

RESOURCING RENEWAL

Autumn Newsletter 2023



RESOURCE

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
ACTIVE IN MISSION



- Thirsty for More** Local churches re discovering Living Water
- Learning to Lament** Responding to scandal and disappointment
- God of Surprises** Journeying from Pentecostalism to the CoFE

Our work enables little, local and ordinary churches to engage
with the Holy Spirit for renewal, discipleship and mission

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Perhaps you know the story of the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras: built to a very high specification, it survived Hurricane Mitch in 1998, but the storm was so powerful it caused the river beneath to change course - meaning the bridge was left stranded, spanning only dry land.

Something of a similar nature has happened to this gate, found in the grounds of Foxhill, the Chester diocesan retreat centre (pictured on the front cover). The gate still stands, albeit rustily, but an associated fence is long gone.

I've found myself pondering this gate during recent visits. Indeed, it's become a good place for me to go and pray about the life of the church.

We might often talk about the challenge of people crossing over a threshold into a life of vibrant Christian faith. But what if people look at our churches, and see a rusty gate with no obvious purpose?

It has been a joy to see ReSource's relationship with Foxhill developing in recent years, and this gate is certainly not a picture of the spiritual vitality of what is offered there. Indeed in July, our core staff team and the trustees both had residential meetings at Foxhill, including a fruitful afternoon spent altogether.

It was a time, in part, for reviewing ReSource's particular call - to champion renewal in the Holy

What if people look at our churches, and see a rusty gate with no obvious purpose?

Spirit, especially in smaller Anglican churches (and wherever else we are invited). The call to cherish the ‘little, local, ordinary’ churches of suburbs, towns and rural contexts seems often to resonate with people in these precious churches, dedicated to the often unglamorous work of local mission.

As one of our ReSource Companions, David Newman, said recently to me, ‘churches that can stay close to the groaning of their communities can see hope and life emerging’. To be in such a place, for the long haul, is often about a long, purposeful faithfulness in the same direction.

We went on to discuss that one challenge associated with renewal is, by definition, the fact of God prompting or birthing something new. No more rusty gates, we might be tempted to proclaim.

Part of the genius of the Gospel is, of course, its ability to resonate across time and space, whatever the cultural context; the Spirit renews the church in each generation, and part of our



call is to have hearts and minds open to this call, adapting as circumstances change.

But this doesn’t mean jettisoning everything that has gone before. Instead, the task is often about a holding together of apparent opposites in creative tension. As I hope you will discover in these pages, ReSource’s call is very much about examining how the past and present can inform one another; how Pentecostalism and Anglicanism can offer reciprocal blessings; how disappointment and lament can be held alongside kingdom hope.

Whatever challenges you are facing in ministry, and even if you feel a bit like a rusty gate where the fence has disappeared, it would be our privilege to journey alongside you.

Christopher Landau

Director of ReSource

The Resting Place

A day retreat inspired by the words of the hymn, “I heard the voice of Jesus say, come unto me and rest”.

Wednesday 27th September 10am – 4pm at Foxhill House, Cheshire

Led by Canon Dr Alison Fleetwood (ReSource trustee) and Revd Julia Powley

www.resourcingrenewal.org/events



“God gave the growth” New faces in Alongside

As a result of receiving multi-year funding awards from three charitable trusts, the Alongside Scheme is expanding, and we are delighted to welcome a new Project Officer, Dr Katie Nessler, to the core team.

What first attracted you to the work of ReSource?

I initially joined ReSource as part of the Intercessors' Network, later becoming a volunteer Coordinator. I particularly valued the specific focus on supporting, equipping and resourcing little, ordinary, and often overlooked, churches. Jesus spent so much of His earthly ministry with those on the margins, who were weak or depleted, in small groups and during one-on-one conversations, and ReSource's calling to me reflects the heart of God. I also found the very real emphasis on the power of prayer, with Intercession underpinning and fuelling all that ReSource does, very appealing. For ReSource, Intercession isn't something on the side, but is interwoven through all the ministry, which was so exciting to me.

