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*Cover image: At the Family Gathering, as we prayed about ReSource's nationwide ministry, tealights were placed on a map (painted by Laura Lenander), representing places where ReSource is currently active.*

## ReSource

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 @resourcingrenewal

 @ReSourceARM



## Show me a dying church with a vibrant life of prayer.

I am generally wary of soundbites, but I found myself typing that sentence as part of a conversation on social media a few months ago, and I have kept returning to it in my mind. (I also recognise that some truths can and should be expressed simply – and that Jesus often communicated with direct clarity... so perhaps, sometimes, soundbites have their place).

My point is that if we are to see the kingdom come in greater measure in towns, villages, suburbs and cities in this country, it will be because foundations in prayer have been laid and strengthened.

I was heartened to chat with one vicar in a pretty traditional context, who immediately received this 'call to prayer' as an encouragement. His parish had seen gentle growth in those attending weekday morning prayer, and they had recently begun to pray intentionally once each week for the flourishing of their church and its ministry. This seemed to represent a significant development in their approach to intercession: the foundational place of prayer was gently and definitely being re-asserted in the life of their parish.

For any Christian, it is challenging to ask how much we really root our lives in dependent, surrendered prayer – or how much, if we are honest, we are simply operating in our own strength, perhaps asking God to bless the plans we have



already made. Another danger is allowing ourselves (particularly if we are part of the Church of England) to be distracted by institutional anxiety. We can be swept away by the prevailing culture of social media, with its apparent delight in cynicism and despair. (I always remember the bishop who ordained me saying that cynicism was the greatest problem facing the clergy.) My own discipline at the moment is to ensure I am focussing on where I am seeing evidence of the kingdom, wholeheartedly praying ‘your kingdom come’ – and noticing how much this overlaps with the life of the institutional church.

This relates to a picture shared on page 13 by one of my predecessors, Michael Mitton. I believe there is a prophetic weight to his words about a dying oak and its saplings: the ‘species’ of the church continues, but its outward appearance may look very different in the coming years, if the old oak gives way to new saplings.

In my view, any notion of dramatic future change needs to be held alongside Jesus’ promise to Peter about the ultimate security of the life of the church (Matthew 16:18). In many parishes, the church building is itself a visible reminder of the durability of Christianity in the storms of life. But, each generation bears its own responsibility to pass on this faith to the next.

A particular joy for me, as Director of ReSource, is seeing what happens when

people seek afresh the living water promised by Jesus – however challenging their context. Whether at events with little, local, ordinary churches that we serve, or among seemingly random groups of people brought together for a few days’ retreat, the work of the Holy Spirit remains visible and delightful – when people choose to open their hearts.

This is always, fundamentally, a decision rooted in prayer. I would also suggest that it is a process that demands a sincere desire for spiritual health (both individual and institutional) – and that is something modelled by the ‘internal spiritual spring cleaning’ described by our trustee Alison Fleetwood on page 4. I was fascinated that this year, the trustees’ sense from their annual prayer audit was to shift focus: while they will always have a primary role in stewarding ReSource and praying for its ministry, there was a clear sense of call to step into what might be seen as a more prophetic role, praying for the spiritual health of the church more widely.

And so 2025 gets underway with a particular focus, for ReSource, on it being a Year of Prayer for the Renewal of the Church. What that renewal looks like is God’s department, but I have no doubt that we are called to play our part through prayer. We would love you to join us on this adventure in faith!

## Christopher Landau

Director of ReSource

*You can find out more about the Year of Prayer, and our monthly prayer meetings, at [resourcingrenewal.org/2025](https://resourcingrenewal.org/2025).*

# A ministry dependent on God through prayer

*We often say that the work of ReSource is grounded in prayer, but you may not know that this is expressed in a concrete way each year by our Trustees. Dr Alison Fleetwood explains.*

*Where did the idea of a 'Prayer Action Plan' come from?*

When ReSource was in a time of transition in leadership, with Christopher following Kevin as Director in 2021, we felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to undertake an intentional time of reviewing the organisation before God. We used a process which I had come across through my connections with Freedom in Christ Ministries, from Neil Anderson's book 'Setting Your Church Free'.

