



Welcome



Tell, teach, tend, transform, treasure. Five resonant words which sum up the Anglican Church's 'five marks of mission'. They give us the themes for the exciting new issue of *Get Messy!*, out next month, and for this newsletter.

The five marks of mission are all about the outworking of

our Christian faith – living it out and putting it into practice and as we do so, becoming more Christ-like.

These five marks, or actions, run like seams of gold through all our ministries. We could have illustrated each mark in every ministry, but we had to choose our stories. So, we have Parenting for Faith champion Alison Keddilty, talking about a very special way of 'teaching and telling'. Jastine Diaz, who came to the UK from the Philippines when he was eleven and is now a newly commissioned Anna Chaplain, 'tending' to the spiritual needs of lonely older people in Colchester. Hazel Wragg, who, new in her job as intergenerational pioneer, was put on the spot by the PCC about her plans. 'I don't know,' she was brave enough to say. 'God hasn't told me yet.' But God did tell her shortly afterwards, and Messy Church Goes Wild – Nanpantan, is now enthusiastically involved in our Messy Momentum project and busily 'treasuring' the local woodland. And Tony Horsfall, one of our best-loved authors, whose *Footsteps of Faith* is published by BRF Resources this month, shares insights from his 50-year journey of 'transformation', following God's call to ever-deepening discipleship.

I find it both humbling and inspiring to hear, almost daily, people's stories of the myriad ways in which their lives have been touched by our ministries. The countless people who have heard the

good news – many for the first time – as they've attended Messy Church. The parents who have discovered through Parenting for Faith that they can now talk – and learn – about faith with their children, in ways they never thought possible. The thousands of older people across the country who have found affirmation and peace through the 'ministry of presence' offered by Anna Chaplaincy. And our readers and subscribers whose Christian lives have been equipped and sustained by our resources. As one reader wrote recently of *New Daylight*: 'It's helped me continue on the path.'

With very best wishes

Richard
Chief executive.

Pray with us...

In the words of this prayer from the 'Transform: social justice' session in *Get Messy! Volume 4*, published June 2026.

Lord, thank you that you care for everyone and that you see everyone. Help us to care for those around us, especially those who are hurting at the moment. Amen

brfresources.org.uk/get-messy-volume-4

Our prayer resources can be found at brf.org.uk/pray

MAY 2026

Anna Chaplaincy found me!

Barefoot in the forest

Dispelling the myth

Save your stamps

A 50-year journey of faith

and more...



Farewell to Karen

We sadly said goodbye to our long-standing colleague, Karen Laister, head of marketing and engagement, as she left BRF Ministries at the end of February after almost 35 years. Karen joined the staff in 1991 when BRF relocated from central London to Oxford. She played a vital role at the time, helping us to settle into new systems and processes as a new chapter began. In the years that followed, Karen fulfilled a variety of roles across the charity, playing a significant part as BRF grew and developed from a Bible reading notes and book publisher into the family of ministries that comprise BRF Ministries today. We give such grateful thanks for the huge contribution she made over many years, and for her dedication and commitment, and we pray God's rich blessing on her for the future.

*'He tends his flock like a shepherd:
he gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart...'*

Hello from Julie and the fundraising team



Greetings! As we're surrounded by the bright new green leaves of spring, it's a time of gratitude for new life and for the flourishing we see all around us.

A time of gratitude, too, for the generosity and prayers of all our supporters, without which BRF Ministries could not continue to flourish, bringing comfort and hope, inspiration and encouragement, to individuals of all ages and stages of faith, and to churches and communities across the UK.

If you receive the print version of this newsletter you will find our Annual Appeal letter inside, along with a donation form. If you are able to respond to this appeal it would be so appreciated. As I've said in these pages before, we are reliant upon fundraising and gifts in wills to sustain and grow our work, and we need to raise £1.3 million in this financial year.

By the time you read this, we will have a new brochure available for those interested in making a gift to BRF Ministries in their will. In creating the brochure, it has been a privilege to speak with people who have already included us in their wills, about why they have chosen to do so. You can read some of their stories in the brochure, alongside practical information. Instructing a will needn't be expensive or complicated, and a gift to BRF Ministries of one percent or more in your will really is a wonderful way to support us and help us continue our ministry. A bookmark is also enclosed with this mailing, with details of how to get a copy of the brochure, or simply contact the office on **01865 319700**.