Why did you want to be part of the development of the Alongside Scheme?

Recently I felt the Lord speak to me about the importance of facilitating safe spaces where people can remove their “masks”; places where they can truly bring themselves as they are, messy, confused, perplexed and perhaps hurting, and receive from the Lord.

In my own walk, places like this have been absolutely fundamental to my growth, and it has been wise prayerful one-on-one counsel that has enabled me to navigate apparent wilderness wanderings, helping me discern where the Lord is leading and where He is at work in my life. I am aware that it is very tricky for church leaders to find such safe spaces, which is why I think the Alongside Scheme is so essential and why I am delighted to be part of facilitating the Scheme.

What difference do you see the Scheme making for clergy and others in church leadership?

As an Intercessor for the Alongside Scheme, it has been a privilege to have occasional little glimpses (with details of the church leaders always being anonymised) into both the difficulties many church leaders are facing, but also a huge joy to see how the Lord is blessing those church leaders through the Scheme, answering prayers, encouraging and supporting those in leadership so that they can be restored and renewed for their calling.



How do you feel the Spirit is speaking to the church at the moment?

A few months ago, while holding up the small size of a particular prayer group I am part of to the Lord in prayer, I received a picture of large electricity pylons. One doesn't need many pylons to carry a huge amount of power, if they have good foundations and are properly aligned and connected. In the same way, I felt, the Spirit was indicating that He can work through us in prayer if we are rooted in Jesus, available to and aligned with His purpose, even if we are small in number. The call, I felt, is to continue in faithful intercession, being available and trusting that we can be conduits for the power of God the Holy Spirit, even if our numbers seem few and we ourselves don't see much evidence of that in our local setting (pylons support power delivery to other areas). We are part of a huge network of faithful Christians, and the Lord will use us for His Kingdom purposes.



Dr Katie Nessler

Alongside Project Officer

Meet Revd Canon Richard Zair joining the team of ReSource Companions



I currently have two church leaders to accompany. They are in very different contexts, one deeply rural, and the other in a large town urban situation.

I have met them both in person and in context, and am thus beginning to understand the circumstances and challenges of their ministries. I have a deep sense of privilege listening to and being alongside these church leaders. Both have expressed gratitude for having someone outside 'the system' to confide in, and for having the opportunity to discuss the issues they are facing, knowing that the conversations are totally confidential.

Being a Companion is enabling me to recognise how the Lord has prepared me for this new role with ReSource during my own 40 years of service as a priest in the Church of England – recognising the ministry of the Holy Spirit in me, as well as in the ministries of those I'm journeying alongside.



Thirsty for More

Our work would not be possible without the commitment of ReSource Ministers around the country. One of them, George Fisher, reflects on two recent engagements with local churches.

It has been my privilege to lead two Sanctuary Days in the last twelve months. The churches have been very different – but where there is a thirst for more of God, our Lord is faithful in sending His Spirit.

One church, St Catherine’s Ventnor (on the Isle of Wight) is at the start of its journey of being more open to the Holy Spirit, whereas St Mary’s Bletchley (near Milton Keynes) has sustained renewal over decades. Both churches were thirsty for more.

My wife Joan, who is also ordained, accompanies me and we work as a partnership where I do most of the teaching and she does a lot of praying with people and listening to what the Spirit is saying. We have received amazing hospitality in both churches, and been warmly welcomed not only by our hosts but by the church families.

In both churches the teaching has followed a similar pattern. The Saturday has four main elements. We look at the work of the Holy Spirit in the Bible to ground the day in the scriptures. We then look at the work of the Holy Spirit through church history with an emphasis on the 20th century development of Pentecostalism and the charismatic movement so people can place themselves within the story. In

the afternoon we look at the fruit of the Spirit emphasising the impact of lives changed on the community around them. Finally, we look at the gifts of the Spirit and the way they are tools to equip the church for evangelism and growth.