*How do the trustees approach the task?*

The process is based on the seven letters to the churches in Revelation. It's like a spiritual audit, where we ask the Lord, who knows our deeds, to show us both what He commends and where we have fallen short. We ask Him to show us our strengths, and remind us of good memories, so that we can thank Him and celebrate. We also ask to be shown our

weaknesses and any difficult memories, so that we can lay these before Him. We pray forgiveness where necessary, and seek forgiveness where the Spirit shows us that we have gone astray. Ephesians 6 reminds us not to be unaware of the devil's schemes, and so we stand against these and pray protection over the organisation. We conclude with Holy Communion, and a prayer of unity and commitment for the year ahead, and then a smaller group writes up a Prayer Action Plan for our ongoing prayers. Since first doing this in 2021, we have included a review at the annual Trustees Residential, and made a fresh Prayer Action Plan for each coming year.

*What kind of issues have seemed particularly important for prayer over the years?*

Each year varies, but some core themes have included praying for healthy, holy leadership; for healthy teams and

**“It means a huge amount to me, to know that ReSource is underpinned by and soaked in prayer, through this and through many other ways that our Intercessors pray.”**



relationships within them; for protection over all the staff, ReSource Ministers, Alongside Companions and all involved with ReSource; for God's continuing provision in finance and in relation to our events; and also to discern what God has particularly called us to in the coming season.

#### *Did anything change this year?*

In addition to praying for the ongoing work that God has specifically called ReSource to, we sensed the Spirit calling us to pray for the church more widely this year, particularly in response to recent challenges and scandals within the Church of England. It is a threefold task, looking up to God, looking in to the health of the organisation itself, and looking outwards to the work of the ministry. One of our prayers this year is as follows: "We will honour the Lord in all things and press on towards the goal for what Christ Jesus has taken hold of ReSource".

#### *What does it mean to you – to know that ReSource's ministry is prayed for in this way?*

It means a huge amount to me, to know that ReSource is underpinned by and soaked in prayer, through this and through many other ways that our Intercessors pray. God once showed me a picture of this process being like setting our compass on 'true north'. I live in the Lake District, and on the fells on a cloudy day, I cannot see by natural eye alone – I need my compass to help me navigate the way. There are also times when I need to get back on track if I have wandered off route. Similarly, it seems good periodically as a Christian organisation to pause, to take stock, and get our compass back on spiritual true north.



### **Alison Fleetwood**

ReSource Trustee

# The Lord Answers Prayer!

*It is now a little over three years since ReSource launched the Alongside Scheme, offering individual prayerful support to church leaders both lay and ordained. Scheme Manager Revd Jolyon Trickey reflects on God's faithfulness and provision in recent months – in ways which defy human plans.*

In June 2024, our Alongside Scheme had more demand from church leaders than we had Companions to walk with them. So, as a team, we set an ambitious goal to recruit thirty new Companions by October. We asked all our Intercessors to pray fervently. We issued an appeal, and set up training dates...

By the time of the Family Gathering at Swanwick last November, thirty-one new Companions had applied. Then one deferred, making it thirty. It was as if the Lord were chuckling lovingly and saying, 'if you asked for twenty Companions I would have given you twenty; if you had asked for forty I would have given you forty, but you asked for thirty so I give you thirty, exactly, for now!' Since then, a few more Companions have come forward to be trained from early 2025.

**“Our continuing vision is to offer a safe space for both lay and ordained church leaders, where they converse openly with wise Companions.”**

*Photo: ReSource Minister Esther Stapleton-Stone leading sung worship at the Family Gathering*

Another lesson in faith for me lies in the fact that throughout this time I had to reduce my working hours to care for my wife, Frances, who was dying from a brain tumour. It truly is the Lord who is growing the Alongside Scheme, not me as Manager. And I was even able to participate in the Gathering online, with a dozen or so Companions who also joined remotely, whilst Frances slept peacefully. She died shortly afterwards. One of the last things she heard was the sound of prayer and worship from Swanwick.

