

Prayer diary

Transforming lives and communities



Autumn 2019

Developing a taste for discipleship

It's not a set formula or advice from experts. It's a menu of creative ideas from which to select the best approach to nurturing discipleship in your congregation. And it's working! Around the country, churches using BRF's **Holy Habits** resources are putting into practice the ten habits that marked the early church in Acts 2 – including eating together.



Dear friends

Thank you, on behalf of all of us at BRF, for standing alongside us in prayer.

BRF has much to celebrate! In spring we welcomed 200 people from 14 countries to the second Messy Church International Conference. Please join us in thanking God for this joyful ministry and asking him to richly bless the work of fledgling and established Messy Churches in so many different locations and contexts around the world.

We thank God for the steady growth of BRF's Anna Chaplaincy ministry, providing spiritual care for older people. Please pray for those planning the next Anna Chaplaincy Network Gathering in October.

In September we celebrate 20 years of Barnabas in Schools! Please pray that in its 21st year we will have opportunities



to work with many schools that haven't yet experienced a Barnabas RE Day.

We thank God for the growing number of people involved with Parenting for Faith, including through social media and the regular podcast. Please pray for all who are leading and participating in Parenting for Faith courses starting this autumn.

Finally, we thank God for every person involved in the work of BRF. Please pray for God's continued provision of the resources, particularly the people and the funding, that we need to take this forward.

Canon Richard Fisher 
Chief Executive, BRF



Sign up for our latest news to keep up-to-date with what's going on at BRF at brf.org.uk/keepintouch

New term, new starts

Sunday 1 September

Pray for all readers of BRF's Bible reading notes as they open a new issue, whether for the first time today or after many years of faithful use. May their reading and reflection renew their faith.

Monday 2 September

Pray for readers of *Day by Day with God*, remembering especially busy parents as they prepare children for the new school year, practically, emotionally and spiritually.

Tuesday 3 September

Pray for readers of *Bible Reflections for Older People*, that they will find comfort, reassurance and blessing.

Wednesday 4 September

Pray for the worldwide family of *Upper Room* readers, that wherever they are, whatever their circumstances, they may be peacemakers in their communities.

Thursday 5 September

Pray for the continuing impact of *New Daylight*, which is in its 30th year, and that a new generation will discover the riches in these enduringly popular notes.

Friday 6 September

Pray for students preparing for college. May they discover resources – such as *Guidelines* study notes – to help them find and keep faith amid the distractions of student life.

Saturday 7 September

Pray for all our contributors and editors and everyone involved in the production of our Bible reading notes. Ask God to inspire and sustain them in all they do.

20 years of bringing the Bible to schoolchildren

Sunday 8 September

This month Barnabas in Schools celebrates 20 years of Barnabas RE Days! Pray for this work to continue and for inspiration for the team members writing and developing the RE packages.

Monday 9 September

Christianity around the World is our Barnabas RE Day showcasing the diversity of the world's most widespread faith. Pray that the team ignites curiosity about why Christianity became and remains so popular.

Tuesday 10 September

Pray that Christianity around the World enhances many pupils' understanding of what worship can mean for Christian believers.

Wednesday 11 September

Our Barnabas in Schools team travels hundreds of miles in a week: pray for safe travel, warm welcomes and the energy to give every group of children a unique experience.

Thursday 12 September

A Barnabas RE Day costs £295; please pray that local churches or PTAs will enable schools with tight budgets to fund an RE Day.

Friday 13 September

Pray that our staff choose wisely where best to spend their time and energy in publicising our RE Days, through mailings, meetings, events and digital marketing.

Saturday 14 September

Pray that the Barnabas INSET sessions will inspire, equip and promote confidence in those teaching RE.

Growing disciples in and out of Messy Church

Sunday 15 September

Thank God for the way Messy Churches up and down the country are making space for people of all ages to come closer to him.

Monday 16 September

Pray for the research project BRF is developing with the dioceses of Bristol, Durham and Hereford into which Messy Church approaches to discipleship are most effective.

