

RESOURCING RENEWAL

Spring Newsletter 2023



RESOURCE

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
ACTIVE IN MISSION



Saints becoming fully Alive Reflections from local churches

Listen to the Children How to involve all ages meaningfully

Charismatic History Learning from the past, for mission today

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

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I want to tell you about a broken pottery chalice.

But for some context, I need first to mention Isaiah's famous prophecy about new heavens and a new earth, and a specific verse that I have come to treasure: "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear."

Chapter 65 of Isaiah offers a wealth of encouragements about the new life God promises. In verse 24, there is a particular reminder that God, by his very nature, operates beyond our human timeframes and understanding. And living as we do in times of significant uncertainty and challenge, that reminder of divine sovereignty is a precious blessing.

It seems to me that one of the deepest challenges faced by the church is our tendency to drift towards what might best be summarised as 'functional atheism'. We can easily plan our services, our events, or our strategy, such that they can run whether or not God's presence has been sought, or his will discerned. We need to recover the sense that ministry involves creating space where God can act, not because he is blessing our pre-determined plans, but because we are open to (even surrendered to) his sovereign goodness.

Indeed, in the pages that follow I hope you will be as encouraged as I am by

*Bishop Mark Tanner
and Christopher Landau
in conversation at the
Family Gathering*



stories of God acting in ways that go beyond human expectations – whether that’s through prayer on a Saints Alive course, or inspiring a vicar to serve as a Companion in our Alongside Scheme.

But back to the broken pottery chalice.

An undoubted highlight of last autumn was, for me, the first ReSource ‘Family Gathering’ held at the Swanwick conference centre. As the front cover photos of this newsletter capture, it was a time of deep prayer and worship, wonderful fellowship, and shared joy.

“one of the deepest challenges faced by the church is our tendency to drift towards what might best be summarised as ‘functional atheism’.”

To the side of our main meeting room were some prayer spaces created by our team of Intercessors, and someone had brought a pottery chalice as part of an installation to prompt prayer. Sadly, the chalice was accidentally broken. But an email I received later from the chalice’s owner confirmed that that was neither the end, nor the beginning, of the story:

“D, who I had not met before, came over to me - she was at the pottery shop in Lindisfarne just a couple of

weeks before, and whilst buying a chalice for a friend of hers, sensed the Holy Spirit say “buy two” - so she did - and she has taken my address and is going to post it to me! In addition, H has a friend who does Kintsugi art, and she has taken the broken pieces for her friend to put back together - which is so meaningful to me with my broken childhood - a double blessing!”

There was an answer to the problem of the broken chalice before it had even been broken; God’s people together turned a situation that might have been one of lament into an occasion of blessing.

For me, so much of the delight and challenge for the ministry of ReSource is keeping wide open the space to see God at work, often in these small but deeply significant ways: showing that where the world might see something beyond repair, he sees new possibilities, and opportunities to reveal the way of kingdom blessing.

We enter 2023 full of hope for how God seeks to bless the church in the year ahead. Please be in touch if you would like ReSource to be part of that journey with you.

Christopher Landau

Director of ReSource

Saints becoming fully Alive

We are delighted to hear of churches around the country using the re-launched Saints Alive! course. Two vicars working in very different contexts share how the course has blessed their churches.

In Manchester...

Over the years, we have run many 'basics' courses, but they've never attracted more than half a dozen people - they had been good, but the fruit was not often evident. So when I heard about Saints Alive, we decided to give it a go.

Both of our churches ran the course on the same day – an evening group had 12 people, and I led an afternoon group which 20 people attended (well over half that church's regular congregation). We sat around tables in fours starting with coffee, cake and worship. It was beautiful to see some of our newer members, who had joined us during lockdown, take part - including a lady from Iran, and a couple from Hong Kong. We were also joined by some members of our Food Pantry, and someone battling drug addiction, alongside some of our more mature believers.

