit to inspire authors as they write and create resources, and nurture new initiatives that help all ages grow in faith

Fire of God, empower us.
Oil of God, anoint us.
Wind of God, direct us.
Peace of God, surround us.
Water of God, refresh us.
Whisper of God, counsel us.
Silence of God, still us.
Spirit of God, fill us,
revealing Jesus to us and in us
for your glory. Amen.



For God's blessing on the Messy Church Conference



Building the kingdom of God, like sowing seed, is an act of faith. We cast out a line (to change the metaphor!) and then wait patiently till something bites. We speak some words we think must be spoken or we pray a daring prayer for our friend or neighbour or church, and then we wait for it to come to fruition.

Veronika Zundel, New Daylight, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

When we pray for others, first imagine them sitting beside you in your prayer space, and then imagine putting your arms around them to bless them with the love of God.

Pray with us for

- the Messy Church team and volunteer conference planning team, as they plan final preparations for the Messy Church Conference this coming weekend
- the speakers, workshop leaders and musicians that what they have prepared will inspire and equip Messy Church leaders
- travelling mercies, as Messy Church leaders gather from around the world
- Messy Church young leaders as they finish exams and join us at conference to deliver workshops and lead a ceilidh
- key international Messy Church leaders as they meet on 23 June for prayer, encouragement and fellowship



Set our hearts on fire, Lord, with compassion for those who do not yet know you, making visible Christ among us through heartfelt hospitality, joyful togetherness and inspired creativity, in the name of the Christlike God. Amen.

For making disciples through our prayer resources

Our prayer lives are not empowered by biblical knowledge and flowery words but by an open heart which believes sin can still be forgiven and miracles can still be experienced.

Jen Baker, Day by Day With God, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

Prayer is an intentional surrender to God's presence that welcomes God's rule into our lives and into the lives of all those who are on our hearts.



Pray with us for

- authors writing resources which enable others to go deeper in prayer and their life with God
- Richard Fisher and others who write prayers and encourage prayer for BRF Ministries
- that the prayers of inspiration, praise and challenge posted on our social media channels would be a daily reminder of God's love
- for the Perspectives on Prayer event being held in Oxford on Saturday 5 July
- those who pray daily for BRF Ministries, giving thanks for their faithfulness in supporting the charity in this way

Each day this week, Lord, help us to start again: and like the prodigal regain our senses; repent of our sin; retrace our steps; and return to our true home, where you have always been waiting for us with arms open wide in love. Amen.



For the work of the trustees of BRF Ministries



Actions that do not match our prayers are like pieces of a jigsaw that do not fit but have to be forced into place. They spoil the whole picture.

Margaret Silf, New Daylight, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

Sometimes the Lord moves us to focus our praying on one person or one need alone – a prayer burden, if you like. When this happens, stick with this and don't try and attempt anything more.

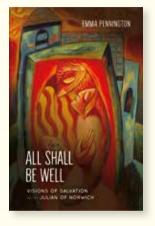
Pray with us for

- wisdom for the trustees as they discern what the Spirit is saying about the future direction of the charity's work
- inspiration and insight for Mark Sheard (chair of trustees, pictured) and for Paul Goodliff (vice chair)
- trustee members: Andrew Barton, Alistair Booth, Sarah Hayes, Julian Hills, Andrew, Howard, David Leeds, Verity Mitchell, Christina Profitt and Mike Wilkinson
- God's guidance concerning finances and how the money is raised and spent
- Richard Fisher (chief executive), to trust in God for his strength and spiritual health



Gracious God,
whose banner over us is love
and whose everlasting arms hold us safe,
we give you heartfelt thanks
for the gift of this new week
and the gift of our life that can add value to it.
Grant us today new opportunities
to share your love with all who we meet
in the waking hours before us.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

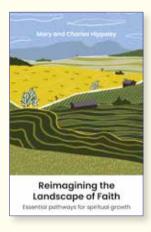
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Find out more at brfonline.org.uk/collections/prayer

For God's blessing on our content creation team

The prayer of Patrick has often been called 'St Patrick's Breastplate' and is a prayer of confidence in God... Pray slowly, 'Christ with me... before me... behind me... within me... beneath me... above me... at my right... at my left.' Use your imagination to 'see' the presence of Christ about you.

Michael Mitton, Poetry of Pilarimage (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

The use of the word 'just' in our prayers may indeed be a sign of humility, but sometimes perhaps it might betray a lack of trust in God's willingness to bless us and others abundantly.