Tuesday 17 September

Hold before God those families and individuals who are plucking up the courage to step inside their local Messy Church for the first time this month.

Wednesday 18 September

Please pray that families and individuals in Messy Churches will take a step closer to Christ this month.

Thursday 19 September

Thank God for the sacrificial and generous leadership of so many Messy Church helpers. Pray particularly that these opportunities to get involved will help foster church leaders of today and tomorrow.

Friday 20 September

Pray for all those who were inspired at the Messy Church International Conference in May to persevere with efforts to make and grow Messy disciples in the UK and around the world.

Saturday 21 September

Ask God to give Messy Churches all they need to thrive and to draw the next generation of people across the world into a closer relationship with him.

Parenting for Faith courses

Sunday 22 September

As the new season gets underway, please pray for all the churches running Parenting for Faith courses for parents, carers and others in their communities this term.

Monday 23 September

Give thanks for the generous funding that is enabling Parenting for Faith to flourish and grow.

Tuesday 24 September

Please pray for Rachel Turner and her team as they develop additional course sessions and resources to support course leaders.

Wednesday 25 September

Pray for parents, carers and all who have been on a Parenting for Faith course. May they continue growing in confidence as they spiritually nurture the children in their lives.

Thursday 26 September

We also seek to support those who spiritually parent children and young people with additional needs. Give thanks for all those partnering with us in this particular ministry.

Friday 27 September

Please pray for inspiration and wisdom for new ways to share with the wider community Parenting for Faith's five Key Tools, which adults can use to create conversations with children about God.

Saturday 28 September

Give thanks for the many, many volunteers who run Parenting for Faith courses in their homes, churches and communities, and ask God to bless them as they give to others.

Celebrating age

Sunday 29 September

Pray for those of ripe years to be better valued for the contributions they make for the well-being of society.

Monday 30 September

Pray for more grandparents to be able to live out authentic Christian lives for the benefit of younger generations.

Tuesday 1 October

Pray for all the events taking place to mark this International Day of Older Persons, dedicated to raising awareness about issues affecting those in their later years.

Wednesday 2 October

Give thanks for older men and women who faithfully pass on their Christian beliefs to their children and grandchildren.

Thursday 3 October

Give thanks for the medical advances that have made longevity possible for many, and pray for better quality of life for people living into advanced old age.

Friday 4 October

Pray that men and women in old age will be able to live in greater peace and harmony with others, with neighbours looking out for them and enjoying their company.

Saturday 5 October

Pray for a growth in the numbers of people wanting to become Anna Chaplains to older people and for the expansion of BRF's national network linking them together.

One body, many parts

Sunday 6 October

Pray for Christian retailers and distributors, and for their work in promoting BRF's publications in this country and around the world.

Monday 7 October

Pray for Churches Together in England (of which BRF is a Body of Association) and the ecumenical work they do among the various denominations in the UK.

Tuesday 8 October

Pray for the events we facilitate together with other organisations; may God use these opportunities for people to grow in their faith and discipleship.

Wednesday 9 October

Pray for our publishing partners in Holland, Denmark, US, Germany, Canada, Romania, Sweden and other parts of the world, who translate and publish our resources.

Thursday 10 October

Pray for the work of the Anglican Communion and BRF's involvement in the discipleship forum arranged by this organisation.

Friday 11 October

Give thanks for the support, encouragement and help we receive from regional and national denominations who disseminate information about BRF's work.

Saturday 12 October

Pray for the work of the Christian Suppliers Group, for BRF's involvement in this initiative and for its annual general meeting taking place during the autumn.

For BRF resources and those who sell them

Sunday 13 October

Pray that Christian booksellers resting today may be sustained and encouraged by the presence of God for the week ahead.

Monday 14 October

Pray for those involved in the final preparations for the Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE) this week, for safe travels and smooth set up.

Tuesday 15 October

Pray that all those attending CRE, will enjoy meeting with others and discover the resources they need for themselves and their churches.

Wednesday 16 October

Pray for fruitful conversations to take place at the BRF stand at CRE: may people be excited about BRF's work to transform lives and communities.

