

Pray with us

Anna Chaplaincy | BRF Resources
Messy Church | Parenting for Faith



6 SEPTEMBER 2026 – 2 JANUARY 2027

Prayer diary

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



'When you hear about wars and threats of wars, don't be afraid... Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. There will be earthquakes in many places, and people will starve to death... Be on your guard!... if you keep on being faithful right to the end, you will be saved.'

MARK 13:7-9, 13 (CEV)

It isn't easy to know how to pray when the news is bad and we struggle to see God at work. But Jesus asks us to stay faithful, and sometimes the only thing we can do is pray. I hope the prayer below might help you pray not just for BRF Ministries this term, but for the wider world within which we are called to support, resource, and encourage God's people.

This is the 20th issue of the Prayer Diary I have compiled and, sadly but rightly, it is my last. Fellow BRF Ministries pray-ers, it has been an enormous and unexpected privilege to be involved with this since lockdown 2020. Thank you so much for all your encouraging comments over the last seven years. I will, of course still be a BRF Ministries prayer partner like yourselves – and may even occasionally contribute a prayer! – but I feel it is time for another 'retirement'! Thank you for sharing this journey with me and thank you for continuing to pray faithfully with us for BRF Ministries and for so much more besides!

I hope that you will continue to pray for our ministry far into the future and in order to help you do so, please sign up for

our weekly prayer email brf.org.uk/weekly-prayer-emails and make use of our regularly updated intercessions page brf.org.uk/prayers-for-intercession.

May the Lord keep us all faithful as we continue to watch and pray 'until he comes'.

Yours prayerfully



Martyn

Martyn

BRF Ministries volunteer prayer advocate

Loving God

There are situations in this world which seem impossible to change.

There are places in this world where it seems our prayers are making no difference.

And yet, Lord, you promise to hear us when we pray; and where two or three are gathered in your name and agree, you pledge to use that prayer to make a difference.

In this faith we pray for all caught up in the violence of war, in the heat of suffering and in the darkness of death.

Lord, receive our prayer.

Amen.

For the new academic year and fresh inspiration

Ponder these words of the late Queen Elizabeth II: ‘Reflection and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God’s love, as we strive daily to become better people.’

Geoff Lowson, *Bible Reflections for Older People*, Jan–Apr 2026

Thought for the week

Always pray according to God’s agenda, not your own, and this means ‘God’s will be done, God’s kingdom come, and God’s name be honoured’.



Pray with us for

- ‘new term’ energy and vision for the entire staff team
- participants on all our new term training courses, across our ministries, that they will grow in knowledge, wisdom, and faith
- readers of the new September issues of all our Bible reading notes, that they too will grow in knowledge, wisdom, and faith
- students preparing for college. May they discover resources – such as *Guidelines* study notes – to help them find and keep the faith
- Messy Churches using *Get Messy! Volume 4* session material on the ‘five marks of mission’ – that they will be inspired to reach out into their communities



**Come, Lord God,
and by your Spirit in us
do a work of grace that
goes deep,
lasts long,
and overflows through us
in service and praise
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

For BRF Resources and the season of creationtide

There are many ways you can engage with prayer in nature. One of these is a prayer walk. This way of praying is reflective walking in the company of God, who always walks with us.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer* (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

The gift of prayer isn't just for personal discipleship; it is also given so we might work with God to bring grace and mercy to many others.



Pray with us for

- Messy Church Goes Wild, that people will encounter God through creation
- ministry teams, leaders, and volunteers creating resources for Harvest and creationtide
- Christians to become better informed about creation care issues through BRF Resources' environment and climate emergency resources
- inspiration and encouragement for those who speak up for the care of God's world
- resilient hope, that we might not succumb to apathy and despair when we see the scale of the environmental challenge we face

Almighty God,
though we wonder at your creation
we also weep over its brokenness,
acknowledging our participation
in its fallen condition.
Help us to seek your forgiveness and love,
by which alone creation can be restored:
a love that does not control, coerce, or command
but a love that is silent and sacrificial;
Amen.