Pray with us for

- Rachel Tranter (content creation lead) as she works on projects, scheduling and managing her team
- Ben Bloxham, Rose Edwards, Felicity Howlett, Daniele Och and Becca Turnbull in the content reation team
- BRF Ministries authors as they write to inspire, encourage and challenge readers in their Christian discipleship
- those who write articles and prayers for our digital and social media platforms
- God's blessing on the publication of new books and resources, that through publicity they will reach those who need to read them

Lord Jesus, you gave up everything for us. Teach us to follow your way of sacrificial service: doing good, seeking justice and showing compassion, even when no one says thank you, no one notices, no one cares and only you see and only you know. Amen.



For God's blessing on our support teams

When we let God guide us in our prayers, we can trust that God will take care of our concerns - both named and unnamed. My trust is not in my prayers; my trust is in God.

Tahina Rajaomaria, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

Prayer is an act of faith. We won't always 'see' the answers; but that does not mean that they haven't come. God is at work beyond the headlines, under the radar and behind the scenes.



Pray with us for

- Jules Morgan (head of people and operations) and Maddie Jane (operations team lead)
- Taura Wood and Laura Fry who daily support customers and subscribers with their orders and queries
- John Chapman (business transformation manager)
- Penny Clarke (head of finance) and Wilbroad Chashi (accounts assistant)
- Helen Morrison and Tabitha Griffiths who support donors when they contact the office



A prayer for all you know who speak in God's name this week: Lord, grant them a gentle spirit, an invitational voice, a kindly presentation, an honest heart, a sincere love and memorable words, which may become your presence to us through them. Amen.

For God's blessing on Anna Chaplaincy

Whenever I sit down to pray... I try to let go, breathe and feel myself held in a space of love. God provides me with care greater than any human physician. When I surrender to God, God calms my restlessness so that I can experience resurrection life.

Lory Widmer Hess, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024



Thought for the week

Don't pray anonymously for an organisation or vaguely for a situation, but rather focus where possible on individuals you know, or on those whose names you've been given. God knows us by name and it is individuals that God touches.

Pray with us for

- Marian Muskett (Anna Chaplaincy coordinator) as she maintains positive and regular communications with Anna Chaplains
- our network get togethers, where Anna Chaplains gather for encouragement, sharing of news, resources and ideas and to worship together
- those Church in Wales ministers attending the training at St Padarn's Institute and that the vision for Anna Chaplaincy will continue to capture their imagination
- Julia Burton-Jones (training and development lead) and the freelance training team
- Debbie Ducille (ministry lead), as she continues to extend links with denominational groups and organisations across the UK

Lord of time,

draw near to my friends (name them),
who are closer to heaven, whose faith has endured
and whose experience of your grace has been long.
In their tiredness, be their strength.
In their ill-health, be their wholeness.
In their confusion, be their guide.
In their aloneness, be their friend.
Be their light and inspiration to the end,
which will be their new beginning. Amen.



For all who volunteer with BRF Ministries

Where is your favourite place for peace and quiet? What makes it so special?... Around the coasts of Ireland and Britain. there are thousands of small islands... which in former times were the dwelling place of prayerful people who sought out sanctuaries for prayer, learning and, in some cases, spiritual warfare.

Michael Mitton, Poetry of Pilarimage (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

The Lord Jesus asks us to pray, because our prayers are part of how, not just we, but the world will be transformed. This is an amazing privilege and huge responsibility.



Pray with us for

- volunteers in the Messy Church support teams, who help with training, writing and prayer
- people who pray faithfully for BRF Ministries and the work of the charity
- Anna Chaplaincy volunteers working alongside older people in churches and in care homes
- volunteers distributing Bible reading notes to local congregations
- volunteers who support the Parenting for Faith team at events and conferences



Father, because Christ is in me, I am enough this day and can become whatever gift I need to be for the sake of others. Help me to offer that gift without envy, comparison or self-glory, so that the gift is not spoilt or made void, but instead, will accomplish what you purpose, through me, and beyond my knowing, for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

For making disciples through our resources

When we trust, we fix our eyes on Jesus rather than our circumstances. Whether or not our prayers are answered in the way that we hoped, we can choose to follow Jesus' command to Jairus: 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'

John Schliesser, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

'Pray without ceasing'. Look for God's blessings every moment of the day and receive them gratefully, acknowledging God's presence. This is one way in which prayer – our relationship with God – is ceaselessly renewed.



Pray with us for

- churches using Holy Habits material to encourage missional discipleship
- online discipleship material, including Messy Basics from Messy Church, Parenting for Faith online courses, Anna Chaplaincy training and the Spiritual Care series
- events organised by BRF Ministries encouraging prayer, Bible reading and Christian discipleship
- those whose discipleship is fed by BRF Ministries published resources such as Bible notes or books
- BRF Ministries authors who seek to offer fresh insights both into making new disciples and nurturing existing discipleship and faith

Teach us, good Lord, to do less and be more; to speak less and listen more; to take less and give more; to achieve less and become more; to work less and play more, as your children in the kingdom of God. Amen.



