

Pray with us

Anna Chaplaincy | Living Faith
Messy Church | Parenting for Faith



7 SEPTEMBER 2025 – 3 JANUARY 2026

Prayer diary

*Inspiring people of all ages to
grow in Christian faith*



'Those who fear the Lord talk with each other, and the Lord listens and hears. A scroll of remembrance is written in his presence concerning those who honour his name' (Malachi 3:16, NIV but in the present tense).

This latest prayer diary begins in the season of Creationtide and Harvest. Creationtide offers us an opportunity to celebrate the gift of this world to us and to remind ourselves of our call to steward it well; while at Harvest we give thanks for all the fruits of creation with which we are so blessed. Churches will be decorated and harvest displays of fruit, vegetables and, of course, non-perishable goods to pass on to the local food bank.

All this set me thinking about how God might decorate heaven for Harvest. What would be on his thanksgiving table? Surely it will be us, in as much as we are the fruits of his work, along with the good works God has inspired in and through us. God will delight to put these and us on display! But there is more. I believe that God will also celebrate the prayers, which we have offered for our world, our neighbours and ourselves. Our conversations with God and our faith-filled prayers for others will not be forgotten. Prayer is work and prayer is the fruit of lips which honour his name. Prayer is how God's kingdom is built, and that is worthy of heavenly celebration.

So, please don't ever devalue your time praying with us for BRF Ministries compared to other more active and public service.

God's harvest table needs your prayers. In fact, the truth is that the table cannot be laid, nor even exist, without your faithful prayers which make it possible for our office staff, our ministry teams and our publications to bear fruit for God's glory.

Yours prayerfully



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 gifts of creativity for our ministry teams

What followed was an exercise in prayer where we laid a grain of rice on the floor one after another in a line, each grain representing something we were thankful for. The aim was for this line of rice to be as long as possible.

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

Bible verse for the week

May my prayer be like special perfume before You. May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening gift given on the altar in worship.

PSALM 141:2 (NLV)



Pray with us for

- teachers who visit the BRF Ministries Resources Hub for ideas to use in classrooms or collective worship
- Messy Church teams creating materials for Harvest, Advent and Christmas
- the Parenting for Faith team as they prepare resources that can be used by families to explore faith together
- churches who use published material from BRF Ministries in groups and during services to nurture discipleship
- the Anna Chaplaincy team meeting in person on Tuesday



**Almighty God,
creator of quarks and quasars,
mitochondria and magnetars,
neutrons and nebula,
stem cells and stellar clusters,
we praise you for the infinite variety of your universe.
Ignite within each one of us gifts of creativity
as we seek to inspire one another
with a passion for your word
and a heart for your world.
To the praise of your glory. Amen.**

For our response to the season of Creationtide

She [Mother Julian] pulls back the veil of heaven and shows how Christ garners our petitionary prayers, constantly using them for good and ensuring that, though we may not see it, all may be well.

Emma Pennington, *All Shall Be Well*

(BRF Ministries 2025)

Bible verse for the week

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (KJV)



Pray with us for

- BRF Ministries, that, as a charity, we would seek to find ways to promote sustainability and care for the environment
- the publications we produce to help Christians consider their response to our climate emergency
- children's, youth and family workers who use the BRF Ministries Resources Hub to find materials to teach about God's love in creation
- the Messy Church Goes Wild initiative and churches exploring what it means to be sustainable
- the Anna Chaplaincy local coordinator forum meeting on Monday

Spirit of the Living God, who with all creation, longs with groaning too deep for words for the healing of everyone and everything,* inspire in our leaders, scientists, economists, development workers, and in each one of us, a new determination and courage to fulfil our divine calling to care for this world, and all who dwell in it. Amen.

*ROMANS 8:22–25



For the work of the fundraising team

Prayer makes a difference. You will inevitably shift something in your thinking, simply because you have acknowledged that God is there and that you are seeking to do what is right. We may not always see a direct answer to our prayers, but experience has shown me that the more I pray, the more insight and wisdom I seem to be able to access.

