

RESOURCING RENEWAL

Autumn Newsletter 2022



RESOURCE

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
ACTIVE IN MISSION



Scargill Movement A welcoming community, seeking the Spirit

Improvising in the Spirit Lessons from the Gospel of John

Intercession Praying together, in hope and expectation

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

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I love the observation about wisdom found in Proverbs 24: ‘if you find it, you will find a future, and your hope will not be cut off.’

Speaking with clergy and church leaders in recent months, I’m acutely aware that many are wondering what exactly the immediate future will look like for their churches.

Many are adjusting to substantially lower numbers on Sundays compared with pre-pandemic norms; most are concerned about the coming winter’s energy bills; several speak of the challenges of finding volunteers, compared with three years ago.

This is a time when we all need God’s wisdom for our next steps. It is my conviction that all these present challenges are faced with new hope and new perspective, when we are filled afresh with the Spirit. One of the joys of being Director of ReSource is being part of a team of people who know this truth personally – not in an abstract way detached from reality, but through the ups and downs of Christian life, lay and ordained.

Our project examining lessons for today from the history of charismatic renewal, described in our last newsletter, is gathering momentum – and, I believe, will help us better serve churches today as we deepen our understanding of the past. (If you would like to contribute your own

Some of the ReSource staff and trustees at Foxhill, July 2022



recollections or contact the team involved, please visit www.resource-arm.net/feedback).

Of all the churches in the UK to have experienced renewal in the Holy Spirit in recent decades, London’s Holy Trinity Brompton must be one of the most well-known (and widely discussed) examples. During the summer, I have enjoyed reading Andrew Atherstone’s fascinating new account of the history of the Alpha Course, which includes many observations about the transformation of HTB. In the 1970s it was described by its then vicar as offering ‘one of the finest forms of old-fashioned matins services in the metropolis’. Much has changed since then!

One person mentioned by Atherstone is Canon David MacInnes. His talks at a house party to which HTB’s future vicar, Sandy Millar, had been invited played a crucial role in the latter’s subsequent conversion to Christianity.

“This is a time when we all need God’s wisdom for our next steps. It is my conviction that all these present challenges are faced with new hope and new perspective, when we are filled afresh with the Spirit.”

David is one of those leading our project on charismatic history, and he recently sent me a copy of a diocesan briefing on renewal from Birmingham in the 1980s – when a quarterly charismatic eucharist in the cathedral had warm support from the bishop.

Our task today is not to seek to recreate the past, but rather to learn from it, and discern God’s future call (though I am encouraged to report we are talking with two cathedrals about ReSource events in 2023...).

It seems that ReSource has a particular role in offering a service of translation between different parts of the church with differing experiences and preconceptions about the Spirit’s work. Our task, with grace and hope, is to underline that today, just as in the heady days of renewal some decades ago, every single part of the church can benefit from a deeper engagement with the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. That really is a future hope.

Christopher Landau

Director of ReSource



Niche to Normal

Bishop Jill Duff shares her passion for the work of the Holy Spirit across the church.

“The Holy Spirit doesn’t observe social distancing”, laughed a friend of mine in lockdown.

I love that since the day of Pentecost, God’s Spirit is for all people. Men and women, young and old. Every background. He’s not a gift for a particular role in the church – He’s for people working in all spheres of society: arts, media, government, education, business. He’s for grandsons as much as grandmothers. For rugby players as much as nuns. He’s not a twentieth century discovery for a particular tradition in the church. We only see the outer fringes of His work (Job 26.14), but His fruit and gifts are glimpsed beautifully woven through all denominations, traditions, cultures, tribes and tongues across time.

In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. (Acts 2.17)

God’s Spirit comes where He is welcomed, where He is Lord. And He tends to choose the most unlikely

people and places, off-stage, out of the limelight. Less ego, more room for fire. He comes where people long for him. As we emerge from the pandemic, as we wake up to the beautiful works of renewal and revival He is breathing across our globe, my prayer is that our stony hearts will be softened, our egos deflated so His work will move from “niche to normal”. He is always more willing to give than we are to receive.

In the Anglican Church, our ancient calling is to be “church for the people round here”. Here are two ways I see us waking up to the work of the Spirit in everyday parishes in our nation.