For God's blessing on the senior leadership team

There are times in our lives when God seems far off, all our prayers seem to drift into an empty void, and we wonder if anyone is out there at all.

Clare and Micah Hayns, Garden Song (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Don't rush into intercessory prayer. Discipline yourself first to be still in God's presence, so that the Lord can shape and inspire your prayers.



Pray with us for

- those who serve on the senior leadership team
- the weekly meetings on a Monday, away days and times of prayer together
- Spirit-inspired, positive meetings with outside agencies, charities and organisations
- a good work-life balance for those in leadership, both as a model for those they care for and for their own walk with God
- effective staff communication and working together for God's kingdom



Sabbath Lord, help us to receive the gift of rest, to rediscover the meaning of holidays*, to value stillness and silence and to receive your inner peace, without guilt or fearfulness, knowing that it is what you do in us that lasts and bears fruit. far more than what we do for you. Amen.

*holy days

For making disciples through our training courses

'May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'... The Lord's Prayer does not allow us to think of life to come, of resurrection, as pie in the sky. The kingdom of heaven is not delayed gratification but a clarion call for action today.

Isabelle Hamley, *Embracing Humanity* (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Our God is not persuaded to listen more carefully by wordy and eloquent prayers; in fact, the fewer and simpler our words, the better, so that the unspoken cries of our heart can be heard.



Pray with us for

- planning and preparation for the autumn training programmes
- Messy Church training sessions on 'Starting your Messy Church', 'Messy Church and Communion', 'Messy Church Goes Wild' and 'Messy Church and discipleship'
- Parenting for Faith training events exploring with parents how to share faith with toddlers, children and teenagers
- Anna Chaplaincy training including 'The Spiritual Care Series', 'Introducing Anna Chaplaincy' and 'Becoming an Anna Friend'
- Staff leading workshops and training at conferences and network events

Light of the world,
sometimes you shine brightly
so we cannot miss you;
sometimes you flicker gently
so we need not fear you;
sometimes you burn warmly
so we might feel you;
and sometimes you dazzle powerfully
so that our darkness must flee.
For in your light, do we see light,
Jesus, light of my world. Amen.



For God's blessing on mission with all ages

What role does prayer play in your life? How does prayer transform you and your relationship with God? How does prayer connect you with God's grace?

Daniele Och, The Upper Room, Sep-Dec 2024

Thought for the week

Prayer is not primarily about listing requests to God, but rather, listening to God's requests of us for the day ahead.



Pray with us for

- the children, young people and the elderly within our own community, who are not vet part of the kingdom
- the children and adults who attend Messy Church, that they may grow up into a living faith of their own
- Parenting for Faith advocates supporting young people in Christian families
- elderly people in our community supported by Anna Chaplains as they face loneliness and the challenges of old age
- the children, young people and older members of our families and friends, who we know personally, who need our prayers



Gracious God, keep us teachable so that we might be changed; keep us vulnerable so that we can be moved; keep us breakable so that we might be recreated. Draw us back to our true identity which is to be like you, who is always all about others and not yourself. Amen.

For renewed vision and inspiration



Columba had a great love of creation, with one prayer beginning: 'Delightful it is to stand on the peak of a rock, in the bosom of the isle, gazing at the face of the sea.' Spend some time outside, becoming aware of the Creator of this wonderful earth... What might God be saying to you?

Michael Mitton, *Poetry of Pilgrimage* (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

The best answer to our prayers for others and ourselves is an experience of God's presence.

Pray with us for

- members of our staff team returning from the holiday period, that they may have been refreshed and renewed in their vision for the work
- ministry team leads here at BRF Ministries, as they listen to God's guidance regarding the priorities for their work in the academic year ahead
- the senior leadership team as they re-engage with new projects before them and nurture the teams with whom they work
- trustees and council members in their continuing support for BRF Ministries through their prayers, expertise and advocacy
- BRF Ministries authors, that they might be inspired with words from God for the themes they choose in future publications

Father God,
just as at the beginning,
when you breathed life
into us, who are created in your likeness,
so now, in the new beginning,
may the Spirit of God
breathe the life of Jesus
into us, your people.
Amen.













Pray with us online, join us on

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x.com/brfcharity



instagram.com/brfcharity



Pray with us weekly by joining our prayer partners and receiving our weekly email

brf.org.uk/weekly-prayer-emails

The prayer of BRF Ministries

Faithful God,
thank you for growing BRF Ministries
from small beginnings
into the worldwide family it is today.
We rejoice as young and old
discover you through your word
and grow daily in faith and love.
Keep us humble in your service,
ambitious for your glory
and open to new opportunities.
For your name's sake.
Amen.

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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BRF Ministries, 15 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon 0X14 3FE +44 (0)1865 319700 | enquiries@brf.org.uk brf.org.uk



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