Chris Gillies, *On the Way to Work*
BRF Ministries, 2024)



Bible verse for the week

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

2 CHRONICLES 20:12

Pray with us for

- Jules MacNaughton, praying for her leadership of the fundraising team and for encouragement in her work
- the initiatives and campaigns the fundraising team are currently developing
- our donors, and give thanks for their generosity and prayers for BRF Ministries
- the 'Introduction to Anna Chaplaincy' Zoom presentation on Tuesday
- those who support BRF Ministries and who are considering giving a gift in their will



Lord God,
you promise in your word
that when we give, it will be given to us;
that when we bring in the whole tithe,
you will throw open the floodgates of heaven;
that when we bless, we will be blessed.
Grant us courage and faith
to share our financial resources generously
to be used for the growth of your kingdom,
acknowledging that all things come from you
and of your own, do we give you. Amen.

For the spiritual well-being of families

If you accept that prayer is so important, please don't let it become just an afterthought. Don't stick it on at the end of a meeting because that's what you're supposed to do. Instead, pray like it's going out of fashion!

Patrick and Debbie Ellisdon, *Ignite*
(BRF Ministries, 2025)

Bible verse for the week

[Paul] knelt down with all of them and prayed.

ACTS 20:36



Pray with us for

- the Parenting Teens for a Life of Faith Zoom course starting on Friday evening
- Anna, Becky and Kate in supporting families to share faith in the home
- the Parenting for Faith bid to the Church of England to fund further development of its ministry
- the Parenting for Faith team work with The Church of England to encourage Christian parenting
- parents who are passionate about creating faith-filled Christian families

Through faith in Christ, we approach you, Lord God, with freedom and confidence.

We kneel before our Father, from whom God's whole family in earth and heaven derives its character and calling, and we ask that the families we know and serve might be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in their inner beings, so that they might come to know Christ dwelling in their hearts through faith for the sake of the kingdom. Amen.

(Based on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3)



For good stewardship of financial resources

Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings!’: spend some time in prayer, asking God to help you identify areas in your life where you are more likely to listen to humans than to God. Ask for courage to do as God asks – even if it comes at a cost!

Alianore Smith, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024



Bible verse for the week

... by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Pray with us for

- Penny Clarke, head of finance and her work in ensuring the charity is using our financial resources wisely
- Wilbroad and his role in supporting Penny and paying suppliers
- the BRF Ministries' finance committee and the governance responsibilities entrusted to them
- the Parenting as a Church Leader day taking place on Thursday this week
- God's provision of financial resources to enable the charity to function and grow



Lord God,
you are before, within and beyond our words.
Shape what we think this day.
Sharpen for good what is said.
Shield those we love.
Shelter us whatever comes our way.
Shoulder our sin and our burdens.
And make us good stewards of your gifts and resources.
For your name's sake. Amen.

For the spiritual well-being of older people

The final prayer said by the whole church at the end of the Eucharist includes these words: ‘Send us out in the power of the Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory.’ This is our collective commitment to go out and be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus to those most vulnerable in our communities and in our world. This is not an optional extra that we do if we feel like it.

Jonathan Arnold, *The Everyday God*
(BRF Ministries, 2024)

Bible verse for the week

You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you...

PSALM 63:1



Pray with us for

- Debbie Ducille and her leadership of the Anna Chaplaincy team
- Julia Burton-Jones and for the training courses she will be leading this autumn
- the Anna Chaplaincy annual gathering taking place on Wednesday and Thursday, for encouragement, worship and training
- Anna Chaplains who week by week spend time listening to and supporting older people in the community and care homes
- churches and individuals considering being part of the Anna Chaplaincy network

May the God who has promised to accompany us
from childhood to old age,
and who longs for each one of us
to come to fullness of life in Christ,
guard, guide and govern us this day
and make us a blessing to others.
For the glory of your name.
Amen.