For the fundraising team at BRF Ministries

Through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, we can draw closer to God, allowing the Spirit to shape us into vessels of God's love.

Penny Wachira, *The Upper Room*, Jan–Apr 2026

Thought for the week

Our prayers for others are the prayers they are struggling to offer; their prayers when they don't know what to pray for; and the prayers that they didn't even know they could pray.



Pray with us for

- BRF Ministries' Christmas fundraising activities, that they might bear fruit and bring blessings
- BRF Ministries' funding bids to charitable trusts and foundations
- people to take note of Make a Will month (October) and remember BRF Ministries with a gift in their will
- our faithful supporters, who give financially and pray for our work
- the success of new and creative fundraising initiatives



Thrice generous God,
who as Creator gives us the world,
who as Redeemer empties yourself on the cross,
who as Spirit pours out your love into our hearts,
help us to follow your example
in our giving, our self-emptying,
and our pouring out love
for the sake of others.
Amen.

For the ministry of Anna Chaplains and Friends

Engaging with God in prayer is never meant to be a case of ‘pushing a button and getting something out’. Instead, it’s an expression of our relationship with God, which includes the Lord’s delightful invitation for us to partner with our creative God.

Jane Walters, *Bless the Work of our Hands*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

Our words can bring hope; our service can bring comfort; our prayers can bring blessing. God asks us to engage on all these levels today, so that God’s kingdom will come.



Pray with us for

- the Anna Chaplaincy team – Debbie, Julia, Marian, Jane – as they enable the network in a variety of ways and plan strategic development
- those who recently attended the ‘Introduction to Anna Chaplaincy’ Zoom presentation, that they might wish to take Anna Chaplaincy further in their local context
- the current cohorts taking the Anna Chaplaincy online training course and the Spiritual Care Series online course
- training and development lead, Julia, and the freelance training team, as they develop and launch the next modules in the Deepening Ministry programme
- preparations for October’s annual gathering online: for inspiration and connection

Loving God,
when our everyday lives seem too much to bear,
and our personal circumstances threaten to overwhelm us,
reach out your hand to rescue us
and set us on the solid ground of your love
once again.
Amen.



For the finance and operations team at BRF Ministries

Prayer is being present to ‘presence’. If we take time and persevere in prayer, this sense of God’s presence in the whole of our life can grow and develop. We can then begin to experience God’s love in the ‘ordinary’ of each day and celebrate God’s kingdom here ‘on earth as it is in heaven’.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

Make prayer your discipline and your delight, by creating routines and habits in your day, when God’s love is your focus and God’s presence your desire.



Pray with us for

- continued adaptability for the team as we engage with new systems
- a grateful culture of stewardship of all God has entrusted to us to manage
- ongoing good relationships with donors and supporters
- wisdom on how to handle business transformation projects, taking the whole staff team along with us on this journey
- God to continue to inspire existing and new donors who want to partner with us in the work of BRF Ministries



O Lord, help us to think the best of others,
to hope the best for others,
to believe the best about others,
and to see the best in others.
Inspire in us these positive aspirations,
as we long for all things
to be the best they can be
for your name’s sake.
Amen.

For volunteers and the senior leadership team

We need prayer for God's power to be made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9); for his perfect peace to saturate our hearts, minds, and circumstances when we're struggling to make sense of life (Philippians 4:7).

Naomi Aidoo, *Christian. Mother. Working.* (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

To pray is to serve our neighbours, particularly those we can't see or who are far away; God uses our prayers for these others to bring blessing, strength, and hope to a needy world.



Pray with us for

- the senior leadership team (SLT) as they work together to lead their teams effectively and creatively towards our shared goals
- everyone who volunteers with our ministries and supports us with their time and commitment, that they might know how valued they are
- preparations for the resource and risk committee meeting on 15 October
- the new Messy Church regional teams as they start to host more local Messy Meet-ups
- newer members of the SLT, that they will feel supported and encouraged in their new responsibilities

**Thank you, Lord, for another day
to live our earthly life
before we fully enter eternity with you.
Thank you, Lord, for another day here on earth,
before we are truly at home with you in heaven.
Thank you, Lord, for another day
to know you in part,
before we see you face to face.
Amen.**



For God's blessing on those using BRF Resources

Prayer is unrehearsed communication with God.