The Lord's primary instrument to achieve this was my colleague, Katie Nessler. I thank her publicly for her extremely hard work, ably assisted by an expanded team of Interviewers, Supervisors and Intercessors. Little could we, or Katie, have anticipated how fruitful she would become when we appointed her as Project Officer in August 2023. This despite Katie largely isolating at home herself with an immunological condition.





Her health and increased capacity are a surprise even to her, and another wonderful answer to prayer.

Towards the end of last year we issued a different call to prayer – another ambitious goal. This time we are seeking fifty new church leader applicants by Easter 2025. Please join us in this persistent endeavour. We began by asking the Lord for fifteen applicants by the end of 2024, and he blessed us with more than a dozen by the end of the year. This means that potentially 140 church leaders will soon be in active conversations around the country. We also need more Intercessors, whose work undergirds every conversation in prayer.

Our continuing vision is to offer a safe space for both lay and ordained church leaders, where they converse openly with wise Companions. Each conversation is prayed for, and just today we had an example of a word from an Intercessor, tentatively shared with a Companion.

The Companion later wrote saying: *“Please thank the intercessors for today’s word. It was spot on and a really really helpful part of our conversation and God was able to direct it to come at the right moment. It was a really good conversation where we both felt the Spirit’s presence and guiding. Thank you!”*

If you are a church leader who would welcome such prayerful and prophetic support, you might also be the answer to our persistent and ongoing prayers. And, of course we still look to the Lord for a steady flow of new Companions. Apply today or contact us to find out more.



**Jolyon Trickey**

Alongside Scheme Manager

You can discover more about the Alongside Scheme at [www.resourcingrenewal.org/alongside](http://www.resourcingrenewal.org/alongside). Or do you know someone who might benefit from the Scheme? Please consider sharing the link with them.

# Giving thanks for all aboard the ReSource Bus

*The recent 'Family Gathering' brought together more than one hundred people closely involved with the ministry of ReSource. Our Treasurer, Oliver Hermes, was responsible for an update on the charity's finances...*

In early October I was sat at my desk preparing a finance presentation for the Gathering at Swanwick later in the month. I am well aware that such presentations are not usually the most exciting of times – even though we had a lovely story to tell of how God had provided, in miraculous ways, the funding for the work of ReSource throughout the year.

And then God gave me a picture of a red London bus! It was a very nice bus, but I had no idea how it related to the finances of ReSource...



And then God showed me some more details about the bus – Christopher (our Director) was there, as the bus conductor, welcoming everybody on-board (no tickets – it's free!).

He was helping people find the right seat, so that they could journey with ReSource.

One could climb up the stairs to the upper level, which had all the ReSource Ministers. Unlike normal buses there was yet another set of stairs, to where the Companions were seated.

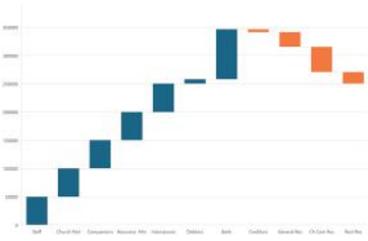
And then there was yet another set of stairs to where the Intercessors were seated.

And then there was yet another set of stairs to where the Church Partners were seated.

And then there was yet another set of stairs to where the Staff Team were seated.

Where was this bus going? A very good question – but one for which I had no answer.

I continued with the presentation. We looked at the Income and Expenditure and how God had provided funds at the right time. We also looked at the balance sheet for ReSource. In its normal format, to satisfy the Charity Commission, it is quite straightforward – the assets of ReSource comprise the bank account, a few prepayments less a few creditors. These are equal to the reserves of the charity.