This programme is tweaked for the requirements of each church. Each session aims to have time for discussion, feedback and for prayer ministry, especially in the final session. The Sunday sermon is an overview of the work of the Holy Spirit with a challenge and invitation to receive more, followed by anointing with oil. In both churches this has been most moving, with the vast majority coming forward to receive.

“We pray that the Lord will continue His work in and through these churches. The Lord is faithful where churches thirst for more and step out in faith, He sends His Living Water.”

We visited St Catherine’s Ventnor last September. It is part of a team ministry, and the vicar and church community were happy for ReSource to visit for a Sanctuary Day. We held Zoom meetings

to discuss the teaching and programme and quite quickly agreed on the way forward, agreeing on the title, 'Soak in the Spirit'. As a result of the weekend the church did its first Alpha Course. Someone recently said that the new tag line is, 'It's happening at St Catherine's'.

We visited St Mary's Bletchley in July. It has been part of the renewal for many years and has a prophecy team. Recently they have done several church plants and this, along with Covid and illness, has left the church depleted and in need of refreshment. Zoom conversations beforehand confirmed that the title 'Refresh' was very apt. Quite a few new people have joined the church since the last plant and there was a wonderful sense of unity with this

weekend putting everyone on the same page in readiness for where the Lord might want them to go next.

What a privilege it is to be part of a church's journey and walk with them for a short way in preparing and delivering these weekends. We pray that the Lord will continue His work in and through these churches. The Lord is faithful; where churches thirst for more and

step out in faith, He sends His Living Water.



Revd George Fisher

ReSource Minister

Rev David McDougall, Rector of St Marys Bletchley, writes...

In Genesis 26:18, we read, "Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had filled up after Abraham died..."

The Holy Spirit came in His wonderful unique way and refreshed/reopened and cleared the Well of St Marys deeply. There was beautiful worship, a special lunch, clear biblically rooted teaching and much personal ministry.

St Mary's has gone through a season of church planting. It has been hugely sacrificial in so many ways. The mother church itself now needs refreshing. This is why we called for help, and we are so encouraged that we did. Many of our church were blessed in a variety of different ways.

Personally, having gone through cancer, then Covid ministry times and then handling a church financial crisis – it has not been an easy four years. I needed refreshing as the leader here. I found the day healing, restoring and empowering.

The way ReSource is focussing on refreshing the local church is vital, and deeply helpful in these post-Covid days.



If you would like explore having a ReSource Sanctuary Day at your church, please email bookings@resource-arm.net



Following the God of Surprises

How often has an ordained Pentecostal minister subsequently become a deacon in the Church of England? That's the journey of Dr Grace Bally-Balogun, who has now left behind a career in retail management, latterly with River Island, for full-time Anglican ministry.

Tell us about your journey from Pentecostalism to ordination in the Church of England.

This has been a step of faith – the biggest step of faith that I've ever had to take in my life. I graduated with a Masters from St Mellitus College in London around ten years ago. I had a very strong sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit at the end of the graduation ceremony, and I was just looking around the church, and felt I didn't want to leave. I joked with the then dean [Andy Emerton, now Bishop of Sherwood] and asked if he would take on a Pentecostal to teach in an Anglican college? And he laughed at me and said 'of course, yes!'

How much of a surprise has this journey been?

Full of surprises! I had the opportunity to apply for a part-time role as Beginning Theology Coordinator at St Mellitus. But the day I was asked to think about it, I just said there's no way it would work – the pay wouldn't even cover my mortgage! But that evening, as I was about to pray, the Lord spoke

straight to me. And he said something like, I've prepared this role for you, and trust me, I will provide for you. Within a few months I had a new permanent role in change management on a part-time basis with John Lewis. As I began the role at St Mellitus, there was this strong sense of calling – that God was asking more of me within the Church of England.