“I've learnt so much and feel part of a family - we need to keep doing this.” - *participant*

Because of the excellent material and videos, people opened up very quickly to one another, and after a couple of weeks naturally moved to

sit with different people. We always ended our sessions with prayer around each table, and more worship, and by the end of the course everyone was praying out loud. We decided to gift the journals to our attendees, and I was so pleased that people used them and wrote their own reflections.

The ministry session was incredibly moving as people were visibly touched by the Holy Spirit, with new gifts discovered. I was praying quietly in tongues during the ministry time and one lady was shocked to discover I hadn't been speaking in English, as she had understood every word – after this she assisted in our ministry times, which were very powerful. During every session we were very aware of God's presence, and the Holy Spirit's leading. Relationships have developed, helping people to find their place in the family of the church – people have grown deeper in their faith and relationship with Jesus, and everyone asked to continue meeting.



Revd Donna Williams

Vicar of the Benefice of Hillock (St Andrew) and Unsworth (St George)

...and Malvern

Holy Trinity Church and St James' Church in Malvern are both active, traditional churches with a warm welcome and a desire to flourish. Running the course during autumn 2022 came out of a Vision Day we had earlier in the year, hosted by Christopher Landau from ReSource.

We have had two groups doing the course concurrently, one with eight people on Zoom and one in-person group with about ten participants. As I write this, we have two more sessions to go. We're looking forward to our end-of-course party with a Celtic Communion and afternoon tea.

“It was good to be reminded of things we know, but I found myself becoming aware of who I am as a child of God in a new and deeper way.” -

participant

As the weeks have passed, it's been great to see people being more confident in sharing their thoughts and ideas. A few people have commented on how safe they feel, and how well they feel connected to the other group members. One very quiet person on Zoom said they appreciated the permission to say little but found the space to learn and reflect really helpful.

Praying together, and for each other, was something new to most people, so I was a little concerned about how the 'Time for Ministry' session would be. I needn't have worried. People who had never prayed that way were sharing



Revd Becky Elliott

Vicar of the Benefice of Malvern
Holy Trinity and St James,
West Malvern

words of knowledge and pictures. There were tears and laughter; God is amazing! A few people on the Zoom group have decided that they would like to continue praying together after the course has ended.

Everyone on our course is a member of the church already. It has been lovely to hear people who have been attending church for many years say how much they have appreciated this opportunity to discuss and explore their faith. They are keen to run the course again so that their friends from church who didn't do it this time can have an opportunity! Running Saints Alive is a part of an adventure we are on to grow as disciples and to develop our churches, so they are beacons of hope in our community. I am very thankful for how the course has helped us navigate our journey with God.



ReSource-led PCC vision day in Malvern

Journeying Alongside, prompted by God

November's 'Family Gathering' included an additional 24 hour retreat for forty new Companions in the Alongside Scheme. The Revds Andy Bull and Julia Powley share why they have felt called to offer to others the kind of support they have each valued personally in ministry...

Out of the blue, in 2018, I received a message from someone I'd never met before.

They wrote, "Could we meet for a coffee? I think I have something from the Lord to share with you."

This person, who is involved in church leadership, had been praying for Greater Manchester, and in doing so had a picture come to him in the form of a dream/vision.

After a couple of weeks of not knowing who it was for, things became clear when one day his satnav redirected him past the church where I am a vicar – and he realised that the whole church site was exactly as he had seen it in his dream.

The vision included a reminder to seek God for his presence, and to wake up to his power, and there was a sense that the Holy Spirit would come in power to impact the community of faith and spill out to the community of the lost, bringing healing, blessings, salvation and deliverance.

I continue to meet regularly with this church leader who has become a wonderful support and companion to me, bringing timely wisdom and a prayerful commitment. This has encouraged me to explore having a similar role for someone else, by becoming an Alongside Companion with ReSource.



Revd Andy Bull

Vicar of St Mark's, Stockport





Prior to ordination, I was a member of a large evangelical church, where there was a ministry team of which I was a member. In curacy, once again I was part of a ministry team.