*Oliver highlighted our financial resources (in orange), and showed how much God's provision to ReSource is through the people involved in the ministry (in blue).*

The balance sheet was then put into diagrammatic form – and the other assets of ReSource were added – the ReSource Ministers, the Companions, the Intercessors, the Church Partners, the Staff Team. Now this gave a very different picture, and showed, in diagrammatic form, the huge provision of God in people terms.

We can give thanks that God is continuing to call many varied people to journey with ReSource. We are very thankful for the growing number of regular supporters who support ReSource financially. So if you are feeling that small nudge from God, that little voice in your head about getting on the ReSource bus, in whatever capacity, do get in contact with us. There is always plenty of room...

Finally He revealed a bit more about the bus picture. The bus is driven by Jesus, and powered by the Holy Spirit.



## Oliver Hermes

Treasurer & Trustee

# Family Gathering 2024



# The Holy Spirit and the Fifth Mark of Mission

*Alongside Companion Hannah Lins is vicar of seven churches in rural Shropshire, which are increasingly being affected by the changing climate. She reflects on how 'alive in the Spirit, active in mission' relates to the call to safeguard the integrity of creation.*

Deeply evocative, profoundly encouraging and a challenge to the Church, the vision in Ezekiel 47 of the water flowing out of the temple and into the land for its flourishing is one that feels heavy with significance for so many Christians, particularly in our longing to see the re-enlivening of the local church for the sake of the world. Indeed, it was a key passage at the recent ReSource Family Gathering, and it is a formative passage for my ministry as I serve small rural communities whose corporate worshipping lives are homed within the walls of ancient buildings, where the prayers of forebears linger, fragility is felt deeply, but blessings still flow out.

The image of a temple pouring out water that gifts verdant life and health to every piece of ground it touches speaks to our longings in this tired world of agony, and feels utterly good... right?

Well, despite its familiarity, as I heard this reading at our Family Gathering it struck a different, ambivalent note.

I had come straight from a literal encounter with a flooding temple, and it had been harrowing. Leaton church is experiencing repeated groundwater flooding. Water comes up into the cellar, floods it and then flows out onto our graveyard. The graveyard itself is also victim to the same issue, so this water sits on already saturated ground. Waterlogged graves, water in the church. Again, and again. During the worst of it we still sometimes have burials. As I exit the church to lead the coffin out, I swap into wellies and then sink into the ground with the mourners; we mark this moment of finality in heartbreakingly distressing conditions.

This 'new normal', as we are learning to call it, is a consequence of changing climate, which is itself a consequence of human activity that is compromising the balance of global ecological systems. The difficult thing is that our instinct, in the face of any crisis, is to flail about and look for someone or something to blame. But at the end of all our rantings we

cannot blame something 'other' for the increasingly wild manifestations of climate breakdown... we, along with most of humanity, bear responsibility together. Our choices and decisions all contribute to the tiny tragedies that force us to face the reality of a precarious planetary future - tiny tragedies like consecrated ground that now frequently turns into marshland.

Often, the next temptation is to declare the problem 'too big' for us to do anything about, and instead to speak solely in terms of adaptation and innovation. I have heard Christians say this, but it is a mindset challenged by the metanarrative of scripture. Is 'too big' really reflective of the Gospel? It's not possible to get much bigger than the words of Jesus calling those first followers to make disciples of 'all nations' (Matthew 28.19). For thousands of years Christians have held together what might feel like an impossibly enormous task- a Gospel with a cosmic scope - alongside the humble reality of lives lived on the edges and margins. Surely that's Spirit-enabled Christian distinctiveness, which is the mark of a disciple?

Within the Anglican tradition, the fifth mark of mission is to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth'. ReSource is committed to being 'active in mission'. I wonder how these two things might intersect to bring a greater fullness to our call? How might the Holy Spirit be leading us to be a blessing to all creation? What might Christian distinctiveness then look like?