Boxes of used stamps used to be a common sight in homes and offices but with the decline in post, these are seen less and less. BUT, we still collect stamps! We have a collection box in the office and once we've collected ten kilograms of stamps we can sell them on to help raise funds. That's a lot of stamps! So, if you are posting a donation or an

order form into the office, could you take the opportunity to enclose any used stamps to add to our collection box? With your help we'll reach that target weight much more quickly!



One of the themes in this newsletter is 'treasure' and as fundraisers we refer to donations as 'treasure'.

In the past four years, many of you will have received a thank you letter, a phone call, or read something written by our fundraising officer, Jane Dutton. Jane has sadly decided to leave BRF Ministries and we'll really miss her. I have worked with Jane previously and we have been so fortunate to have had her as part of our team. We want to thank her for all she has done in helping us raise vital funds – treasure! – and for the wisdom and experience she has brought to the team. I will personally treasure the time I have spent working with her and we all wish her well in everything she goes on to do in the future.

With thanks for all you do too!

Best wishes

**Julie MacNaughton, MCIOF (Dip)
Head of fundraising**



New Daylight in Derbyshire

Jayne Lander wrote to us in December to tell us how much she appreciated Sally Welch's post-Christmas reflections in *New Daylight*. 'Thank you for putting my thoughts about Christmas into sharable words,' wrote Jayne.

Jayne Lander delivers mail to 700 addresses in Ripley in Derbyshire. She walks about ten miles a day, pushing a Royal Mail trolley, and bad weather is no deterrent. Her work is a calling.

'I feel I'm meant to do this job in the community. I might only spend a minute nattering with somebody, but that conversation can transform someone's day.'

Jayne went to Sunday school as a child and used to go to her mum's Methodist chapel on 'high days and holidays' as a teenager. 'But I wasn't a regular church goer by any means,' she says, 'and then when I went to university "the God Squad" really put me off.'

The turnaround came slowly, during a low point in her life – 'it wasn't one of those instant conversions. I'm not like that!' – and Jayne has been reading *New Daylight* off and on since the early 1990s, when she picked up a copy on an Easter visit to Norwich Cathedral.

'I can't say I've read it every day, but it's helped me continue on the path.'

So why did Sally Welch's reflections strike a such a chord?

'It was Sally's introduction: "Congratulations on making it through another Christmas." I love it! It was so human, so honest, and it encapsulated everything I'd been feeling in such a brilliant way. It was wonderful to know I wasn't alone.'

*We always love to hear from you with your comments, stories, and feedback. So, if you have anything you'd like to share with us, please fill in our contact form, email enquiries@brf.org.uk, or phone **01865 319700** to speak to one of our friendly supporter care team.*

Teach and tell



Alison Keddilty works in two churches in Bishop Auckland, a deprived parish in County Durham. She works mainly with 'toddlers and teenagers', but also with 'parents, grandparents, carers, guardians and aunts.' Her husband, Matt, is the vicar and they have six children aged from seven to 18. She is a long-standing and enthusiastic champion of Parenting for Faith and the perfect person to explain the ministry's innovative approach to 'teaching and telling'.

Alison first encountered Parenting for Faith as a parent, when she had four children herself and was leading a group of mums 'who were wanting to journey a little deeper, but who had lots of questions about how to help their child in their discipleship.'

'As a parent, I did the typical thing of "Oh, I haven't read them a Bible story today. Or I haven't done bedtime prayers. Or I should be doing this. I should be doing that." And I felt guilty. I was a curate's wife. I should be doing all of these things!

So it was a breath of fresh air to find Parenting for Faith. It felt like someone came and sat down with me, and told me all the things I was doing, and really encourage me. It was quite a turning point, and of course, once you've found something that's really helpful, it's good to share it with other people.'

Parenting for Faith's Key Tools* have proved invaluable in Alison's family life and in her ministry, across the whole church community, and in both traditional and more informal intergenerational church services.

'On Christmas Day we have a combined service and I was asked to lead prayers. I did "chat and catch" – which is helping people hear God's voice and speak to him in their own way – and it was really moving, the number of older people who came up to me and told me how much they'd appreciated "chat and catch", and how they've never been taught that they can have a conversation

with God. It works across the whole age range, and even our children and adults who have ADHD manage to take part in "chat and catch", while other bits of the service can be quite difficult for them.'

So, if prayer can be transformed with 'chat and catch', what does 'teaching and telling' look like in Parenting for Faith?

'The first thing I really love about Parenting for Faith is the acceptance that there are many different ways we can do things, and people will have different views. Rather than telling someone how they should disciple children, or what they should say, Parenting for Faith equips them with a variety of tools. Something far more collaborative goes on when you start using these tools and I love the fact that there is as much expectation that we can learn from a child as a child can learn from an adult. I love that we dispel the myth that the adult should have all the answers, and we get rid of the fear: our worry about "what if I don't know" and the feeling that "I should know."