For the spiritual well-being of Messy Church teams



Mother Julian sees prayer as a process of aligning ourselves with God's love and will so that there is nothing we could ask for that is not of his will or to his worship. For Julian this alignment is possible through God's gifts of faith, hope and love.

Emma Pennington, *All Shall Be Well*
(BRF Ministries, 2025)

Bible verse for the week

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, 'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.' And God granted his request.

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

Pray with us for

- Aike, Jane, Sally, Nina, Sarah and Sophie as they work together to encourage, resource and support local Messy Church teams
- the publication of *An A-Z of Parenting for Faith* (Becky Sedgewick) and *To Hell's Mouth and Back* (Trystan Owain Hughes)
- Messy Church teams as they plan services for the coming months
- local Messy Church leaders as they pastor and disciple those in their team
- Messy Churches who are struggling because they are small or facing particular challenges in their ministry among families



**Welcoming God,
grow your family through the ministry of
Messy Church.
Creator God, set our imaginations on fire.
God of old and young, help us to be a church
for all ages.
Joyful God, help us celebrate you in all we do.
Loving God, help us all walk more closely
with Jesus Christ. Amen.**

For the light of God's love to shine in scripture

You might ask yourself *these* questions in the middle of your day over a sandwich on your lunch break: when have I offered love today or withheld it? Where have I encountered God?... And over time, as we cooperate with God's work in our lives from day to day, we find ourselves in a place of greater freedom to allow the image of God that we carry with us to emerge in what we say and do.

Mary and Charles Hipsley, *Reimagining the Landscape* (BRF Ministries, 2025)



Bible verse for the week

My heart says of you, 'Seek [God's] face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek.

PSALM 27:8

Pray with us for

- the content creation team at BRF Ministries as they commission, design and edit our publications so that readers might be brought closer to God
- the wider team of freelance editors and proofreaders
- inspiration for the editors and writers of our Bible reading notes, asking that they will be gifted with prophetic words for those using the notes a year from now
- God's blessing on the team at our distribution Kingsway CLC Trust, especially in this busy time of year
- those who write articles and prayers for BRF Ministries social media

Lord God of the cross and resurrection,
whose Calvary presence
casts its long shadow and its glorious light
across the pages of scripture,
may our many publications and online posts
bring more and more people to the place
of forgiveness, healing and hope,
so that they might receive in Christ
the experience of life in all its fullness. Amen.



For BRF Ministries volunteers and supporters



'We do not pray to tell God what he does not know, nor to remind him of things he has forgotten. He already cares for the things we pray about... He has simply been waiting for us to care about them with him.'

Philip Yancey, *Prayer: Does it make any difference?* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2006)

Quoted in Patrick and Debbie Ellisdon, *Ignite* (BRF Ministries, 2025)

Bible verse for the week

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

ROMANS 8:26

Pray with us for

- friends of BRF Ministries who support us with regular giving. We give thanks for their faithfulness
- those who volunteer to write articles, prayers, resources and social media posts in support of BRF Ministries
- those who are part of Messy Church teams, volunteer as Anna Friends, support the Parenting for Faith team and distribute Bible reading notes in churches
- our trustees who bring their experience, networks and life skills to the task of good governance of BRF Ministries
- all people who, like ourselves, regularly pray for God's work through BRF Ministries



Lord God, thank you that your will is done on earth when we seek to serve others willingly, when we work to bless our neighbours voluntarily, when we choose to love all people sacrificially, dedicating our free will to your glory.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

For all leading acts of Remembrance

In my prayer life, I have come to value both silent times at home with God and the use of silence in church services. Indeed, there is something that touches me deeply in the companionable silence of a crowd of worshippers.