## Hannah Lins

Alongside Companion

*Is this a conversation you would like to continue? Should ReSource offer a resource (perhaps a Lent Course) in this area of Spirit-filled creation care? Join Hannah for an hour's conversation, brainstorming and prayer on Wednesday, 12th February at 2pm, on Zoom. Sign up at [resourcingrenewal.org/events](https://resourcingrenewal.org/events)*



*Photos: Leaton Parish Church and waterlogged graves*



# Lessons from the past, hope for the future

*Alan Bing, a member of the Charismatic History Project steering group, reflects on a memorable meeting in Oxford, marking a key point in this ongoing research.*

A rich mix of people took part in the consultation on 'Charismatic Renewal in the Church of England and beyond, 1960-2000' at Wycliffe Hall on 10-11 September 2024. The gathering included current church leaders, theologians, church historians, pioneers of charismatic renewal, and others with personal memories to share. Thematic presentations, responses, group discussions, plenaries, worship, shared meals and conversations engaged our hearts, minds and spirits.

The consultation was the culmination of the first phase of a project which started two years ago, with ReSource inviting people to send in their memories of and reflections on the distinctive and powerful move of the Holy Spirit that first impacted the Church of England in the early 1960s and which has come to be known as 'The Charismatic Renewal'. A Steering Group was brought together to lead and co-ordinate the project and it was soon decided that a questionnaire survey would be the best means of gathering material from a wide range of people in a structured way. A pilot survey was carried out in the autumn of 2023. Alongside this were online Witness Seminars about key people and movements in the history of

charismatic renewal. The Steering Group has been guided and supported by an Advisory Group of theologians, church historians and church leaders.

In May 2024 a revised questionnaire was made available through the ReSource website and publicised through existing contacts and a letter to the Church Times. By the end of August, 98 personal responses had been received. These, with the miscellaneous memories and reflections, were the basis for the presentations at the heart of this consultation. The presentations drew out four themes from the material we received: 'Experience and expectation', 'Transformed worship and rediscovering spiritual gifts', 'Community and unity' and 'Stepping out in faith: mission and evangelism'.



*Revds Stephen Foster and David Maclnnes, current and former rectors of St Aldates Oxford, in conversation with Christopher Landau.*

In short, a host of individual stories had converged to tell a bigger story of a time when the Spirit of God brought about an enduring, culture-changing impact on the worship, mission and leadership of the Church.

In a plenary session at the end of the consultation we drew together the strands of discussion, began to discern the implications for the mission of the church of today, and considered the next steps for the project. One participant ventured to say, 'we are at a hinge point; will renewal become a tradition or continue to be a movement of the Spirit?'



Why are we doing this? To create a historical record, but also to learn from what has happened, noting the good things that have been lost and the mistakes that have been made, so the Church may be renewed again in our day and in the days to come.



## Alan Bing

Charismatic History Project

### *A vision for today's church?*

Former director of Anglican Renewal Ministries, Michael Mitton, shared this at the Consultation:

*I was out for a walk in Derbyshire and praying about the Church of England. And I had this picture of a beautiful oak tree. I saw so many people trying to attend to it, because it was clearly very seriously sick - they were trying to prop up the branches, and strap the wounds, and pour on liquid of healing balm here and there. And I was actually very impressed with the dedication they were showing. However, then I saw to my concern that while they were doing all of that, they were trampling on the saplings that were all around the base of the tree.*

*I shared this picture with a former tree surgeon, who told me that the oak tree is deeply wise because it knows when it's dying. But about 100 years before it dies, it prepares for its death and for its rebirth through its saplings, and it starts to lose branches from the upper layers of the tree, so that the light can break through. It also starts sending up chemicals from its roots to nurture the saplings. I thought this is actually a really beautiful picture, because I think we are looking at an institution which is dying in many respects, but there are also these wonderful saplings of life. They are going to be our future.*





# Are you based in a rural group of churches?

*Would you value joining a two year Learning Community, to grow spiritually and develop lay leadership?*

With most rural churches grouped in benefices or teams of anything from three to more than twenty churches, it is virtually impossible for clergy to fulfil the expectations of a 'traditional vicar'. Meanwhile lay people don't always receive the training or encouragement to enable them to fulfil their potential in local church leadership. There is a crying need to reimagine these patterns of mission and ministry.