'Where I minister, many of our parents and carers are at the same stage in exploring faith as the children, so to be able to say to them, it doesn't matter if you don't know, but this is what you can do... I love that. And it's also good for the children to understand that the adults don't have all the answers, but now we can go on a journey of discovery together.'

It's an approach Alison has found modelled at the Forge retreats, run by the Parenting for Faith team. 'One of the things that has been really amazing about the Forge is the wonderful way

the team "teaches and tells". They're using the Key Tools with us, as adults, and there is an integrity in how they use them.

That helps me as the person who is learning, or being ministered to, and if I feel valued and upheld when someone is effectively using the Key Tools with me, then I can have confidence that when I use them with other people, whatever their age, they are good and holy.'

* parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/tools



The Foundry

At Parenting for Faith, we want to enable our approach to become embedded in the church community. So we created The Foundry!

The Foundry is a monthly online gathering of leaders to learn together, support others, and reflect on our own practices. It will launch later in the year and is for anyone who feels called to prioritise parents and carers as the primary disciplers of their child or teen: church leaders, volunteers, youth pastors. It will cost £50 for ten sessions so we're giving plenty of notice so it can be built into church plans and training budgets.

To find out more go to parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/the-foundry

Treasure



Momentum project, and grew out of an earlier initiative at St Mary's, Nanpantan, 'Mossy Church'. Some 30 or more families have been joining every session since the relaunch, with new faces every time.

Hazel and her colleagues had been praying throughout the summer of 2025 about what to do with Mossy Church which, though popular, was struggling with fluctuating attendance. When her PCC put her on the spot about her plans, she was honest. 'I had to say, "God's not told me yet." It was so awkward!'

But the very next day, when she met with the church's children and young people leaders, God's plan began to emerge, beginning with the new scout hut nearby, right in the heart of the community. 'We should do Messy Church there!' said the team, and the idea began to snowball, even before Hazel found out about Messy Momentum.

'We were so close to the deadline for applications, I thought we wouldn't make it, but I just typed it all out as fast as I could. Poor Sophie [Harber, Messy Momentum project lead] reading it must have thought, what is this woman on!? I told her we'd been praying all summer, and this might be

Involving all generations in treasuring creation is the aim of Messy Church Goes Wild – Nanpantan (near Loughborough). Led by intergenerational pioneer Hazel Wragg, along with a team of devoted volunteers, it meets twice a month, once in a scout hut and once in local woodland. It's a newly signed-up member of the Messy

the answer to our prayers: we'd really love to be part of your thing!'

And so they are. With an intergenerational team of volunteers, including those as young as nine and eleven, they launched in January, propelled by passion, vision, and the warm support of the busily fundraising wider church.

'We really want to be invitational: moving into the scout hut, as well as in the woods, having that presence in the community is about saying this is for you. We want to be church in a way that invites you and welcomes you, and you can be part of that from the get-go. Just bring a coat because we're going to be toasting marshmallows outdoors!'

The outdoor focus is crucial:

'That comes from our roots in Mossy Church and from St Mary's being an eco-church. We believe God calls us to care for his creation, to treasure it, and that's a real priority for a number of us.

We care for creation, love being outdoors, and feel more able to connect to God there.' From making sound maps of the forest, to walking barefoot through leaf mould, the activities have been revelatory.

'The barefoot walking was the most in-depth, genuinely intergenerational conversation we've ever had around the campfire. Everybody listens to everybody, whatever their age. Obviously, the thing about kids is they don't self-filter: they just say what they're thinking, and some of the things they said were so profound. Their sense of spirituality and connection. Wow!'

Hazel knows she isn't alone in experiencing the woodland as a 'thin place', where a sense of connection with God – or simply creation – can come more easily than elsewhere.

'I honestly believe that people who have no faith can still connect with that sense of awe you feel in creation, and from there, they can find a connection to our creator. Our creator God loved us so much that he sent his Son and he wants a relationship with us. We want to hold space for those who don't feel that ability to open up to God in traditional settings. We hope those people will find that possible with Messy Church Goes Wild – Nanpantan, and we hope they'll make it their home.'

brfresources.org.uk/messy-church-goes-wild

messychurch.brf.org.uk/latest/projects/messy-momentum



Support for Messy Church is changing across the country!

