

3 September 2024



Anna Chaplaincy anniversary walk! Alton to Abingdon 15–20 September

On 15 September 2024 Anna Chaplaincy lead Debbie Ducille will set out on a five-day, 60-mile hike from Alton in Hampshire, the birthplace of Anna Chaplaincy, to Abingdon in Oxfordshire, home of BRF Ministries. It's a way to mark the tenth anniversary of Anna Chaplaincy joining the BRF Ministries family, to spread the word about Anna Chaplaincy, meet up with network members along the way and raise vital funds for this growing and much needed ministry. There will be cake and Compeed and lots of companions on the trail.

Walking side by side!

Debbie's walk will begin with a special service in Alton on Sunday 15 September, with Anna Chaplaincy founder Debbie Thrower, and end on Friday 20 September with a celebration at the Peachcroft Christian Centre in Abingdon. She will connect with Anna Chaplains and supporters along the way, with stops including Basingstoke, Douai Abbey, Englefield, Goring and Dorchester.



As Anna Chaplains and supporters get together nationwide, virtually or in person, the emphasis will be on 'walking side by side' – not only with Debbie on her hike, but in celebrating Anna Chaplaincy's much-valued 'ministry of presence' with older people in communities around the country. There will also be a special evensong in Rochester Cathedral on 15 September, with training and development lead Julia Burton-Jones and Canon Gordon Giles, and on Wednesday 18 September Debbie will be accompanied by BRF Ministries chief executive, Richard Fisher.

An 'extraordinary' ministry

Our network of Anna Chaplains offer spiritual care in later life, in a wide range of contexts. They accompany older people in reflecting on their life and their relationship with God, breaking down generational barriers and offering friendship and community.

In an interview with [Debbie Thrower in Portsmouth](#) last year, the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, described Anna Chaplaincy as a 'phenomenal ministry' and the care it offers as 'extraordinary'. Since Debbie Thrower became the first ever Anna Chaplain, in Alton in Hampshire in 2010, the network of has grown to over 370 Anna Chaplains and hundreds more Anna Friends. The vision is to have an Anna Chaplain in every small- and medium-sized town in the country.

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

To arrange interviews please contact Eley McAinsh eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk

To support Debbie's walk click [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

Eley McAinsh, Press and Media Officer eley.mcainsh@brf.org.uk or +44 (0)1865 319700 | enquiries@brf.org.uk