But when I became the incumbent of two parishes on the west coast of Cumbria, everything changed.

I was on my own in a deanery where there was nobody who shared my evangelical charismatic spirituality. I went to the churches to which I felt God had called me, but neither was used to Bible study or the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Whilst trips to New Wine events brought personal refreshment, they also brought worries about why the amazing things happening in other churches were not happening in mine. It would have been transformational to have someone walking alongside me who understood what it was like to

lead 'middle of the road' churches in isolated areas of the country.

It was only in my interview as a potential Companion that I found out that the vast majority of churches in this country are similar to those in which I ministered. I have become a Companion so that I can provide someone else with that knowledge, and to be the encouragement which that person will need to enable them to flourish and move forward, even where the ground is hard.



Revd Julia Powley

Carlisle Diocese

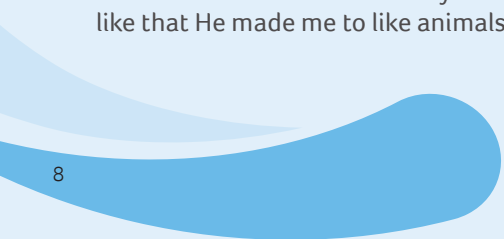
The Alongside Scheme offers prayerful one-to-one support and encouragement, from a trained Companion, for clergy and others in church leadership. You can find out more at www.resource-arm.net/alongside. We are currently growing the team of Companions as well as welcoming growing numbers of church leaders into the scheme.

Listen to the Children

Many of the churches with which ReSource works would love to see more children and young people as part of their common life. We recently hosted a roundtable discussion with some experienced practitioners in all age worship and ministry. One of them was Ali Campbell, who shares some simple ways to involve children meaningfully in 'little, local, ordinary' churches.

It was John Leach, a former director of Anglican Renewal Ministries, who said, 'children do not receive a junior or baby version of the Holy Spirit' - it's the same Spirit. I've always been encouraged and challenged by this truth. As I've worked with churches, large and small, a constant question is 'How will you involve children?'. Whether that is thinking about vision and direction or new activities you want to start, it is such an important question.

I want to offer some practical tips on listening to, engaging with and creating space for the contributions children bring.

Firstly - 'listening to'. Recently when preaching I asked a couple of children in advance what they thought God wanted the adults to know that morning that they could give thanks for. Just as simple as that - the two children I asked were quite swift with their responses! One said, 'we are all unique and God loves the way he has made us'. The other came at it slightly differently - 'Well, I like animals and so think God made me that way - and I like that He made me to like animals!'.


I was speaking about thankfulness as part of my preach and made sure to include, unfiltered, what the children had shared with me. It was a small thing, it didn't cost me anything - but says something so important to the children - you matter, what you think and have to say about God and his love for us is important. It reminds the predominately adult congregation that our children think and reflect about their life with God and what it means - but we need to ask and then listen to the wonderful things they have to share.

"what might God reveal to me that I need to see, know and grasp today through these children."

Secondly, in whatever childrens' activities we have, are we paying attention? In a mid-week kids club recently, we were enjoying an activity together thinking about Jesus being the good Shepherd. The children made sheep as a craft activity and then we wandered around the church until we arrived at a great big green sheet that had been laid out on the floor - representing the good pasture Jesus has for us. As the children laid their sheep down on the pasture I noticed what had been written on one of the

sheep. We had talked about what it would be like to be so close to Jesus. Like a sheep with a shepherd, to walk our days at his side. A child had written on the side of their sheep 'Walk with Joy'. I absolutely love that! Our walk with Jesus should be a walk of joy!

I could have missed it - but noticing what the children had written and drawn, actually looking at it rather than thinking 'it's a nice activity for them', I try and think 'what might God reveal to me that I need to see, know and grasp today through these children?'