Look out for our new Messy Church regional teams – equipping, encouraging, and enabling every Messy Church to flourish.

Messy Church regional teams will offer prayerful, practical support for leaders and teams at every stage. Through shared learning, encouragement,

and connection, they will help build confident, resilient, and sustainable Messy Church communities for all ages.

Find out how you can be a part of the growing Messy Church family by joining one of our launch events during May. Book at messychurch.brf.org.uk/latest/events

Find out more about Messy Church messychurch.brf.org.uk



Tend



Jastine Diaz was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain in November 2025, the first Anna Chaplain in Colchester, supported by the

Methodist Church. He arrived from the Philippines in 2005, aged eleven, with his two younger brothers, to be reunited with their mum and dad. His mum was a nurse and his dad worked in the care sector, and caring has always been in Jastine's blood.

'My brothers and I stayed with our grandparents in the Philippines, but we come from a big extended family,' Jastine explained. 'Maybe my work with older people stems from that because where I'm from we don't have facilities like care homes. We look after the older people within the family. An auntie or an uncle who is finding day-to-day living difficult would come and be looked after. That's the environment I grew up in. Add to that my mum being a nurse and it's all part of that caring picture.'

Jastine hated the cold but loved his new school – St Helena in Colchester – where he made life-long friends, who still get together for reunion barbecues every year. At the end of school, he did the maths and decided against university, and went instead into project management. But five years later, his beloved grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

'That hit me harder than anything,' he says. 'I was in my mid-20s and it made me really think about what matters to me.'

At the same time, his parents were looking into setting up their own care company. After a false start, they decided to try again and invited Jastine to join them as operations manager.

'My first thought was that I was very inadequate in that I didn't know anything about the care industry!' But he took the suggestion so seriously he opted out of his job for a year in order to train and gain experience. 'I did all my training, got my certificates and then my NVQs. My first job was working for a care company, assisting people in mental health hospitals to be discharged back into the community, and I fell in love with it.'

He joined his parents' company and they've now been operating for eight years. 'We're very small. We only support about 20 people, but we know them from the tip of their head all the way down to the tip of their toes.'

But soon they realised something was missing. Jastine and his parents are Christians in the charismatic tradition and they became concerned by the lack of fellowship and spiritual support experienced by the people in their care. 'The generation we support are much more likely to be Christians, people of faith, than younger people. But when they came to their later years, fellowship often just wasn't possible. We found all these unmet spiritual needs.'

They contacted various local charities, but there wasn't anything available. Until, that is, Jastine found Anna Chaplaincy.

'In a sense, it found me!' At the beginning of 2023 my wife Christele and I started praying specifically about this issue and we prayed for a solid year! We have a group of Christian friends who we also asked to pray for this, and then early in 2025 a friend in the group told us about this thing called Anna Chaplaincy, and said "This answers your prayers!"

Things moved quickly after that. He looked into Anna Chaplaincy, and when the Methodist church advertised a new post in Colchester, Jastine was appointed. He completed his Anna Chaplaincy training and was commissioned in November 2025 in a moving service in which he shared his testimony and passion for his new ministry. At the heart of that ministry is caring, 'tending' for the spiritual needs of older people. What does that word mean for Jastine?

'TEND: for me, it's time, encounter, narrative, and dignity, which is what we, as Anna Chaplains offer. Often, what older people need most is our time: time to tell their stories and be listened to intently.'

Everyone has a story, and when people are given space to tell their stories to someone completely focused on them, it does so much for them. It makes them feel that they've been heard and affirmed. It brings them peace.'

A new chapter in Winchester



A special evensong in Winchester Cathedral earlier in the spring marked the official launch of Anna Chaplaincy as part of Winchester's diocesan strategy.

This marked a long-awaited moment, given that Anna Chaplaincy started in the diocese 16 years ago as a pioneering initiative in Alton, Hampshire. Debbie Thrower was appointed there as the first Anna Chaplain in a shared Anglican-Methodist project, and Alton remains a prime example of how Anna Chaplaincy can be thoroughly embedded as a community-focused ministry by local churches.

Chief executive Richard Fisher and Anna Chaplaincy ministry lead Debbie Ducille attended the service, which was led by the Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield and the bishop of Southampton Rhiannon King, both wonderful supporters of Anna Chaplaincy, and Debbie Thrower also took part.