Did you have to deal with any misconceptions you had about Anglicanism?

God's just turned my understanding of the Anglican Church upside down. I thought, these Anglicans, they believe in funny things. They don't know the Holy Spirit. How am I going to cope? And God surprised me, and college worship was amazing because it was so charismatic. I realised actually I had a misunderstanding of the Anglican Church. What I've noticed is that God has given grace to each denomination, and each one has a strength. But they also have excesses that exist. And for me, it's been about taking the best of everything, and seeing what the Holy Spirit was doing.

What has become particularly significant for you within the CofE?

I realised that how we celebrate Communion is so important to me. It gives me strength to continue week by week. And I found that in the liturgy, there was a focus on God's word, and our relationship with God. There's something about the liturgy that unites everyone – it brings us all together as a collective. Free worship is wonderful, but it's not everything.

How do you feel you are called to hold together your different strands of Christian experience?

Coming into the Church of England during my training, I didn't feel like God was completely releasing me from the Pentecostal denomination. What I found is that God wants me to hold the two in unity - I'm finding that God has a role for me to speak to both at this time. God has called me into the Church of England, but he hasn't told me to cut my links off with the Pentecostal church. And the New Testament Church of God has generously recognised this calling on my life.

“What I ve noticed is that God has given grace to each denomination, and each one has a strength.

What do you think the Spirit is saying to the whole church about unity at this time?

I feel like, at this time, and in this season, the whole church has to find a way to work together and to unite,



Dr Grace Bally-Balogun at the Multiply Conference, June 2023

because I feel prophetically that there's going to be a proliferation of future events that could negatively impact the church, unless we are united. We need to be united, and we need to stand for truth. And the church is being attacked on that right now.



Dr Grace Bally-Balogun

Curate at St Barnabas Kensington, and working with St Mellitus College and The Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication in London.

Lament as a resource in ministry

In July we ran a series of online conversations, Honest and Hopeful, offering a space to respond to scandals and disappointments in the church. One of the speakers, Revd Graham Hunter, reflects on the importance of lament in the face of disappointment.

There are many issues that might provoke us to lament in today's world: austerity, political polarisation, war in Europe, the cost-of-living crisis, the climate crisis... every-kind-of-crisis.

Within the church, I'm particularly aware of another cause of lament: that of the ongoing moral failures of Christian leaders, and indeed patterns of behaviour that have abused power and caused harm. I won't expand here on my own reflections from my years at Soul Survivor Watford in the late-90s, but it's fair to say that many Christian leaders in this land will have been affected by the allegations made against Mike Pilavachi and will find themselves reflecting on their own experiences of charismatic church leadership cultures.

At St John's Hoxton, our Lent sermon series in 2021 focused on the Old Testament book of Lamentations. In preparing, I was greatly helped by the book 'Prophetic Lament' by American-Korean scholar Soong-Chan Rah. I was also prompted to reflect on the nature of lament by a short article by Bishop Graham Tomlin concerning the difference between stoicism and lament.

It's said that disappointment is produced by the gap between

expectations and reality. When our hopes and dreams are dashed on the cold rock of reality, we inevitably experience disappointment, sadness, pain and even anger. Disappointment can lead us to disenchantment, disillusionment and even to deconstruct all our once-held views on the nature of reality and the nature of our faith. However, I think it better to linger with our disappointment for a while, and let it be a resource that enables us to move to lament.

What then is lament? It is certainly not the same as stoicism. Stoicism maintains a dispassionate posture – not tossed around by the wind and waves of happenstance. Indeed, for those of us who seek to develop a 'non-anxious presence' in the world, stoicism can be terribly tempting. However, stoicism doesn't give a proper account of evil and injustice in the world.

