



Offering spiritual care in later life

Anna's Story: ageing well and how the church can help

BRF Ministries is the home of:

Anna Chaplaincy
Living Faith
Messy Church
Parenting for Faith



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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Anna's story - Luke 2: 25-38

What are our inherited stories of ageing?

Who in their later years has most influenced *you*?



Old age is an ambiguous gift...

*‘Growing old is like being increasingly penalised
for a crime you haven't committed’*

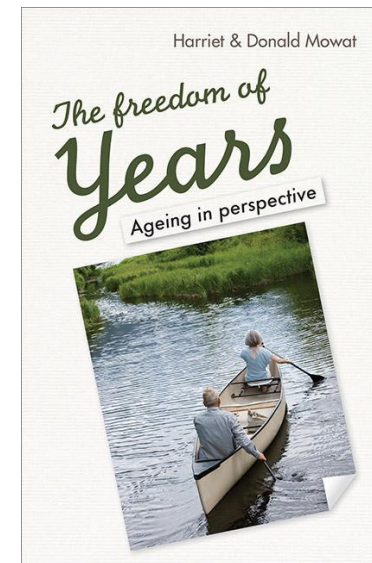
Anthony Powell
Author of *A Dance to
The Music of Time*

‘The journey into old age gives us the opportunity to deepen our faith and relationship with God through our awakening senses and simplifying our lives. This is what we would say ageing is *for*. It is a blessing, a privilege and a responsibility.’

Harriet and Donald Mowat

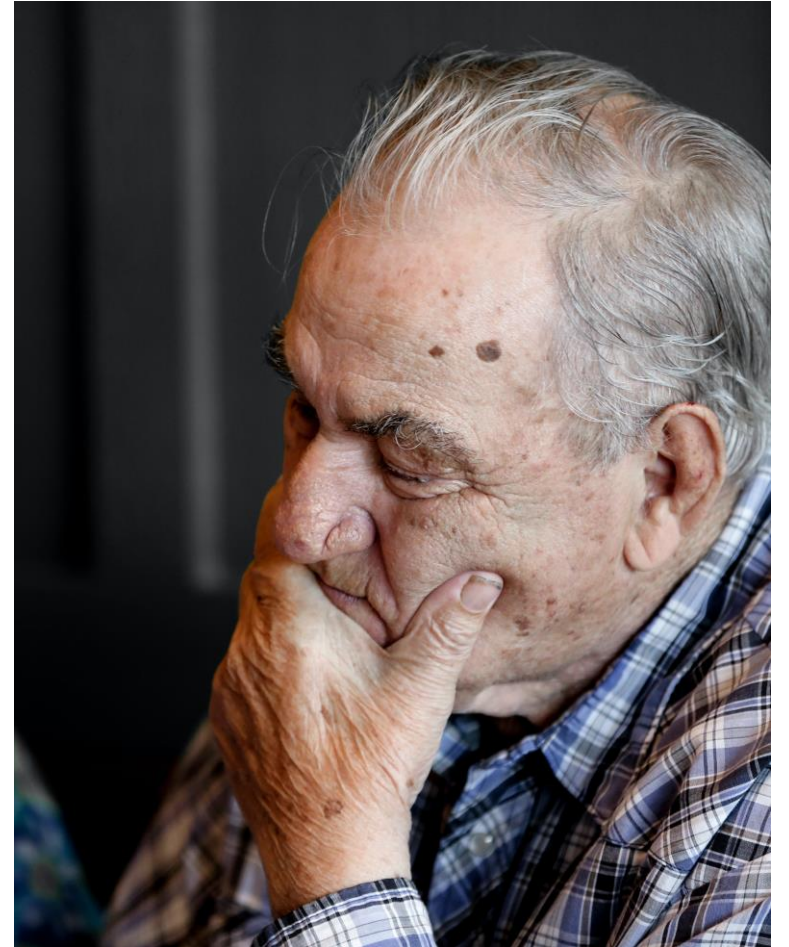
The Freedom of Years

BRF, 2018



The growing need for distinctive older people's ministry

- A biblical mandate
- Changing demography
- The need for spiritual and religious care
- More reflective period of life: opportunities and challenges



God's heart for all people: the Spirit is at work!

- The Bible resounds with inter-generational life, and justice
- The growing focus on lay leadership and chaplaincy
- The spotlight on health and social care as holistic care – CQC and care home provision



Increasing ageing population

- In the UK there are now more people aged 60 and above than there are under 18 – for the first time ever - In 2018, there were 1.6 million people aged 85 years and over; by 2043, this is projected to nearly double to 3.0 million. (ONS)
- 3.8 million older people (over 65s) in the UK live alone – 58% over the age of 75 (Age UK)
- 1.3 million older people say they haven't been in contact with a friend, family or neighbour in more than a month (Age UK)

Increasing ageing population



- The number of centenarians in the UK increased by 85% in the 15 years to 2018. By 2031 there will be 65,500 centenarians in the UK and 154,900 by 2041. (ONS)
- There are around 850,000 people living with a dementia – that's set to more than double to two million by 2051 (Age UK)

The need for spiritual care – shared human qualities

- The need to give and to receive love
- The need to sustain hope
- The need for something and someone to believe in
- The need for creativity
- *NB: the difference between religious care and spiritual care*



The growing need for distinctive older people's ministry

- A biblical mandate
- Changing demography
- The need for spiritual and religious care
- More reflective period of life: opportunities and challenges – 'gift exchange'



Anna Chaplaincy is...