This Learning Community enables a church or churches from a multi-parish or multi-church group to go on a two year journey of renewal, alongside others from similar backgrounds regionally. Our aim is that participants will discover new hope and courage, enabling them to reimagine their ministry, while giving them new confidence for mission.

The aims of the Learning Community are summarised in these three ways:

## **Renewal | Reimagining | Resourcing**

We aim to gather groups of clergy and lay leaders from different rural multi-parish benefices (or similar), willing to learn from each other as they journey through the life of the Learning Community.

**The Learning Community involves two residentials, four day meetings, and a commissioning event, between June 2025 and June 2027.**

The first residential is booked at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire, from 12noon Friday 27th - 4pm Saturday 28th June 2025. Other locations can be added as necessary.

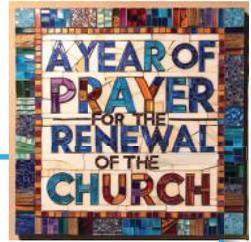
ReSource receives no central funding for its ministry, and works on an 'expenses plus donation' model. In faith, we hope to extend this approach to the life of the Learning Community.

The Learning Community is led by Revd Dr David Heywood, with additional input from other ReSource staff, ReSource Ministers and Alongside Companions.

To find out more or register interest, please visit [resourcingrenewal.org/learningcommunity](https://resourcingrenewal.org/learningcommunity)  
Or call the ReSource office on 01952 371300.



# Upcoming Events

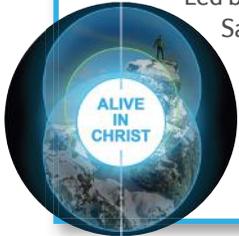


## Alive in Christ Online

*Alive in Christ* is a course whose aim is to offer a transforming experience of God's love, enabling participants to love and forgive others and helping them to become confident about serving God as a member of Christ's Body.

Led by ReSource Minister Sarah Clark.

**5 weekly sessions**  
from Tues 4th March  
to Tues 1st April,  
1.30-3pm, on Zoom.



## Year of Prayer 2025

Throughout 2025, ReSource will be praying specifically for the renewal of the church.

In a year that will see the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury, please consider joining us for monthly times of prayer for God's renewing work across all the churches of our nation - with a particular focus on the life and ministry of the Church of England, at this time of change and challenge.

**12 noon on the third Thursday of each month, on Zoom**

## Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches: ReSource Gatherings this spring

Join us for a day of spiritual refreshment as we reflect on, and pray for, the renewal of smaller churches. We will encounter God afresh, renewing our confidence in the inextinguishable power of biblical hope. Tickets £15 (lunch included).

**Saturday 15th March | 10am-4pm**

**Holy Trinity, Llandrindod Wells**

**Saturday 29th March | 10am-4pm**

**St Paul's Church, Leamington Spa**

## Save the Date!

**Wednesday 12th November 2025, 10am-5pm**

**November day conference at Telford Minster**, with keynote speaker Revd Dr Helen Collins (vice-principal, Trinity College Bristol), author of *Charismatic Christianity: Introducing Its Theology Through the Gifts of the Spirit*.

The day will include times of prayer and worship, and a range of seminars. There will also be an evening celebration for those able to stay into the evening or overnight.



**Book at [resourcingrenewal.org/events](https://resourcingrenewal.org/events)**



## 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

**Katie Nessler**  
Alongside Project Officer

**Christopher Landau**  
Director

**Clare Olliver**  
Bookings Coordinator

**Kathy Smith**  
Finance Officer

**David Heywood**  
Courses & Resources Editor

**Bishop John Holbrook**  
Chair of Trustees

**Jolyon Trickey**  
Alongside Manager

**Mutsa James**  
Media Manager

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](http://www.resourcingrenewal.org)

Charity no. 1180394