Soong-Chan Rah suggests that lament should take the form of prayer:

'Laments are prayers of petition arising out of need. But lament is not simply the presentation of a list of complaints, nor merely the expression of sadness over difficult circumstances. Lament in the Bible is a liturgical response to the reality



Cover imagery from 'Prophetic Lament'

of suffering and engages God in the context of pain and trouble. The hope of lament is that God would respond to human suffering that is wholeheartedly communicated through lament.'

In recent months, I have determined to let lament become a resource for my Christian life and witness as a church leader in three specific ways:

1. Petitionary Prayer & Intercession

I have determined to be more honest with God in prayer about the things which are lacking. I'm still committed to 'give thanks in all circumstances' (1 Thess 4:16). But I'm also resolved to let my disappointments find expression in intercessory yearning for a better world.

2. Pursuit of Truth & Justice

Let there be honest conversations and truthful appraisals of the reality in which we find ourselves. One of the peculiarly positive aspects of our contemporary 'cancel-culture' is how it expresses a passionate desire for justice. The desperate sadness

however is the way in which it seeks to silence and squash those it attacks. Lament allows me to pursue justice while holding onto the truth expressed in Jesus – the one who cancels nothing about us but our sickness and sin.

3. Proclamation of a Better Tomorrow

Lament is the mode of prayer which enables us to express the gap between the world as it is and the world as it should be. Let's not diminish disappointment by shrinking the gap and lowering our expectations. Let's proclaim a glorious new day – when all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.

Lament is a resource for Christians, because disappointment can remind us of the gap between our current reality and the kingdom of God. As we embrace lament, let's allow it to resource us in prayer, the pursuit of justice, and the proclamation of God's coming kingdom.



Revd Graham Hunter

Vicar of St John's Hoxton, and author of "Discipline and Desire: Embracing Charismatic Liturgical Worship" (Grove Books).

Overflowing with hope... for deeper unity

One of ReSource's key aims is building unity in the church. We were delighted to be invited to be part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal's recent Overflow conference. Felicity Lawson reflects on the day.

In 2017, Pope Francis reformed the way national and diocesan renewal groups work together, and the result is a new international organisation called Charis. He encouraged them to focus on baptism in the Spirit, unity, and ministry to the poor. Charis UK held its first national conference in Birmingham on 1st July. Over 1000 people attended 'Overflow'. It was a fascinating experience, with a broad range of ages and cultural backgrounds joining in enthusiastically with everything on offer.

Christopher had been asked to speak on the importance of unity, and Bishop John Finney and I signed up for the conference out of a longstanding interest in charismatic renewal within the Roman Catholic Church. One particular joy for us was being hosted by Charles and Sue Whitehead, pioneers of renewal within the Catholic Church.

Three things stood out for me:

Sung worship was central to the programme and was led by an excellent group of musicians. The songs, rather surprisingly, were all ones I knew from other contemporary worship contexts. What was

unexpected and delightful was the ease with which everyone sang and prayed in the Spirit. Indeed the opening worship began with the leader striking a chord and everyone singing in tongues before ever we sang in English. Drawing close to God in this way was clearly a priority for the day.

The second thing which struck me was the content of the message from the keynote speakers, Deacon Larry and Andi Oney from the States. Speaking from Joel and Amos in a style which was distinctly Pentecostal, they focused on God's longing to pour out the Spirit in a fresh 'Overflow'. If this was to happen, his people had to seek him through repentance, personal holiness and a deep commitment to prayer and intercession. In essence the message was exactly the same as that brought by several of the speakers at the New Wine Leaders Conference in March - though delivered rather differently!

The opening worship began with the leader striking a chord and everyone singing in tongues before ever we sang in English.



Revd Dr Christopher Landau addressing the Overflow conference.

In the afternoon young people and their leaders from the Ascent programme shared their experiences of God at work in their lives. This is a three year discipleship programme for 14-19 year olds. Over 100 young people signed up this year, and it was so encouraging to see it given a significant profile within the conference. Catholic Charismatics clearly recognise that if they don't invest in the spiritual and personal development of their young people, no one else will. The results were truly impressive as they testified to what they had learnt and experienced of God at work in them and through them.