When children pray, something special happens. I've seen it again and again. When children pray for adults and with adults, it can be incredible. So here is a tip - next time you have an all age worship service, include intergenerational prayer. Model what you want to see, create the space for it and encourage everyone to be listening as they pray. Give space for children and adults alike to share what they think God might be saying to the congregation.

Finally, I want to give children a place of significance in the church - to rediscover, among the adults, what GK Chesterton called 'the eternal appetite of infancy'. Jesus challenged his disciples around status and position, saying that unless they became like little children they wouldn't enter the Kingdom. In every space I get to do ministry, in my own church and as I



support others, I don't want to miss what God might be saying through children.

It doesn't take much effort - the challenge is whether we are willing to take simple steps like the ones I've mentioned to enlarge our vision of what God is doing in our midst. As we listen to, learn from and engage with children, our churches, our worship and our activities will be all the richer for it!



Ali Campbell

Youth and Children's Ministry
Consultant (theresource.org.uk)

If you have a suggestion about how ReSource could support churches (particularly 'little, local, ordinary' churches) in offering all age and intergenerational ministry, alive in the Spirit, or have expertise to share, please email office@resource-arm.net.



Filming the course sessions at Telford Minster

Looking for a Lent Course?

We are delighted to hear of churches engaging with Christopher Landau's newly published book, 'Loving Disagreement', and the associated Unity Course, which ReSource's home diocese of Lichfield is commending to parishes as a Lent Course.

The course runs over five sessions, and all the material can be accessed free of charge at www.theunitycourse.co.uk, as well as being included within the book, *Loving Disagreement*.

Each course session combines reflection on Biblical material (from a chapter in Part One of the book) with consideration of practical applications (from the corresponding chapter in Part Two) alongside time for discussion and prayer. Each session also includes an optional video, available online.

Session 1 – THINKING

The central Christian call to love your neighbour – even in church

Session 2 – PRAYING

The inevitability of disagreement and the problem of anger

Session 3 – WORSHIPPING

Facing disagreement well

Session 4 – WRITING AND SPEAKING

Taming the tongue

Session 5 – UNIFYING AND PEACE-MAKING

Learning to disagree Christianly



THE UNITY COURSE

This prayer is suggested for use during each session of the course:

Lord Jesus Christ,
You call us to know your Father,
And be sanctified by your truth.
As we consider the reality of disagreement
And the call to live in loving unity,
Help us to work for that complete unity
Through which you say the world will know you.
Give us grace as we face moments of difficulty;
Remind us to hope that no situation is beyond your love;
And inspire our words through the work of your Holy Spirit.
In your name we pray,
Amen.



“Christopher Landau, more than anyone else, has taught me the need to listen, to learn from and to love those with whom I may profoundly disagree.”

The Revd Simon Ponsonby

Pastor of Theology, St Aldates Oxford

“This book is uncomfortable to read because it calls us to do what is both unnatural and counter-cultural: to love and disagree well. In a calm and measured way, it appeals to Christians to love radically, taking examples from the Bible and presenting us with practical ways to do this well. A challenge to us all.”



Chine McDonald

Author, broadcaster and director of Theos think tank

“The Christian message is that Truth is found in a Person, Jesus Christ, which should alert us to the fact that truth can never be reduced to mere content, but includes tone and character. Sadly, the Church often apes the ways of the fractious, divided and contentious world in which we live. Christopher’s book is a powerful and timely call to return to Christlike love in the way that we handle differences, both within the Church and as we engage with wider society”



The Revd Paul Harcourt

National Leader, New Wine England

How Christianity became charismatic

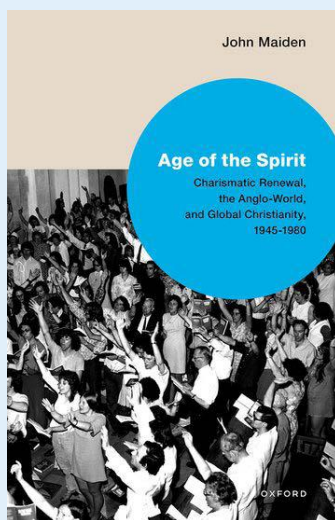
The author of a major new history of church renewal, John Maiden, shares his passion for learning from the past - and some insights for mission today.