- A gracious gift from the church to the local community



Key principles of an Anna Chaplain role

- Appointed, authorised by and accountable to, their local church or group of 'Churches Together': complementing existing pastoral ministry
- Ecumenical wherever possible
- Community based
- An advocate and champion of older people in the wider community
- Reaching out to people of strong, little or no faith: includes relatives, carers and care professionals
- Person-centred, non-judgemental



Anna Chaplaincy to date...

- 340 Anna Chaplains (and those in equivalent roles) in this ministry among older people



How long has Anna Chaplaincy been going?

- 2010: Started in Alton, Hants with Debbie Thrower
- 2014: BRF takes on the Anna Chaplaincy concept to develop it nationally
- 2024: To date, 340 + Anna Chaplains and those in equivalent roles, across the UK, plus c. 2,500 Anna Friends volunteering alongside chaplains



Anna Chaplains for Older People

- May be lay or ordained, male or female, paid or voluntary, often older people themselves
- It's a vocation - gifts for this ministry are recognised and an individual candidate supported by local church; a chaplain is 'sent'...
- Linked to and supported by BRF Ministries through the national Anna Chaplaincy Network



Ministry includes...



- Accompanying – walking alongside
- Listening to people’s ‘stories’
- Sensitive spiritual care
- Diverse contexts – to those who are living alone, care homes, retirement facilities, community groups, dementia-friendly cafés ... and many more

Advantages of Anna Chaplaincy for older people

- Extensive network of those working in older people's ministry raising professional standards
- Sharing of a wealth of experience, including 'Messy Vintage'
- Training - supported by ongoing relevant, topical workshops and BRF publications
- Annual gathering for teaching and sharing



2021 Impact Report –Where we are a decade on

- ‘Love is the basis of Anna Chaplaincy, and shines through all their interactions. An integral part of this approach is to give time because time honours and values the recipient, and restores their worth.’



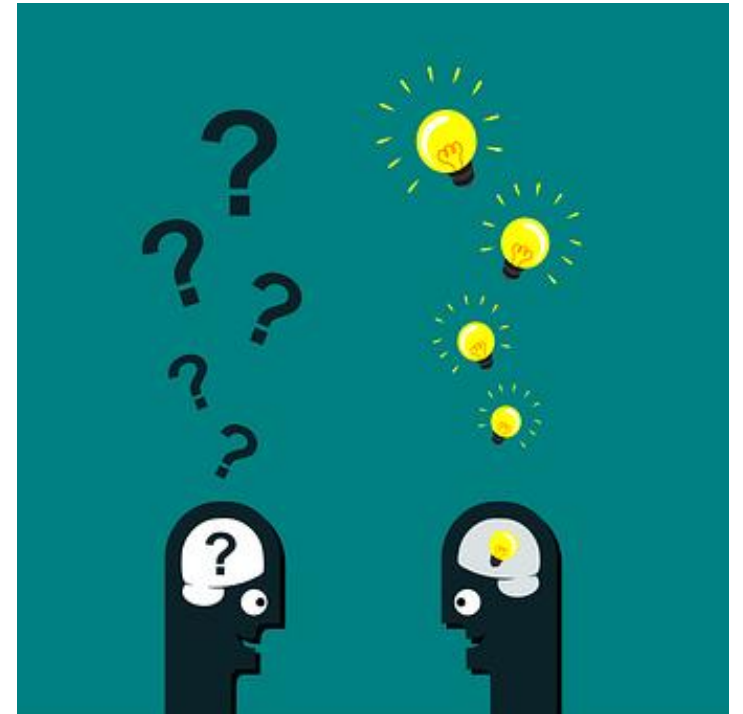
Anna Chaplaincy = local, contextual ministry



An invitation to a practical activity

Consider your own context:

- What ministry or activities already happen amongst older people – in church, in the wider community?
- What *could* happen? What is *needed*?
- What is my role in this? What is the wider church's role?



If you would like to support this ministry, you can become a friend of **Anna Chaplaincy** by giving £2 a month or more.

Find out more at **brf.org.uk/friends**

TEXT ANNA followed by your donation amount to 70450 (e.g. Text ANNA 3 to 70450 to donate £3). Texts cost your chosen donation amount plus one standard rate message.

Not all mobile phone networks support text giving. If yours doesn't, your message won't be delivered, and you won't be charged. You can always donate online at **brf.org.uk/donate**.

Our privacy policy is available at **brf.org.uk/privacy**



Prayer

Faithful God,

You have promised in Christ to be with us to the end of time.

Come close to those who have lived long and experienced much.

Help them to continue to be faithful

and, within the all-age Kingdom of God,

to find ways to go on giving and receiving your grace, day by day.

For your glory and your kingdom

Amen



To find out more, please visit
annachaplaincy.org.uk