Thursday 17 October

Pray that the BRF team packing up and driving home from CRE would return as enriched and inspired as other delegates.

Friday 18 October

Pray for the Christian booksellers in the UK and abroad who support BRF resources in their local communities; may they feel God's presence with them in their workplaces.

Saturday 19 October

Pray for everyone who has picked up a BRF resource this week – whether at CRE, online or in a Christian bookshop. May it help them to meet with God, and support and invigorate them in the coming weeks.

For Messy Church leaders and teams

Sunday 20 October

Pray that the worldwide network of Messy Church teams have abundant opportunities to share their faith with their communities.

Monday 21 October

Pray for the much-needed support that Messy Church volunteers require. Give thanks for their dedication and commitment.

Tuesday 22 October

Pray that as the Bible passage is studied and discussed during Messy Church team planning times, God's word will speak to each member of the team.

Wednesday 23 October

Pray that Messy Church teams will plan exciting sessions to bring the Bible to life. Pray for creative ways to engage all ages, through different learning styles and through play.

Thursday 24 October

Pray for generosity and love to all in the hospitality that Messy Church teams offer their Messy congregations. May new friendships blossom as the teams talk to people of all ages over the activities and the shared food.

Friday 25 October

Pray for the pastoral needs of Messy Church teams. Pray for sensitivity and compassion in all situations; may they offer encouragement and may trust grow.

Saturday 26 October

Pray that the leadership teams who share the Messy Church vision for their communities are excited by how God is at work.

Light in the darkness

Sunday 27 October

Pray for readers of our Bible reading notes, many of whom are starting new themes today. May God continue to draw them near to him.

Monday 28 October

As a new working week starts, pray for the team at BRF who work on producing resources for individuals and churches. Ask God to give them inspiration, perseverance and holy creativity.

Tuesday 29 October

Thank God for all BRF authors. For those who are working on manuscripts now, pray for words that will bless and inspire.

Wednesday 30 October

Thank God for the growing range of Messy Church books, and pray that they would help Messy Church teams to spread the gospel to those who may not otherwise hear it.

Thursday 31 October

On Halloween, pray that our schools resources might speak to children and their teachers about God's love being light in the darkness.

Friday 1 November

On All Saints' Day, pray that our Celtic Christianity resources might refresh their readers' spirituality and awareness of God.

Saturday 2 November

On All Souls' Day, pray that God would comfort readers of our resources for those who are mourning, bereaved or anxious.

For Barnabas in Schools

Sunday 3 November

Pray for inspiration as we create resources for Barnabas RE Days and training materials and online lesson resources for schools.

Monday 4 November

Please pray that our Barnabas in Schools team will inspire many young minds to ask searching questions about Christian faith and belief and what it means for them.

Tuesday 5 November

Guy Fawkes Night is associated with religious intolerance. Pray that Barnabas RE Day topics Who Is My Neighbour? and Creating Character would have a positive influence in difficult areas today.

Wednesday 6 November

Pray for wisdom and confidence for Barnabas in Schools team members as they discuss, both locally and as part of the national debate, how best to meet the deep spiritual needs in schools.

Thursday 7 November

Pray that Christian children will be encouraged and affirmed through Barnabas RE Days and motivated to show God's care for those around them.

Friday 8 November

For many children, a Barnabas RE Day will be their first exposure to a child-friendly presentation of Christianity and its stories. Please pray the message is communicated in a clear and interesting way.

Saturday 9 November

Pray for primary RE teachers who have no experience of or familiarity with the subject area, that our INSET sessions will be informative and empowering for them.

For children's, youth and families leaders

Sunday 10 November

Give thanks for the passion and commitment of children's, youth and families leaders in our churches.

Monday 11 November

Today, over 30 people are travelling to Forge North, Parenting for Faith's retreat for children's, youth and families leaders. Please pray for safe travels and a warm welcome.

Tuesday 12 November

Please pray that all those at Forge North will hear God speaking to them about their own roles and situations, and that they will take his wisdom back with them to their home churches.