Evangelism

God’s Spirit doesn’t just transmit on one frequency. He made the universe, in all its glorious and extravagant beauty. The painter of stripes on the okapi or the voice coach of the song thrush – He’s not “one size fits all”. He knows full well that people speak and hear well on many many different frequencies. He’s the master translator. On the day of Pentecost, people were amazed because they could hear the wonders of God in their own languages.

I absolutely believe that the Holy Spirit can give people the ability to speak and understand in languages they have never been taught. But my experience in Lancashire is that the Holy Spirit has a wonderful way of unbinding tongues so that they can speak the gospel in their own language. It is beautiful to behold, particularly in some of our forgotten places and urban estates. Then, as I look nationally, I am praying for those with gifts in the arts – writing, songs,

“my prayer is that our stony hearts will be softened, our egos deflated so His work will move from niche to normal”

film-making – to find ways to translate the gospel into ways that “people round here” can understand. There’s too many examples to list: from Stormzy to HM The Queen.

Discernment of spirits

As a bishop, I have found this gift of the Spirit (1 Cor 12.10) becoming increasingly important. I notice other bishops think so too. We are finding about one in ten of our parishes has got stuck or “locked up”. What marks them out is repeated negative patterns, often rooted in some darkness, sin or tragedy in the past. This is exactly where we need the searchlight of the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin.

In these parishes, we are finding that confessing sin and asking for God’s forgiveness is so key (& indeed for the forgiveness of living people, actual or representative). And a way

of manifesting this heavenly-heavy-lifting is quite simply by repentance of key leaders as part of a Eucharist in that place. To break the cycle of darkness. I like to call it “spiritual Hoovering”. We have a team in Lancashire, from different traditions across the Church, each one deeply prayerful with the gift of discerning spirits, a type of night vision to see through to what lies behind current patterns. This is not a silver bullet. It must be part of a more prolonged season of prayer and fasting. But without this, I tend to rely on techniques and processes that don’t address the spiritual root of the problem.

I don’t fully understand this. I am just saying what I see. Like the British Transport Police catchphrase which you hear on the train: “See it. Say it. We’ll sort it”.

And finally, to move from niche to normal, I am praying daily for a visitation of the Holy Spirit on our nation. In the words of John Stott: “The desperate need of the church today is the Holy Spirit. We need individual Christians filled with the Spirit. More than that, we need revival, a mighty supernatural visitation of the Holy Spirit in the community”.



Jill Duff

Bishop of Lancaster
Diocese of Blackburn

Journeying Together

The Alongside Scheme enables a trained Companion to journey with someone in ministry, helping them to reflect both on their personal life of prayer, and the public work to which they've been called. The Revd Sophie Chatten shares her experience of the scheme, while The Revd Stephen Dinsmore considers his role as Sophie's Companion...



Why did you seek a Companion?

Two years ago, I moved to Cornwall to take up a new leadership post. Cornwall is an amazing place to live and we settled really quickly, but I increasingly felt a long way from the types of support that I had valued when I was living in the south east. The physical distance, newness of context, and step up into my new role all played a part in recognising that I needed more support, so when I heard about the Alongside Scheme I quickly enquired about having a Companion.

How have you been supported in your initial meetings?

I appreciated the initial chat with Jolyon where I felt really listened to and understood. The scheme itself has good and clear expectations,



Sophie Chatten

New Street Church, Falmouth
Diocese of Truro

boundaries and accountability so I felt really safe coming into it. But I think it was Stephen's willingness to travel quite a distance to my context to meet me and my husband that really spoke volumes.

How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work through the Alongside Scheme?

Stephen has a great gift of encouragement and that's meant that our meetings and messages have a really positive tone to them. Through this I've felt the Holy Spirit speaking encouragement to me and reminding me of the Father's heart of love.

How important is it that clergy and other church leaders seek this kind of support?

For me, it's just such a gift. I am so grateful and humbled that someone has committed to pray and listen for me daily and then also make themselves available to talk and pray with me regularly. What an amazing offer of fellowship, encouragement and support. I could imagine that many leaders are longing for this kind of opportunity.



Stephen Dinsmore

Companion and ReSource Minister

How or why did you become a ReSource Companion?

I have greatly benefitted from those who have encouraged, supported and above all consistently prayed, listened to and looked for the Spirit with me. I was delighted to be invited by ReSource to have the opportunity to do so with others as a Companion.

How have you approached supporting Sophie?