Charismatic, Spirit-led, or Spirit-filled Christianity now appears to be part of the mainstream in the Church of England and beyond. *Songs of Praise* on BBC One routinely includes worship songs, as the camera pans across congregants closing their eyes, perhaps with arms raised. We have charismatic bishops. There is even a charismatic Archbishop of Canterbury: a son of Holy Trinity Brompton!

But it was not always such.

In the 1960s, charismatic renewal was very much on the periphery of church life. It was not always easy to be a charismatic in a mainline denomination. Some lay people found they were no longer welcome in their church; some clergy left their jobs. Books and pamphlets were published arguing that charismatic spirituality was un-Biblical. Baptism in the Spirit, according to one critique, was 'Pentecostal brainwashing', and involved the brain's 'higher' nervous system giving way to the stomach's 'lower' ganglionic nervous system, as in times of illness or hypnosis. Some theological colleges were on high alert for groups of tongue speakers. While not all charismatics had such a difficult time, it is understandable that many others initially kept their experience of the Spirit quiet. The charismatic home group was not just a meeting – for some it was also a refuge.

As an academic historian of twentieth century Christianity – and someone with a personal background in charismatic churches – I find myself fascinated about how and why 'renewal' moved from the periphery to the mainstream in such a short period of time. The question 'how did Christianity become charismatic?' is at the heart of my new book *Age of the Spirit*. To answer this question I have immersed myself in the charismatic renewal of the 1960s and 1970s: in the organisational records of the Fountain Trust (arguably a forerunner of ReSource), the Blessed Trinity Society, and similar bodies; in the



'Age of the Spirit', published by Oxford University Press, is now available.

archives of Jean Stone, Michael Harper, Dennis Bennett, David du Plessis and many others; in conversation with Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan, Jeanne Harper, Bishop David Pytches, and other figures in the renewal; and in the sounds of renewal – the music of the Fisherfolk, Scripture in Song, Merv and Merla, and the sermons of countless charismatic teachers. I've looked not only at the United Kingdom, but across the English-speaking world. Charismatics in England were often exchanging ideas, experiences, and practices outside their national borders. Charismatic renewal occurred in the jet age.

"I find myself fascinated about how and why 'renewal' moved from the periphery to the mainstream in such a short period of time."

The picture which emerges is one which places charismatic renewal firmly in the context of the 'long' 1960s. Many turned to charismatic spirituality as they were also trying to make sense of declining churches, rapid social and moral change, technological developments, and geo-political uncertainties. But I've also discovered many surprising continuities: lineages of proto-charismatic spirituality stretching decades back before the 1960s, to Keswick spirituality, the mainline healing resurgence of the interwar years, the Oxford Group, and lay Catholic devotionals. What charismatic renewal did was rearticulate and reshape these various strands of Spirit-filled Christianity, imagining a global work of the Holy

Spirit – a 'new Pentecost' – against a backdrop of enormous social and political change. Very often this took place through global connections reaching way beyond the English-speaking world. This is a global book – in which England is one important piece in a much larger jigsaw.

Arguably one of the strengths of charismatic Christianity is the expectation that the Spirit is doing something – often a 'new thing' – in the present, and in the future. A charismatic weakness, perhaps, is to give insufficient attention to the past. To think about the emergence and development of charismatic renewal – its movement from the edges to the middle – promises a more rounded perspective, that may equip Christians in the present. Spirit-filled Christians now might be more ready to ask difficult questions. Has the early charismatic emphasis on reconciliation and ecumenism, for example, been moved aside? Has worship become the central expression of charismatic Christianity; and if so, what has been lost? By thinking with history, might we learn from charismatic 'blind spots' in the past?