Having been transformed when he was baptised in the Holy Spirit as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis has spoken regularly about the vital importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the church.

In 2017 he commissioned those at the 50th anniversary celebration of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Rome to run Life in the Spirit Seminars in every parish. Oh that our Anglican Archbishops would issue such a clarion call to put personal spiritual renewal at the heart of all we do as a church!



Revd Felicity Lawson

ReSource Trustee

New leaders for ReSource's ministry of intercession

With Esther McCafferty stepping down with our thanks, Steve and Jocelyn Burton are taking on a new oversight role.



It is such a privilege to be asked to become Intercessor Team Leaders. We are very aware of our own frailty,

but come seeking to be open to the Holy Spirit ('we have this treasure in jars of clay' - 2 Cor 4:7) and trust God to be our guide and strength.

We long to see more Intercessors join us, and our message would be 'we are not super-Christians - we pray as we can, when we can, and together seek to undergird the work of ReSource'.

We are totally convinced that the prayers, pictures and prophetic words

from Intercessors make a significant contribution to ReSource, but we are in a spiritual battle, so are vulnerable to spiritual attack and need the prayers and support of each other. We will therefore seek to encourage and develop pastoral support within the intercessor network.

Jocelyn adds: Recently, whenever I pray for Resource, I see rainbows! I feel the multicolour arching rainbow is a picture of the Intercessors, each unique, blending together to make a colourful bridge - umbrella like - of protection over ReSource. The rainbow brings overriding hope during stormy dark times in the church, and is a reminder of the renewal of God's covenant promise, favour and faithfulness to his people.

Charismatic History 'Witness Seminars'

Thursdays at 2pm on Zoom

21st September - The Fountain Trust's conferences, including pre-Lambeth 1978

19th October - ARM (Anglican Renewal Ministries) conferences

16th November - John Wimber's conferences and ministry in the UK

All are welcome to attend. We are particularly keen to hear from those with personal memories of any of these gatherings - you can indicate this, and whether you would be willing to share memories at the seminar, on the booking form.

You're invited to ReSource's first National Day Conference...

Feeding the Five Thousand

Spiritual Renewal in Smaller Churches

**10am-5pm at Telford Minster, Southwater Square, Telford
Wednesday 22nd November 2023**

- Keynote address from The Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden, Dean of Emmanuel Theological College
- A range of afternoon seminars on ministry in smaller churches, including: Developing Healing ministry; Growing in Discipleship (including running the *Saints Alive!* course); Building Foundations in Prayer; Developing Music and Sung Worship
- The day will include a celebration of Holy Communion with the offer of anointing, with prayer ministry available, led by Bishop John Holbrook, our chair of trustees



Followed by an evening celebration, 7:30-9:30pm, including the launch of our 2024 Lent Course, *Alive in Christ* and a focus on nurturing the gift of prophecy in the local church.

Other dates for your diary...

An Online Retreat for Harvest

Wednesday 27th September
9am-1pm

North west regional gathering *Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches*

Wednesday 18th October at
Christ Church Penrith 10am-4pm

An Online Retreat for Advent

Wednesday 29th November
9am-1pm



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Please contact the office if you would like to explore
how ReSource can support you in ministry

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Details of our ReSource Ministers, Alongside Companions
and Trustees can be found on the website

Giving to ReSource

We are so thankful for all those whose giving makes ReSource's ministry possible.

Regular monthly giving is particularly helpful for us, even in small amounts;
direct debits can be set up via the Donate button on our website.

Donations can also be made directly to our CAF Bank account number 00032578,
sort code 40-52-40, in the name of ReSource for Anglican Renewal Ministries.

Gift Aid forms are available on the website, where you can also find
information about remembering ReSource in your will.

www.resourcingrenewal.org

Charity no. 1180394