Bishop David Walker, *New Daylight*,
May–August 2024

Bible verse for the week

Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

ECCLESIASTES 5:2



Pray with us for

- Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends taking services of Remembrance in care homes and in churches
- those using our online resources for Remembrance, including prayers, Messy Church session outlines and Parenting for Faith material
- those using our Bible reading notes this week, asking that God would draw near to each one to comfort and to challenge
- those who mourn the loss of friends or family
- those who we remember with thanksgiving because they were a significant part of our journey of faith

**Lord of life,
bring comfort and bring hope
to all who live
in the shadow of a death.
Sustain them as they hold on to memories.
Count their tears and keep them safe.
Hold them in the embrace of your love.
We ask this through Christ,
who is the resurrection and the life.
Amen.**



For the Anna Chaplaincy network

Jesus instructs us to talk to ‘Father’ when we pray. It is not as if prayer is like sending an email, where one mistake in the address sends it to the rubbish bin, so why is Jesus so keen for us to grasp this? Perhaps he is inviting us to begin our times of prayer by reminding ourselves of the beautiful relationship to which we have been called, children of our heavenly Father.

John Ryeland, *New Daylight*, May–August 2024

Bible verse for the week

Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.

1 CHRONICLES 16:11



Pray with us for

- Anna Chaplaincy online network get togethers on Tuesday which offer fellowship and encouragement to participants
- the ‘Introduction to Anna Chaplaincy’ Zoom presentation that is scheduled for 25 November
- prospective Anna Chaplains and their church leaders considering this ministry for their local church
- Marian and Jane who support the Anna Chaplaincy network across the country
- publication of *The Cost of Christian Living* (Martyn Percy) and *In Righteousness and Justice* (Sharon Prentis) this week



Lord of our lives,
from the cradle to the grave,
we celebrate this week
those who have the gift of years;
who dream dreams for the sake of our children;
who keep the story on behalf of your church;
and who hold wisdom to pass on to our young.
We rise up before them and call them blessed,
honouring them as our grandparents in the faith,
within the all-age kingdom of heaven. Amen.

For our fundraising team

I've become intentional in wording my prayers in the form of a question instead of always asking for help or blessings to do what I have in mind. Questions make my prayers open-ended, allowing my mind to receive the gift of grace instead of trying to seize it. This practice leaves an open window for the Holy Spirit to flow through my day.

Chris Baldauf, *The Upper Room*, May–August 2024



Bible verse for the week

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

MATTHEW 6:6

Pray with us for

- our fundraising team and their current campaigns
- those purchasing Christmas cards, that they might help us raise funds but also be a blessing to those who send and receive them
- our virtual gifts, that supporters might choose to buy these as an alternative Christmas gift
- the Christmas message campaign, that this would be an encouragement to those who give and those who receive a gift
- this busy time of year, that we might be successful with our funding bids to charitable trusts and foundations

Lord God,
you have promised to keep us and sustain us.
Help us:
to trust you for all we need;
to know that our times are in your hand;
to be ready to welcome both closed doors and new directions;
and to be faithful to our calling,
knowing that you will provide
what we need, as long we need it,
for your name's sake. Amen.



For all using our Advent resources

We may be accustomed to experiencing God in certain ways through prayer... and so we go for a rendezvous with God, but God doesn't show up in the normal way because he is weaning us off our dependency on finite ways of experiencing the infinite presence of God. This is just to clear the way for the infinite ways of experiencing the infinite presence of God...

Mary and Charles Hipsley, *Reimagining the Landscape* (BRF Ministries, 2025)

Bible verse for the week

David found strength in the Lord his God.

1 SAMUEL 30:6



Pray with us for

- those who will be reading or using our Advent resources during the coming weeks
- readers of *Donkey Roads and Camel Treks* that as they pilgrimage through Advent, they would be drawn to the wonder of the Christmas story
- Messy Churches who will be reaching out into their communities
- Parenting for Faith and the activities they have planned to help families celebrate with Jesus at the centre
- the Anna Chaplaincy team vision day on Tuesday: pray for refreshed inspiration and wise collaboration in planning for next year



Advent God,
full of grace and truth
help us to know you,
and to press on to know you,
whose arrival is as sure as the dawn,
and who will come to us as showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
(Inspired by Hosea 6:2–3)

For the staff team at BRF Ministries

Rather than beginning our times of prayer by focusing on the presenting needs, start instead by shifting your gaze on to the love of Father God for his children.

