



Anna Chaplaincy in Canterbury Diocese

Supporting Christians with a Calling to Ministry Among Older People

Who are Canterbury Diocese Anna Chaplains?

Anna Chaplains are parish-based and commissioned to offer spiritual care and support to older people and their families, including people with dementia. Some are ordained, many are licensed lay ministers, others are new to lay ministry. Most fulfil their role in a voluntary capacity. Anna Chaplains often work with Anna Friends who volunteer alongside them.

What is distinctive about Anna Chaplaincy?

Anna Chaplains don't just work with congregation members. Anna Chaplaincy is an outward-facing ministry of the local church enabling all older people to have meaningful conversations about what matters to them, exploring what brings purpose, connection, hope and peace. It helps older people stay involved in church and community life. Anna Chaplains work alongside and complement pastoral care teams.

How do Anna Chaplains support older people?

- By visiting people at home to offer spiritual care
- By linking with care homes to provide Christian worship and individual support
- By supporting or establishing groups and activities such as dementia cafes
- By advocating for older people and those dementia in church and community

How does the Diocese support Anna Chaplains?

Julia Burton-Jones leads the work in the Diocese. She is employed by Rochester Diocese but works across Kent. A diocesan working group oversees Anna Chaplaincy, made up of:

Julia Burton-Jones – Anna Chaplaincy lead
Nigel Collins – diocesan warden of readers/pastoral secretary
Sarah Lucas – mission and ministry administrator
Judith Andrews – Anna Chaplain in Ramsgate
Canon Jean Kerr – Anna Chaplain in Deal

Training Available from Canterbury Diocese in 2025

1. Online Anna Chaplaincy Courses

The Diocese offers a Zoom course for those supported by parishes to train as Anna Chaplains; taught by Julia Burton-Jones, it has contributions from Kent Anna Chaplains.

Spring 2025 – Tuesday evenings

Session 1: 29/04/25 7:00 – 9:00 **Introducing Anna Chaplaincy**

Session 2: 06/05/25 7:00 – 9:00 **Living the second half of life**

Session 3: 13/05/25 7:00 – 9:00 **The spirituality of ageing**

Session 4: 20/05/25 7:00 – 9:00 **Spirituality and people living with dementia**

Session 5: 27/05/25 7:00 – 9:00 **Chaplaincy skills in working with older people**

Session 6: 10/06/25 7:00 – 9:00 **Looking forward – the next steps**

Autumn 2025 – dates to be confirmed

To request an application form, contact Sarah Lucas (SLucas@diocant.org)

2. Training for Anna Friends

A new BRF Ministries training pack was piloted in Kent in 2022 and launched in October 2023 as a national resource. The Anna Friends course is delivered over 3 x 2-hour sessions by Anna Chaplains, to enable them to train their teams, encouraging them to feel connected to the wider Anna Chaplaincy community.

3. Spiritual Care Series on pastoral and spiritual care among older people

A new course for churches on spiritual care for older people was launched by BRF Ministries (home of Anna Chaplaincy) in 2022. Created in Australia, it has Professor John Swinton from Aberdeen University as a consistent voice through the excellent videos accompanying the training. This course can be delivered in local church contexts for groups of six or more. BRF Ministries also offer the course on Zoom for individuals drawn from across the UK and all denominations.

For details, see [About the Spiritual Care Series | Anna Chaplaincy | BRF](#)

For more information about Anna Chaplaincy in Canterbury Diocese, visit the diocesan website here: [Anna Chaplaincy - Diocese of Canterbury](#)

To discuss Anna Chaplaincy, for yourself or your church, contact Julia Burton-Jones (julia.burton-jones@rochester.anglican.org).