

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Anna Chaplaincy: Where we are a decade on Impact report 2021

Significant new research into the value and effectiveness of Anna Chaplaincy is published today (20 May 2021). Anna Chaplaincy was founded in 2010 to support older people spiritually and in practical ways and to enable them to continue contributing to society through their experience, skills and wisdom. This report comes at a time when issues surrounding the care of older people have never been more centre stage.

‘Where we are a decade on’ combines the key findings of an internal survey with respected researcher Jenny Kartupelis’ audit of the effectiveness of Anna Chaplaincy. Together, the internal survey and the external audit demonstrate the scale and scope of the work of Anna Chaplains across the country, and the genuine difference it is making to the lives of older people and carers, of all faiths and none, in care, private and community settings.

### A ministry of love

Anna Chaplains are present with older people, their families and care staff in a multitude of ways: as friends, pastors and ministers, sharing conversation, hopes, fears, prayers and laughter. They are in family homes, communities and clubs, church groups, care and nursing homes, through joy and loss, life to death. To those they serve, they are quite simply essential. On average, each chaplain spends 12.6 hours a week in this ministry, amounting to over 100,000 hours or 624 weeks a year across the network.

The report suggests: ‘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.’

### Growing demand

Ninety-four percent of Anna Chaplains responding to the survey believed the movement could and should do more to meet the spiritual needs of older people. The survey and audit highlighted the issues of ageism – conscious or unconscious – that are already recognised as problematic in our society. ‘Older people want: to be less “invisible” and enabled to make a contribution; to find a sense of self and purpose; to have two-way relationships; and to be part of a community.’

#### For more information, please contact:

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BRF’s vision is to enable people of all ages to grow in faith and understanding of the Bible and to see more people equipped to exercise their gifts in leadership and ministry. BRF ministries include Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith. Find out more at [brf.org.uk](http://brf.org.uk).



A society which either sidelines a substantial number of its members, or casts them as too frail to contribute, is losing a valuable asset. Negative attitudes must change not only towards older people, but equally towards those who care for them, whether family or professional. This report affirms the contribution of Anna Chaplains and those in equivalent roles as significant agents of change.

**Richard Fisher, Chief Executive, BRF**

Since 2014 the movement has been part of BRF, which promotes, resources and develops the initiative. Richard Fisher says:

‘Our vision is as strong as ever: to see Anna Chaplains in every small- to medium-sized community in the UK, each contributing to the spiritual care of men and women in later life by being skilled listeners and hope-bearers. Anna Chaplains plant a flag in towns and villages up and down the land to signal the fact that *older people matter*.’

**Anna Chaplains said that the ten major differences they believed their ministry made were:**

- Older people feel loved and cared about
- Gives older people we reach a sense of belonging
- Helps us as a church to value older people
- Helps older people to grow in faith
- Ensures older people who are frail do not slip through the net
- Helps us as a church to understand the needs of older people
- Helps older people to find the meaning in life
- Gives a voice to older people
- Helps older people to meet and relate to others in their community
- Helps older people to contribute to church and/or community.

To read the report, click [here](#).

For more information about Anna Chaplaincy, click [here](#).

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