I was keen to meet with Sophie face to face in her ministry environment so we could explore if the companionship seemed the right fit. It did! I am committed to pray for Sophie every day and to look and listen for her, her ministry and her family. We keep in contact between meetings

For further information visit www.resource-arm.net/alongside-scheme

by WhatsApp. Sophie shares prayer requests, news and updates. I pray, share words and scriptures and follow her and her ministry on social media.

How do you believe the Holy Spirit has been at work through you as a Companion?

We start and end with prayer; Sophie shares. I listen both to her and the Spirit, ask questions and seek to encourage Sophie in her personal call and her current ministry and mission. It seems I have been one through whom Sophie has received encouragement, support, consistent prayer, a listening ear and hope on her journey.

What have you received, as you have given?

It is a delight to walk with Sophie, to regularly talk and pray with her, hearing her story, seeing the Spirit at work in and through us both, and being an encouragement and blessing to her and her family. For me it is fulfilling to find in companionship the opportunity to express my own call to encourage and release God's people for their own mission and ministry.

Scargill: a welcoming community, seeking the Spirit

ReSource is delighted to work in partnership with Scargill, and we are looking forward to running two retreats there later this year. Clare Lambert shares her perspective on God's work in a beautiful part of the Yorkshire Dales...

Limestone crags, moorlands, gentle green slopes and picturesque villages. The setting of Scargill Movement is incredibly beautiful and peaceful, but more important for me, as a recent member of the live-in community, is the sense of God's presence and the desire by those in leadership to follow His lead in nurturing this welcoming environment.

Scargill Movement is a well-established Christian retreat centre and community whose members see ourselves as fulfilling a calling to serve God and the Church, through hospitality, in this wonderful setting. ReSource and Scargill have a warm connection and growing partnership, the roots of which go back many years.

“All that we do at Scargill is impossible without the Holy Spirit's leading and nourishment.”

This partnership has been fruitful and important for the community, as well as for those coming to stay with us through ReSource-led retreats that take place here.

We are an intentional, ecumenical and international community within which there is hopeful expectation that all will grow in their relationships with one another and with God. Our rhythm of prayer, worship and our fellowship groups are the building blocks on which our relationship with God and with one another grows.

All that we do at Scargill is impossible without the Holy Spirit's leading and nourishment. Community living depends on it, and the deeper sharing of life in all its facets gives us plenty of opportunities to remember that. We frequently joke that God moves in people's lives despite us!

But like so much of the church, Scargill, as an expression of Christian community and hospitality, is asking what its place is in God's purposes in the wake of the pandemic.



Our comfort and healing are found in God's presence. And as the doors reopened it became clear that, as well as the relief and gratitude that we could re-gather, there was a great amount of pain, weariness, and sadness that people were carrying. Our personal landscapes have changed, the world has changed, and we're only beginning to understand the implications. These are the realities that many believers are aching to discuss and pray through with one another, in God's presence.

There's no doubt that it is incredibly valuable for people to come to an environment where there's space to reflect, lament, share thoughts and hopes, and to encourage one another. And it is only as we honestly bring our questions and weakness before God, name our pain and disappointment, own our trauma and confusion, that we can receive the embrace of the One

who knows suffering, who is the Prince of Peace and who comforts us. We see this process unfolding and also see great signs of healing, hope and restoration returning to many who come.

This is where we believe Scargill is being positioned by the Lord right now, to enable and hold those conversations and struggles, inviting all who come through our doors to be a part of us for a while, settle into a slower, more thoughtful pace, open to all the Spirit wants to minister to, and speak into.



Clare Lambert

Scargill Community

ReSource is running two retreats at Scargill this Autumn. See page 14 for details.

Improvising in the Spirit: Lessons from the Gospel of John

Professor David Ford was the first speaker at our series of online 'Winter Wednesdays' gatherings earlier this year. He has recently published 'The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary'.

'... Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit..." (John 20:21-22)

It was only after nearly two decades working on a commentary on John's Gospel that I realised just how pivotal those verses are.

'As' is one of the most exciting and profound words in this Gospel. It is there in the key verse of the Prologue, pointing to the depth of Jesus' most important relationship:

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.' (1:14)

It invites us to try to understand more and more of that relationship:

'I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.' (10:14-15)

And, when Jesus gives wave after wave of his discipleship course in the Farewell Discourses (John 13-17), 'as' is at the heart of key teachings, on serving,

'For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you' (13:15); and on loving, 'just as I have loved you, you also should love one another' (13:34; cf. 15:12).