Wednesday 13 November

As delegates leave Forge North, give thanks for friendships formed, and pray for them to leave inspired and refreshed.

Thursday 14 November

Give thanks particularly for those children's, youth and families leaders who are pioneering and sharing new ways to use Parenting for Faith's resources.

Friday 15 November

Please pray for Rachel, Anna and Becky as they develop new resources for children's, youth and families leaders to use in support of parents in their communities.

Saturday 16 November

Give thanks for those children's, youth and families leaders who have volunteered to become Parenting for Faith Hub Hosts, encouraging a network in their local area.

Old age perspective

Sunday 17 November

Pray that God would enable more men and women to cultivate the art of living well despite the many challenges of old age.

Monday 18 November

Give thanks for BRF contributors who help us to reflect more deeply on what it is to be mature human beings with the hope of eternal life in our hearts.

Tuesday 19 November

Pray for the writers of *Bible Reflections for Older People*, which help readers to draw on their inner resources to foster hope and resilience in the second half of life.

Wednesday 20 November

Give thanks for Anna Chaplains who arrange intergenerational activities that improve mutual understanding and enhance the lives of young and old.

Thursday 21 November

Pray that God will especially use Anna Chaplains to support those older people who have experienced war and violence to find peace with their past and with God.

Friday 22 November

Pray that Anna Chaplains would enable older people to find God through the beauty of nature and the changing seasons and to understand more about God's overarching plan for his creation.

Saturday 23 November

Pray for the growth of Messy Vintage, allowing older people to find God through creativity and community.

For the BRF team

Sunday 24 November

'Thy kingdom come.' Pray that the work of BRF will always bring honour and glory to Christ the King. May he make fruitful all our efforts to serve his kingdom.

Monday 25 November

'Thy will be done.' Give thanks for BRF's trustees, who so generously offer their time and experience to help steer important decisions. May the Holy Spirit in turn guide and inspire them.

Tuesday 26 November

'On earth as it is in heaven.' Pray for God's blessing on BRF's programmes – may they result in communities that more closely reflect God's purposes for his world.

Wednesday 27 November

'Give us this day our daily bread.' Pray that God will supply the funding BRF needs to continue its work, according to his will.

Thursday 28 November

'Forgive us our sins.' Pray that God would forgive and correct all of us at BRF for any mistakes we make, either through 'weakness, ignorance or our own deliberate fault'.

Friday 29 November

'As we forgive those who sin against us.' Pray for BRF staff that, when misunderstandings arise or pressure mounts, we would have the grace to forgive each other and to forbear.

Saturday 30 November

'Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.' Pray for God's strength and protection for all staff in times of difficulty.

For the Parenting for Faith team

Sunday 1 December

Give thanks for the Parenting for Faith team, Rachel, Anna and Becky, and all those who support them at the BRF office.

Monday 2 December

Pray for wisdom and strength for Rachel Turner, Parenting for Faith Pioneer, as she continues to lead Parenting for Faith.

Tuesday 3 December

Pray for Becky Sedgwick, Parenting for Faith's Local Coordinator, as she supports and equips churches who are investing in Parenting for Faith.

Wednesday 4 December

Give thanks and pray for all those people up and down the country who champion Parenting for Faith in their churches and regions.

Thursday 5 December

Pray for the team as they seek God's heart for the development of Parenting for Faith, that they may hear him clearly and be bold as they implement his vision.

Friday 6 December

Pray for Anna Hawken, Parenting for Faith's National Coordinator, as she meets and liaises with those who influence families nationally.

Saturday 7 December

Give thanks for the creativity, wisdom and energy of the wider BRF team as they invest in Parenting for Faith.

For schools at Christmas time

Sunday 8 December

Please pray that Barnabas in Schools team members convey the significance of Jesus' birth for Christians today, as they relate the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Monday 9 December

Thank God for good relationships with the many schools who regularly invite our Barnabas in Schools team back to help deliver their religious education.

Tuesday 10 December

Pray that the team will pace themselves well at the end of this busy term, using their resources for the best outcomes – and for safe travel on dark roads.