Jeremy K. Mullen, *The Upper Room* (Jan–Apr 2026)

Thought for the week

In pain, prayer is our lifeline.
In despair, prayer is our anchor.
In confusion, prayer is our lighthouse.
In grief, prayer is our life jacket.
In the storms of life, prayer is remembering that Jesus is in the boat with us.



Pray with us for

- the two new titles this month, *Power and Privilege* and *The Week*, that they will bless readers, touching hearts and challenging minds
- the publishing and resources team – Rachel, Becca, Dan, Rose, Felicity – as they work hard to bring new publications and resources to life
- authors currently working on their manuscripts – pray for inspiration and the ability to listen to the prompting of the Spirit as they write
- our Bible reading notes contributors and editors, who work tirelessly to produce brilliant and thought-provoking reflections
- good, God-led decisions on which new titles and resources to publish



All-powerful God,
beyond our minds' imagining,
beneath our bodies' stumbling,
beside our spirits' yearning,
in you we are triple blessed
by the all-encompassing love of
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Amen.

For the marketing and creative media team

Using our heart and hands to draw, colour, craft or shape is another way in which we can explore the quiet depths of ourselves... it can bring us into a deeper place of communion with and knowledge of our creator God.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)



Thought for the week

When you turn each petition in this prayer diary into a prayer, you do so alongside a host of others. You are agreeing in Jesus' name together and Jesus promises that God hear, and that God will answer those prayers.

Pray with us for

- the team – Tracey, Josh, Stuart, Ben, Susie, Eley, Matt, and Iona (currently on maternity leave) – as they work across the charity to maximise our impact and extend our reach
- Tracey as she leads the team: for energy, resilience, and vision
- the success of new initiatives including BRF Online, the Short Conversations podcast, and YouVersion; and for new partnerships forming
- the publishing, learning, and development group meeting this week
- for creative collaborations with ministry teams, fundraising, and the supporter care team

Lord Jesus,
who taught beside a lake,
alongside people in extremes of need,
and in moments of crisis,
draw near to all those who
feel cut off from others,
estranged or isolated,
and please surround them
with the intimacy of your love.
Amen.



For our chair and trustees

Time with God creates an oasis of healing, freedom, comfort, and strength. It is where we feel loved, affirmed, and more prepared to withstand moments of adversity and temptation. Our prayer life is deepened when we go to God just as we are.

Narda Vargas Guerrero, *The Upper Room*,
(Jan-Apr 2026)

Thought for the week

Prayer is the language of heaven, which we learn with the Holy Spirit as our teacher.



Pray with us for

- preparations for the council meeting in person on 12 November
- trustees to support and work together with their individual SLT links
- the all-staff gathering, that it will be an engaging and enjoyable time together
- continued understanding of the trustees' Five Voices and how they work together
- wisdom and vision for our chair, Mark Sheard, as he guides BRF Ministries through the exciting opportunities and challenges we face



Lord Jesus,
You call us to abide in you, even as you abide us.
May we live out this holy unity
that we might be 'You' to others
in every encounter and conversation this day;
and that we might meet 'You' in others,
wherever we are, whatever we face,
and whoever we meet this day.
Draw us and them closer to you
for the sake of your kingdom.
Amen.

For BRF Ministries and Remembrance services

Sometimes it takes the extremes of a poor night for us to speak our true mind in prayer. *In extremis*, we have to say it as it is, and we can do so confident that we are embraced by an understanding, loving God who is far more committed to us than we can imagine.

John Rackley, *Bible Reflections for Older People*, (Jan–Apr, 2026)

Thought for the week

Our most heartfelt prayers are cries for God's blessing on those we love, on those in need, and on those who, for whatever reason, can't pray for themselves. God's blessing is everything everyone ever needs.