But the climax comes in the prayer of Jesus in John 17 (which for me is the most profound and far-reaching chapter in the Bible). He prays (17:18) about what he later does in the pivotal verse 20:21, and pours out his ultimate desire for all of us later believers: that we be united in love with each other and with him, 'as' he is united in love



Professor David Ford speaking at our Winter Wednesday series, January 2022

with his Father, and that this might overflow into the world God loves (17:20-26). It is a mission of inspired loving, for the sake of the whole world, including (since Jesus is the one through whom 'all things came into being' - 1:3) the whole of creation.

So, how is 20:21-22 pivotal? All through John's Gospel readers have been prepared for the death of Jesus (beginning with 1:29), and for the resurrection of Jesus (beginning with 2:22), and for the giving of the Holy Spirit (beginning with 1:33). Now, climactically, the crucified and resurrected Jesus actually gives the Holy Spirit. The words that accompany this give all of us Christians our core vocation and mission. We are sent 'as' Jesus was sent.

But the 'as' does not mean exact repetition. We are not in first century Palestine. His Spirit is breathed into us so that we can both learn from how he was sent and also improvise endlessly upon it. We are to be inspired in our learning together (the Holy Spirit guides us into 'all the truth' - 16:13, so our learning is never to stop), in our loving like Jesus, and in our praying like

"His Spirit is breathed into us so that we can both learn from how he was sent and also improvise endlessly upon it."

Jesus (try praying the Lord's Prayer in the light of John 17!).

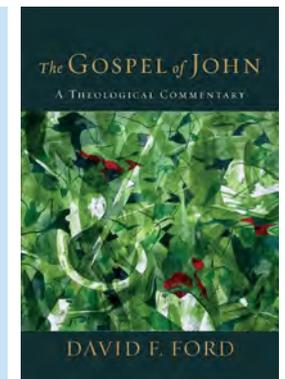
The essentials are summed up in John 20:21-22. Jesus gives us the deep 'peace' of knowing we are utterly loved, at home abiding in the love at the heart of all reality; the deep purpose of being 'sent' to love as he was sent by his Father; and, amazingly, the 'Holy Spirit'—breathed into us minute by minute as he lives in us, we live in him, and we are energised and inspired to learn, pray, love, and serve as never before.



David Ford

Emeritus Professor of Divinity,
University of Cambridge

John is a Gospel of abundant truth, life, and love. David Ford, one of the world's leading Christian theologians, invites readers into a fresh, profound encounter with Jesus through the Gospel of John in this comprehensive theological commentary. This commentary will appeal to a wide audience, including pastors, church leaders, and other readers interested in the intersection of theology and spirituality. It will also be of interest to professors and students doing research on John and the reception of the Gospel in Christian theology.





Day of Prayer at Harnhill, July 2022



Praying together, in hope and expectation

Did you know that there is a team of volunteers who pray for all aspects of ReSource’s work, offering scriptural and prophetic insights for every piece of ministry we undertake? Katie Nessler has recently become one of our Intercessors...

Fundamental to the ministry of ReSource is prayer; we not only believe that prayer is something we could or should do, we believe that it is structurally integral. Our heavenly Father loves to work with us through prayer, to talk with us and guide us, and to answer our requests.

There will, however, be times when approaching Jesus for ourselves is difficult; we may become paralysed by our situation, or struggle to rely on our own faith. This is a circumstance where intercession becomes so important.

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, threw socio-cultural norms out of the window. He repeatedly and consistently ministered to those who were undervalued, overlooked and marginalised, despite frequent rebuke and disapproval. Reading the account of one such story recently gave me particularly cause for reflection:

Some men brought to him a paralysed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ (Matthew 9:2)

In intercession we bring those who are perhaps currently ‘paralysed’ and unable to approach Jesus fully, on a ‘mat’ to Him - individuals and communities who often feel powerless, vulnerable, and insignificant.

We each hold a small edge of the mat, stepping out as a team in faith; our joint faith. He sees, He knows, and He does the rest. Trusting in His wisdom and mercy, we may not always see immediately what we want; here in Matthew 9:1-8 Jesus does heal the paralysed man, resulting in the crowd being filled with awe and praise of God. But we do receive what we need beyond all else (acceptance, forgiveness, reconciliation, new life), and that in loving abundance. And when our faith fails and we lack strength, we too can rest in a ‘cradle of prayers’ woven by our brothers and sisters, maybe through the wordless groans of the Spirit working in them.

