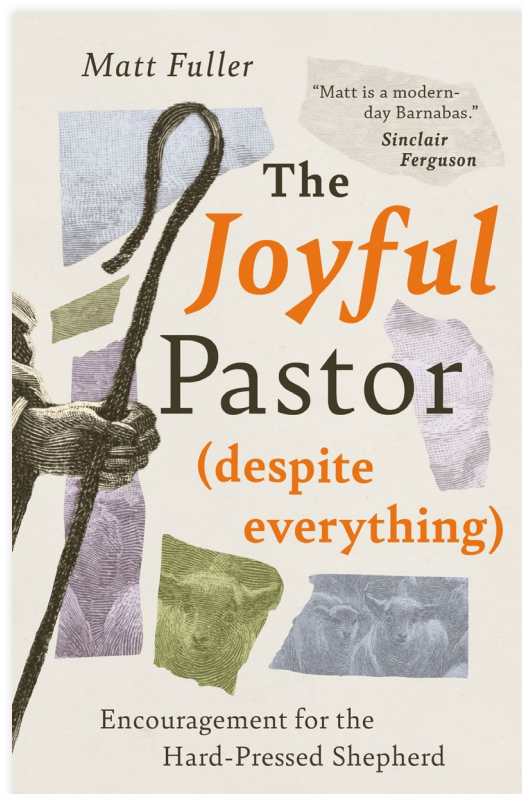




The Joyful Pastor (Despite Everything)

Encouragement for the Hard-Press Shepherd

Matt Fuller

Though you know pastoral work is meant to be a joy and a privilege, it's easy to lose sight of it during the everyday challenges of ministry. Whether you're feeling discouraged or even burned out, gain encouragement for your high and holy calling.

After 25+ years in ministry, pastor Matt Fuller understands the highs and lows of church work. With realism and positivity, he reminds you of the wonders of your unique calling and of the Great Shepherd, who cares for you as you serve him and his people.

Using gentle humor, the wisdom of ministers in centuries past and relatable anecdotes, Fuller helps you recover the sense that you have the best job in the world.

Drawing from 1 Peter 5:1-4 and many other passages, Fuller reminds you that...

- Caring for God's treasure, his people, is a unique gift
- The Great Shepherd cares for you as you serve him and his people
- Your work of transforming lives for eternity truly matters

Come away from every chapter feeling reinvigorated and excited about the work God calls you to... without having to add anything to your long to-do list.

Format	Paperback
Pagination	160 pages
ISBN	ISBN: 9781802544329
Release Date	November 2026
Publisher	The Good Book Company



About the Author

Matt Fuller is the Senior Minister at Christ Church, Mayfair in central London and the author of several books including *Time for Everything?*, *Reclaiming Masculinity* and *The Joyful Pastor*. Before working as a minister, Matt was a secondary-school teacher teaching history and politics.

Endorsements

“The apostle Paul summarised his ministry experience as combined agony and ecstasy: ‘death is at work in us, but life in you.’ Matt Fuller well captures this paradoxical balance. A modern-day Barnabas, he writes encouragingly but honestly, coupling the hard-earned wisdom of personal experience with the field-tested insights of past masters. *The Joyful Pastor* is a gift to pastors, present and future—as well as to the pastored.”

Sinclair Ferguson

Teaching Fellow of Ligonier Ministries; Chancellor’s Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary

“A deeply encouraging and refreshingly honest book for weary shepherds. Drawing from decades of pastoral experience, Matt Fuller combines rich biblical insight, wise pastoral application, and the steady counsel of the Puritans and other faithful voices from church history to remind ministers of the privilege and joy of shepherding God’s people. It strengthens both the heart and the hands of pastors for long-term ministry.”

Tony Merida

Pastor, Imago Dei Church, Raleigh, North Carolina

Suggested Interview Questions

1. How has your appreciation for the unique privileges of long-term ministry deepened now that you have been in ministry for over twenty years?
2. What leadership areas have given you the greatest opportunity to learn and grow as your church grew?
3. What does your own daily discipline of practicing thankfulness look like?
4. How can pastors train their hearts to more naturally celebrate the everyday joys of ministry?
5. How does it feel to witness the moment a stubborn heart begins to melt and respond to the gospel?
6. In what ways does weathering ministry trials serve to validate and affirm the reality of our faith?
7. Why do you describe the overarching role of a pastor as a terrifying yet awesome privilege?
8. What is the best way to intentionally notice and savor the slow-burn success stories in a congregation?
9. How can pastors maintain an expectant hope when they see no visible fruit from their labor?
10. What practical steps can pastors take to foster life-giving, encouraging friendships with their peers?
11. How can a pastor balance wholehearted service with the divine command to rest?