Pray with us for

- all those who have given their lives in the service of others
- all those who remember lost loved ones at this time
- all those leading Acts of Remembrance in churches and in public during this next week
- Anna Chaplains who work in hospitals and care homes where issues of bereavement and death will be particularly poignant at this time
- places of conflict, war, and violent death, that peace may come and weapons be 'turned into ploughshares'.

Lord God, you have a name.

It is Love.

Lord God, you have a face.

It is Jesus.

Lord God, you have a presence.

It is Spirit.

Lord God, you have a voice.

It is your word to us,

spoken and written

for our eternal good. Thank you.

Amen.



For God's blessing on Messy Church's mission

Prayer is not only inspired by scripture. Some of us may find it difficult to pray with too many words and feel drawn towards using art and symbols in our prayer times.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

Whenever anything good has happened, pray 'thank you'; whenever anything challenging has happened, pray 'help'; whenever anything ordinary happens, pray anyway, because God is alongside you and loves you.



Pray with us for

- the Messy Church team – Aike, Jane, Nina, Sarah and Sophie – for inspiration and energy
- churches applying for microgrants to start new Messy Churches in deprived areas, and for those Messy Churches to flourish
- Messy Churches taking part in the Messy Momentum pilot, engaging young people, that they would bear fruit
- the Messy Church key international leaders group, for encouragement and growth in their country's Messy Churches
- more people to become Christians through the ministry of Messy Church



Lord,
you are here.
May this time of prayer
become a doorway for your work among us,
become a window for your blessing upon us,
become a channel for your grace to us,
through Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.

For God's strength for BRF Ministries staff

**Ponder these words C.S. Lewis wrote:
'Don't shine so that others can see you.
Shine so that through you, others can
see God.'**

Geoff Lowson, *Bible Reflections for Older People*
(Jan–Apr 2026)



Thought for the week

Don't necessarily tell God in prayer what God already knows, but instead let God know how you feel and why you care for whatever is on your heart.

Pray with us for

- the continued implementation of the revised BRF Ministries values
- the Altitude training coaching programme for staff to be fruitful, and applied effectively
- the church partnership scheme to grow, encouraging new churches to support BRF Ministries
- strong connections between staff when working remotely
- healthy time management to give a good work-life balance

Thank you, Father
for the gifts you have given us,
of time, experience,
opportunity, and skills.
May we pass these on
willingly and eagerly
in your service and for your name's sake.
Amen.



For those using our Advent resources

Intercession means simply being with God with particular people or situations in mind. You only need to mention people or situations with a real intention to hold them before God. It's not about rushing through a list, but about naming people or situations with sincere love.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer* (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

To pray is to enjoy God's presence, to feel God's pleasure, and share in God's passion.



Pray with us for

- all those reading our Advent book, *Treasures in Straw*, that they would hear God's voice through it and be refreshed in this busy season
- Bible reading notes readers as they engage with the Bible throughout Advent
- Messy Churches hosting Christmas events and Christingle services, reaching new people in their communities
- church leaders in this busy time, that they might find peace and space for their own reflection
- Anna Chaplains as they offer special Advent events in churches and care homes



God of love,
you chose to come to us,
not in a consuming fire,
nor in destructive earthquake,
but with the unexpected cry of a baby.
Meet us with your mercy and grace,
and remake us
as a people of faith and love,
for you are a God who forgives
and works for those who wait for you.
Amen.

For the supporter care team at BRF Ministries

I used to work with a Christian and who prayed fervently... Once I asked him to put me on his prayer list. He turned to me and said, 'Got a minute?' When I said 'yes', he put his hand on my shoulder and prayed for me right then... He explained that he had developed the habit of praying immediately for someone who asked for prayer so he would not forget.

Kim Koratsky, The Upper Room (Jan–Apr, 2026)



Thought for the week

Prayer is not just something you do at a given time and in a set place. To be 'in prayer' is something that you *are* at all times and in all places.