Age of the Spirit is a work of history, but I hope it will be of real value to the church today.



Dr John Maiden

Head of Department for Religious Studies, The Open University

Upcoming events in 2023

For more information or to book a place on an event, please visit www.resource-arm.net/events

Winter Wednesdays

Join us for an hour on Zoom at 1pm on Wednesday lunchtimes in February for conversation with a guest speaker, followed by open questions and a time of prayer.

1st February

Dr Elaine Storkey, discussing her newly published commentary on Matthew, and the place of the Holy Spirit in his Gospel.



8th February

Professor Simeon Zahl (University of Cambridge), discussing his landmark book, *'The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience'*, published in 2021.



Winter Wednesdays will continue on 15th and 22nd February.

Online Retreats

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 22nd February, 9am-12.45pm on Zoom, led by Revd Stephen Dinsmore.

Holy Week

2nd-9th April, 7pm-8pm each night on Zoom, in partnership with SOMA and including input from around the Anglican Communion.

Ascension

Thursday 18th May.
9am-1pm on Zoom.

Pentecost

Wednesday 24th May.
9am-1pm on Zoom.

Residential Retreats

Mon 30th Jan-Fri 3rd Feb

Lee Abbey, Devon

Wed 8th Mar-Fri 10th Mar

Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire

Mon 22nd-Thurs 25th May

Foxhill House, Cheshire

Would you like to invite a ReSource Minister to lead an event at your church or for a local group of churches?

We always begin with a blank sheet, and seek to tailor our ministry to your particular needs and context. Please contact bookings@resource-arm.net with your enquiry.

Sheffield Cathedral Sanctuary Day

ReSource is delighted to be partnering with the Diocese of Sheffield to hold a Sanctuary Day at the Cathedral on Monday 24th April, with Bishop Sophie Jelley. We will be praying for the renewing work of the Holy Spirit across the diocese and beyond. For more information please visit www.resource-arm.net/events.



soma

SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

SOMA UK, our partner organisation, has been invited to run a major mission in the Diocese of Down and Dromore, Northern Ireland. All 77 parishes in the diocese will host a mission lasting 3,4 or 7 days over a fortnight from 2-15 June.

Richard Moy, director of SOMA, writes: "We would love to invite our friends in ReSource to partner with us and our international team on this mission. Whether you've had experience of parish missions or not, joining 150 missionaries from around the world will boost your faith and be a great opportunity to join the Holy Spirit in his mission to the world. It may even be the start of many more adventures in mission. Please visit somauk.org/irelandmission for more information."

Are you called to join ReSource's network of Intercessors?

Prayer is the foundation upon which the ministry of ReSource is built, and we are so grateful for those individuals who commit specifically to pray for every ReSource event, for the churches and ministries with whom we are working, and more widely for the renewal of the church. Our intercessors receive regular confidential emails to guide their prayers, and many then feedback prophetic insights and Scriptures which are so often a deep blessing for those attending ReSource events. The intercessors also meet together for a monthly hour of prayer, held online with other ReSource staff and trustees, usually on the second Monday at 2pm. To find out more, please visit www.resource-arm.net/intercession or call the ReSource office.



RESOURCE

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
ACTIVE IN MISSION

Retreats & Events

including Sanctuary Days at your church,
led by ReSource Ministers

Courses & Resources

Saints Alive! and more, enabling renewal
in ordinary local churches

Alongside Scheme

Prayerful, one-to-one personal support
for anyone in church leadership

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

Who's Who in the ReSource family

Bishop Mark Tanner
Patron

Lydia Farnham
Administrator

Mutsa James
Media Manager

Christopher Landau
Director

Clare Olliver
Bookings Coordinator

Kathy Smith
Finance Officer

Bishop John Holbrook
Chair of Trustees

Jolyon Trickey
Alongside Manager

Esther McCafferty
Intercessors Facilitator

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.resource-arm.net

Charity no. 1180394