John Ryeland, *New Daylight*, May–August 2024

Bible verse for the week

Pray continually.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



Pray with us for

- the supporter care team as they engage with those who work with BRF Ministries and who use our resources
- Jules Morgan, deputy chief executive and head of people
- the marketing and communications team led by Karen Laister (pictured)
- the operations team working in the Abingdon office, to ensure the smooth running of our operation systems
- Penny Clarke, head of finance and operations

Lord God,
just as you show compassion equally to all,
without favour or prejudice,
pour into us that same gift of love for others,
so that, without judgement or agenda,
we might be children of our heavenly Father
and reveal your presence in our needy world.
Amen.



For the trustees of BRF Ministries

Mother Julian considers one way that Jesus' assurance to her that 'all shall be well' is revealed... she sees that, however we feel or however many doubts we have about our prayers being heard, we are deeply and profoundly... united to God through Christ, who is the 'ground of our beseeching'.

Emma Pennington, *All Shall Be Well*
(BRF Ministries, 2025)

Bible verse for the week

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1 (KJV)



Pray with us for

- Mark Sheard, chair of trustees, that God may anoint him with the gift of wise counsel and spiritual insight
- Richard Fisher, giving thanks for his many years of faithful service as chief executive and asking for God's blessing on him and a renewed vision for his vocation
- the trustees with their varied skills and gifts that, together, as they talk and pray, they might hear what the Spirit is saying
- those trustees serving on sub-committees as they make important decisions about the future direction of BRF Ministries
- all managers and team leaders as they come to the end of a busy and year



A rededication prayer for the BRF Ministries family:

As members of the BRF Ministries family,
we rededicate ourselves:

to prayer
to Bible reading
and to the work of enabling all ages
to grow in faith.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For the BRF Ministries community

Paul's recipe for dealing with anxiety has four ingredients: prayer, petition, thanksgiving and requests. Thanksgiving, in particular, focuses our mind on what God has done in the past. The old hymn 'Count your blessings' says that if you do that, it will 'surprise you what the Lord has done'.

Emlyn Williams, *Bible Reflections for Older People*, May–August 2024

Bible verse for the week

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9



Give thanks for

- those who have given to BRF Ministries and enabled the work to happen
- the people who faithfully pray for BRF Ministries
- supporters and volunteers who use, share and promote BRF Ministries in their local communities
- subscribers of our Bible reading notes and their walk with Jesus
- the gift of Jesus, who comes to be with us and to bless us and all those who engage in BRF Ministries this Christmas time

**Christmas God,
who became helpless to help us;
who became weak to strengthen us;
who became poor to enrich us;
and who became empty to fill us;
we invite you into our broken lives
to rescue, restore and renew us
as your beloved children,
through the one who makes all things new.
Amen.**



For the faithfulness of God in BRF Ministries

Have you ever considered how many of the great works of God are done away from human gaze? Take creation, for example, and Jesus' birth; his life between the ages of 12 and 30; his prayers to the Father; the moment of resurrection – God does not have an ego to stroke or people he wants to impress.

Fiona Barnard, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024

Bible verse for the week

From there [Abram] went on towards the hills... and pitched his tent... There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

GENESIS 12:8



Give thanks for

- God's faithfulness in the life of the BRF Ministries family around the world
- the work of Anna Chaplains and the blessing they are to older people
- Messy Churches around the world seeking to be Christ in their communities
- parents and carers who have been resourced in this past year to become more confident in their spiritual parenting
- the BRF Ministries trustees and the staff team



Lord God, thank you for calling us, not just to see but to behold you:
to behold your glory in the face of Jesus Christ;
to behold your glory in creation around us;
to behold your glory as we worship you together;
to behold your glory in the people that we meet;
to behold your glory, deep within, beyond and through all that comes our way in the year ahead.
Amen.

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.

brf.org.uk/give +44 (0)1235 462305

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