It has been my personal experience that stepping out in faith for others not only builds our own faith as we see wonderful answers to prayer, but that Jesus also sees and blesses us through that ministry. As we extend Jesus’s love to others by carrying them in prayer, we receive His love. As we ask our Father through the power of the Spirit to restore others, we are also restored ourselves.

The Intercessors Network is a group of people who long to see spiritual revival and renewal and who have a particular heart for the little, local and ordinary churches which lie at the centre of ReSource’s calling. We intercede for ministers, clergy, congregations, communities and organisations with whom ReSource is partnered.

We are a mixture of people based in different geographical locations (and countries), from different church backgrounds and at different life-stages, with one great love uniting us. A particular blessing of being part of a team of people, each with their own unique spiritual gifts and experiences, sharing the weight of that mat, is seeing answer to prayer and signs of new growth and confidence after a period of drought in individuals and communities. Signs of the power of Jesus, who longs to restore what is broken.



Katie Nessler

Intercessor

Do you feel called to join the ReSource Intercessors Network? Prayer requests are sent around via email once or twice a week, and we meet once a month on Zoom to intercede together. We would love to have you join us. Please call the office on 01952 371300 or email office@resource-arm.net for more information.

Looking ahead: Upcoming ReSource events

Autumn Wednesdays

Following the wonderful response to our Winter Wednesdays events earlier in the year, we are delighted to offer a series of lunchtime conversations with speakers including Bishop Jill Duff, Richard Fothergill, Dr John Maiden and Christy Wimber.

Join us on Zoom for an hour of conversation, questions and prayer. Feel free to bring your lunch! Starts 1pm, Weds 28th September.

Online Retreats

Harvest

Wednesday 5th October, 9am-1pm on Zoom. Led by ReSource Minister, Keith Powell

Advent

Wednesday 30th November, 9am-1pm on Zoom.

Christmas

Wednesday 21st December, 9am-1pm on Zoom.

Residential Retreats

Renewal Retreats for Clergy and Church Leaders

Small is beautiful in the kingdom of God

Mon 31 Oct – Wed 2 Nov 2022
Scargill House, Yorkshire Dales

Retreat Leaders:

The Revds Kevin and Anne Roberts, and Jolyon Trickey

Refreshed and Renewed: A spiritual 'MOT' for clergy and church leaders

Mon 28 Nov – Wed 30 Nov 2022
Foxhill House, near Chester

Retreat Leaders:

The Revds Christopher Landau and Joanna Seabourne

Retreat Open to All

Refreshed to be a blessing

Wed 2 Nov – Fri 4 Nov 2022
Scargill House, Yorkshire Dales

Retreat Leaders: The Revds Phil Stone, Felicity Lawson and Christopher Landau

John Stott Lecture and 'Loving Disagreement'

Lecture - Loving Disagreement: Christian Wisdom for a Polarised World
Thursday 10th November, 7pm, at Methodist Central Hall in London, and live online
The Director of ReSource, Christopher Landau, has been invited to give the 2022 John Stott London Lecture. Using examples from the New Testament, Christopher will explore how Christians can disagree in love – while revealing the fruit of the Spirit. Tickets are available at www.licc.org.uk/events/jsll-2022

Book - Loving Disagreement: The Problem is the Solution

Adapting his doctoral research for a wider audience, in this new book Christopher shows that Loving Disagreement is both the problem and the solution. It's a problem that Christians seem to love their public disagreements; but if we can learn to disagree lovingly, those same disagreements can be transformed.

The Unity Course

Also included within the book is a five-session small group resource, The Unity Course, that unpacks the New Testament principles, and equips followers of Jesus to disagree in authentically Christian ways.

The book and course will be published later in the autumn, so that churches can engage with the material during Lent 2023.



Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches

A day of inspiration for church leaders and ministry teams.

When we ran this day for the first time (in Telford in May) one participant wrote that it was most helpful *'to hear how others are coping and praying into difficult situations; not to diminish the small things; the emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit'*.

Another thanked us for the *'reminder of how God uses and blesses the small. Hope renewed!'*

We've subsequently received several enquiries from other churches around the country keen to explore whether they could host their own 'Renewing hope in smaller churches' day, and we're beginning to book a series of dates in early 2023. For more details please email bookings@resource-arm.net.

For more information about any of these events or to book your place please visit www.resource-arm.net/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

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