Wednesday 11 December

Pray for Dan, our busy and diligent online editor, responsible for updating barnabasinschools.org.uk, so that teaching staff find it useful and relevant.

Thursday 12 December

Give thanks for Jenny, our efficient programmes administrator, who deals with enquiries and bookings. Give thanks for her careful work.

Friday 13 December

Please pray for Chip, our energetic and talented Barnabas in Schools team member who leads RE Days in and around East Anglia, using puppetry and song.

Saturday 14 December

Pray for inspiration for Jane, our team member in Guildford, who is also on the local diocesan education team supporting schools as they teach RE and lead collective worship.

Faith and hope

Sunday 15 December

Give thanks for faithful older people who, like Simeon and Anna (the namesake for BRF's Anna Chaplaincy) in Luke's gospel, teach us the value of watching and waiting in expectation of great things.

Monday 16 December

Pray that all BRF staff, trustees and supporters will have wisdom to differentiate between what is superfluous and what is of lasting importance, so that we invest our time wisely and have no cause for regret in later life.

Tuesday 17 December

May all involved in BRF show the faithfulness of Joseph, who remained loyal to his young pregnant wife Mary, throughout perplexing and challenging times.

Wednesday 18 December

Pray for Debbie, team leader for Anna Chaplaincy to Older People, and for the further UK-wide expansion of this form of spiritual support.

Thursday 19 December

Give thanks for the women and men coming forward to become Anna Chaplains and pray for yet more to discover their calling to this ministry.

Friday 20 December

Pray for Anna Chaplains to help older individuals deepen their discipleship, so their walk with God will transform their experience of older age.

Saturday 21 December

Pray for Christmas to be a joyous time when young and old unite to give thanks for the gift of Jesus, born into a human family, 'one of us.'

A very Messy Christmas

Sunday 22 December

Thank God for the Christmas Messy Churches that have taken place this month, sharing the importance of Christmas with people who are beginning to explore faith. Pray for the families that have gone home with something new to think about.

Monday 23 December

Ask God to comfort any Messy Church families and individuals that are apprehensive about Christmas this year.

Tuesday 24 December

Thank God for the special carol services and nativity services that bring together Messy Church and Sunday congregations as one 'family'.

Wednesday 25 December

Please pray that families and individuals in Messy Churches will remember the reason for the joy, love and celebration of Christmas among the busyness of the day.

Thursday 26 December

Pray that Messy Church families would be able to use this quieter day to reflect on Jesus and share with each other.

Friday 27 December

Thank God for all those who make Messy Churches happen and for the part they have played in changing the lives of Messy congregations. Pray that this will be a time that they can rest.

Saturday 28 December

Pray for Messy Church congregations as life returns to its normal pattern. Ask God to provide reassurance for them in the general mess of life.

The God who provides

Sunday 29 December

Give thanks to God for his faithfulness to BRF through a year of change and challenges.

Monday 30 December

Praise God for all that he has done to nurture faith in individuals and communities through BRF over 97 years. Ask for his wisdom, guidance and provision in 2020.

Tuesday 31 December

Ask the God of grace and hope to send his comforter to any BRF staff members, programme volunteers, supporters and readers who are feeling lonely this evening or who are anxious about the year ahead.

Wednesday 1 January

Pray for BRF staff families who may be spending today together. Pray especially for any opportunities to share faith with family members who don't know Jesus.

Thursday 2 January

Pray for members of the BRF teams returning to work today after the break. Pray for fresh insights and ideas to face the opportunities of the new working year.

Friday 3 January

Pray that God will bring to BRF in the year ahead the people who can partner with us to extend God's kingdom, through sharing expertise and skills, contacts and funding opportunities.

Saturday 4 January

Give thanks for everyone who will invest their time or resources in BRF this year; may the seeds they plant bring forward a harvest of righteousness.

The BRF Prayer

Almighty God,
you have taught us that your word is a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path. Help us, and all who prayerfully read your word,
to deepen our fellowship with you and with each other through your love.
And in so doing may we come to know you more fully, love you more truly
and follow more faithfully in the steps of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forevermore.
Amen



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