Pray with us for

- Mel, Laura, Leanne, Rowena, Helen, Simon, and Taura (currently on maternity leave), giving thanks to God for each one of them, and the passion they bring to BRF Ministries
- the team to have calmness and grace to support our callers with their queries
- Taura and Tom to enjoy their first Christmas with their baby
- Christmas joy and peace for the whole team
- the team to continue journeying together into a bright new future

**Lord God, this Advent, may we experience
the hope that is more certain
than wishful thinking;
the peace that is more lasting
than a moment of calm;
the joy that is far deeper than fleeting happiness;
the love that is more real than human affection;
through the eternal gift of the Christ Child.
Amen.**



For the work of our Parenting for Faith ministry

Listening to a piece of music can be especially helpful when settling into prayer. It can calm us down and help to rid ourselves of some of the day's distractions, allowing us to focus more on our relationship with God.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)



Thought for the week

Prayer is faith in action as we intentionally remember God's unseen presence with us in the midst of our everyday lives. Prayer is entering into heaven here and now.

Pray with us for

- the new courses launched in 2026 to bear fruit in the lives of those who have engaged with the content
- our podcasts to continue to be a resource for busy parents to receive encouragement, inspiration, and practical tips to help grow God-connected children and teens
- increased presence and reach on social media platforms
- BRF Online, which is a great tool to host Parenting for Faith's video courses and resources
- the team – Anna, Becky, David, Jess, Kate, and Laura. And for inspiration for Anna as she leads the team and plans strategically



God of eternity,
who for our sake emptied yourself
and stepped into time,
within the womb of your servant Mary,
help us with her
to rejoice in this season in your saving love,
for you have made possible for us
the gift of eternal life.
Amen.

For a fresh glimpse of the wonder of the incarnation

Reviewing the day – or the Examen as it is sometimes called – is about taking time to reflect prayerfully on the events of the day in order to recognise the presence of God in our lives and to ask God for the grace to discern the way forward.

Susanne Carlsson (ed), *Growing in Prayer*, (BRF Ministries, 2026)

Thought for the week

Enter prayer as you would step into a room to meet with royalty. Be full of wonder, expectation, and humility in the presence of your king.



Pray with us for

- our messy world, thanking God for sending Jesus as a baby into this world, in his messy way, that we can be saved from our mess!
- BRF Ministries staff to have a restful break over the Christmas period, and be able to share faith stories with friends and family
- people who find Christmas a difficult, painful time, that they will know comfort and hope
- those hearing about the truth of Christmas for the first time this year, that they might come to faith
- for the Christmas message of peace to echo across our broken world

Father, just as the dawn brings hope after a sleepless and a fear-filled night, may your light, shining in and through our lives, bring dawn for those we meet this Christmas season, offering them hope and blessing, new strength and peace, through the Dayspring from on high who has visited us.
Amen.



For everyone with a connection to BRF Ministries

Like Jesus, we can turn to God with prayers that are emotionally raw and unfiltered, knowing that God hears our cries and sees our tears.

Jeremy K. Mullen, *The Upper Room*, (Jan–April 2026)

Thought for the week

Keeping in touch is what prayer with God is all about. God's presence and love isn't just for special occasions and emergencies.



Pray with us for

- a humble thankfulness for all God has done in and through BRF Ministries in the year just ending
- our trustees, who have given so much of their time, wisdom, and experience
- ministry team leaders and helpers, giving thanks for their commitment to share God's love with new people
- everyone who has prayed for our work in 2026, giving thanks for them and asking that they will continue to pray for us in 2027
- the new year ahead, that we will seek and know God's guidance through all its opportunities and challenge



We end the year as we end each day,
with a prayer of thanks to God
for the gifts of friendship, beauty, and love.
We end the year with a prayer of confession,
for failures, for selfishness.
We end the year with a prayer of intercession,
for those who mourn and those in need.
Then we are ready to go to sleep, and to wake again,
with God who is always with us.
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, 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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