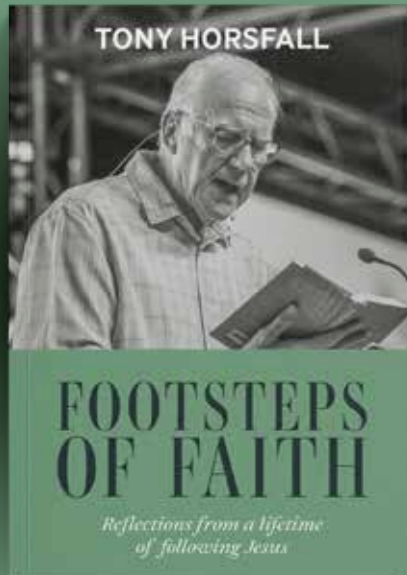


Tony Horsfall's Footsteps of Faith



One of our best-loved authors, Tony Horsfall, has a new book out this month, and not just any book! As he explains, it's a

distillation of 50 years of Christian life, experience, and discipleship.



Is it pretentious to write an autobiography? I hope not, because I just did!

Footsteps of Faith describes my journey with God from the early years growing up in a Yorkshire mining village, through more than 50 years of Christian ministry, to where I am now, living here on the south coast in my mid-70s and still actively serving God.

It is a story of discipleship, an adventure with God in which I have sought to follow Jesus wherever he is leading me. That journey has taken me to many places around the world, but it has been as much an inner journey as an outer one. I have told my story not to project myself but to illustrate this inner journey – to show how God typically works in us and through us over the course of a lifetime – so that others may reflect on their own stories of faith. In that sense it is best described as a spiritual autobiography.

As I looked back over my life, I found it fell naturally into twelve periods, so there

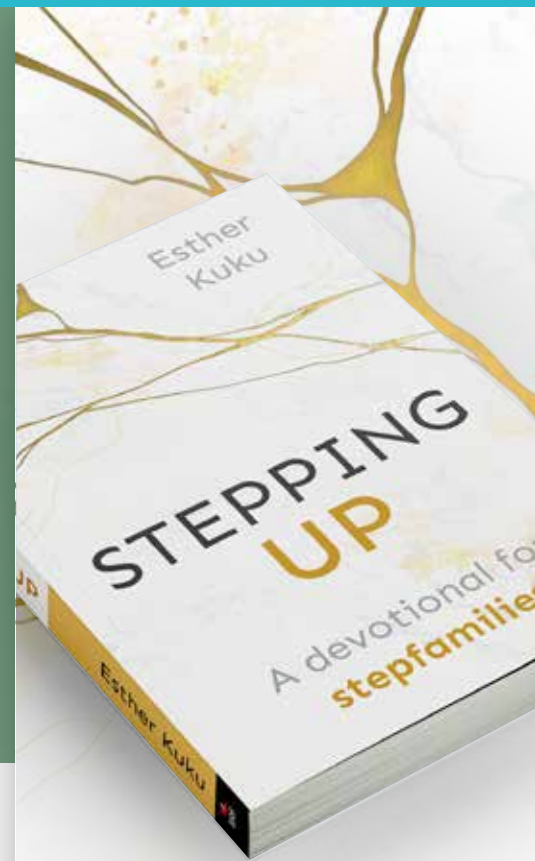
are twelve chapters in the book. Each chapter, as well as the storyline, has a reflection on the ways of God we may experience at each life stage. Then there are questions for personal reflection for any who want to look in depth at their own story with God.

Some readers will be content to simply enjoy the story, while others will also welcome the reflective pieces, covering such topics as principles of guidance, dealing with disappointment, and the challenge of midlife. A few may well be inspired to work on their own life journey.

I hope the book will appeal to those in Christian leadership, but also to everyone who takes discipleship seriously.

Each of us has a unique journey, a path marked out for us, but it is helpful to have some idea of where it may lead through hearing the stories of others. A backward glance in later life can also help in recognising how God has led us, so we may rejoice in his faithfulness and care. You, too, have a story worth telling.

brfresources.org.uk/footsteps-of-faith



Stepping Up A devotional for stepfamilies

Esther Kuku is mother to two and stepmum to two, and her invaluable new guide for stepfamilies is published this month. 'No one dreams of being a stepparent,' she says, 'and that is where the adventure begins.' Through practical guidance and biblical pointers, Esther leads readers towards peace and fulfilment in their day-to-day family life. Packed with pearls of wisdom and encouragement, as well as a good dose of reality, this devotional will strengthen and empower you to embrace the beautiful gift of family that God has entrusted to you.

■ brfresources.org.uk/stepping-up

As a charity, we rely on fundraising and gifts in wills to deliver Anna chaplaincy, BRF Resources, 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)1865 319700



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