

ReSource

Newsletter Winter 2016

Edited by Kevin Roberts

These past few months have not been typical ones in the life of ReSource, but our work has continued none the less, some of which you can read about in this current Newsletter.

For my own part it has been a privilege to speak at a variety of events in different parts of the country and to be in conversation with a number of local and national leaders who share our passion to see a church renewed and equipped by the Spirit for mission, all of which has been time well spent. Some of our Associates have been busy too to help keep the regular work of ReSource going, and Paula and Kinga in the Wells office have worked cheerfully and unstintingly to keep the administrative wheels turning.

We can't pretend, though, that it has been business as usual over these last few months.

The detailed circumstances will have to remain confidential, but the loss of staff members and of significant areas of our ministry has inevitably affected us in a variety of ways and made us ask fundamental questions about our future, and even to question whether we have a future. Indeed, it would be wrong, I believe, not to ask these questions and simply to continue as though nothing of any significance has happened. It has, and we need to reflect deeply and prayerfully on what God is saying to us and what He is asking of us.

So, in the next few months we shall keep the work going (so please don't hesitate to approach us if you feel that we can support you locally or regionally in any way) but we will have as our main priority the prayerful seeking of God's will for our future. I shall have more to say after the January Trustees meeting about how we shall approach this and how we will engage with you as our key supporters, but the keynote of the next few months will be a deep listening, to one another, to the church and its leaders, and to the God who speaks and who calls and who's work this all is.

You will recall that Mary, in the dislocation in her life that followed Gabriel's visit and in the various traumas and delights of the first Christmas Day, took time to "treasure up all these things and ponder them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Like Mary we shall need some time to gather together all that we have discovered of God's work and His ways in our journey to this point and to ponder deeply what He is now saying to us.

And we shall need to be still enough to hear what He will say to us. Not easy I know for some of us busy activists! But the incarnation itself tells us that the Word comes to us in unexpected guises and in quiet and undemonstrative ways. It comes clothed in the ordinary and the unspectacular and is recognised by those who are still enough to hear it and attentive enough to recognise glory when it is wrapped in swaddling bands.

It is in this deep listening and deep seeing that I believe we shall hear and discern our calling for the future. And the Trustees and I look forward to joining you as we set about this task together.

With love and prayer in Jesus, and my best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.



*Renewal for mission in the power
of the Holy Spirit*



Kevin Roberts

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



www.resource-arm.net

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

As a Trustee of both *Anglican Renewal Ministries* and *ReSource* Amanda Barraclough has been part of the unfolding story of both organisations in their work for the church's renewal. As we look to another period of discernment and transition Amanda shares her deep conviction that God can be trusted for the next stage of the journey:

"The early 1980s were a time of profound spiritual growth for me. Involved in worship leading locally, an invitation to lead worship at Anglican Renewal Ministries conferences at Swanwick was a high-point of engagement with God. It was a season when the Spirit was powerfully at work, and God's immanent presence was almost tangible. Praise God for ARM.

"For everything there is a season..." As the years passed, the heady joy of the '80s would not remain as intensely. The mandate of ARM was changing. That felt painful – it was not the trajectory of travel envisaged. In 2001 I found myself as part a small group seeking to discern God's call upon ARM for the future. A London Retreat house proved the backdrop to a call to wait, and lay down the ministry of ARM, as we awaited a fresh mandate. The final service in the chapel finished. The candles on the altar were blown out; we walked towards the door. Unseen, one candle remained alight. It seemed God's word to us – a pilot light. A promise of the need to expect a re-igniting.

It would be some months before ReSource emerged, with a fresh call and vision, in 2004. By then a Trustee, I have journeyed this path ever since, throughout the entire ReSource journey to date. So, I have no fear of the pause involved as once again, we seek a fresh mandate from an unchanging God whose Spirit is always at work, leading us on to become more fully the people he intends us yet to become." - **The Revd Amanda Barraclough**

TRANSFORMING WIGAN

ReSource has been delighted to work recently with the Transforming Wigan initiative in the Diocese of Liverpool, at the invitation of its Director of Mission, the Revd Tim Montgomery. The Project is missional in its intention and is looking to re-shape church and re-direct resources towards a big vision of 'Reviving the spiritual heart of Wigan' and to 'engaging 1 in 10 people on a discipleship journey with Jesus by 2022'.

The project is facing the missional challenge square-on and is engaging the breadth of churches, across the traditions, in a wide transformational agenda, which is unafraid of challenging the status quo for the sake of reaching the town and its people with the gospel and for the Kingdom. Indeed, that is what it has been set up to do!

Kevin has spent time with the Project's Guiding Coalition and joined the Church Leaders on their annual three day 'Advance' at Rydal Hall in late November, speaking in a couple of sessions. "It was refreshing" says Kevin "to give some spiritual input to a project with such ambitious and godly missional goals. Renewal for mission indeed!".

WREXHAM PARISH TEAM DAY

In October, John Benson led a Ministry Team Day for the parishes of the Wrexham Mission Area in the Diocese of St Asaph. This was to build on the progress made since a similar day in October 2015.

This is what the Revd Jonathan Smith had to say about the day 'John spoke from John 15 about the importance of taking root and bearing fruit. With reference to the botanical wonders of Singapore and nearby Chester, John was able to remind us all that without taking root in Jesus, nothing will bear meaningful fruit. Following a short SWOT analysis from the earlier gathering, all were encouraged by what had been achieved in their churches in a relatively short time frame.

Certainly this day helped to further that end and we are very grateful to John and the work of Resource.'



Renewal for Mission in the Power
of the Holy Spirit



Amanda Barraclough



<http://www.liverpool.anglican.org/transformingwigan>



Tim Montgomery

I thank my God every time I
remember you. In all my
prayers for all of you, I
always pray with
joy because of your
partnership in the gospel
from the first day until
now, being confident of this,
that he who began a good
work in you will carry it on
to completion until the day
of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

ST MARY'S CAMBERLEY WEEKEND

Chris Oldroyd, a core team member, reports on a weekend he led for two churches in Camberley entitled 'The Holy Spirit and You':

Our first session on Saturday was 'Wait – There's More!' when we saw how God longs to bless us and empower our lives limitlessly more than we may so far have realised and that Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit will flow from us like rivers is very real. Our next session explained more about why He promises us this, which we could summarise as: to enjoy Him more fully, emulate Him more closely (fruit) and serve Him more effectively (gifts). In the afternoon we looked at a number of spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and ended with a time of prayer for anyone who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It was a gentle but powerful time, when Jesus manifestly did just what He promised He would.

Sunday's theme was 'Called to Bear Fruit' when almost the whole church came forward to recommit themselves in a new way to do this, praying for God's empowerment. It was a meaningful and liberating time, with a new sense of confidence and excitement to 'Go - for God'.

GRACE FOR FLAWED LEADERS

Appleby Deanery Chapter gathered in the delightful surroundings of Rydal Hall for a 24 hour retreat led by Kevin Roberts. We arrived as a strange bunch - a wide mixture of churchmanship, ministries and (dare one say it) ages, but hoping for a closer fellowship in Christ. Though none was expecting to admit it, we arrived tired from the fray, each wrestling with challenges beyond the wisdom of humanity to meet - large parish groups, ageing congregations, scarce resources and a hard mission field.

Kevin took us through Jacob's journey, stopping with him:

At Bethel (Genesis 28:10-22), we encountered a far from perfect Jacob. We were reminded that Jacob's character was questionable. We heard God's call afresh, remembering that the call to Christian ministry is almost always a call to the hard places. True, the blessing flows more truly when we open the doors of our heart to it, but even an unpalatable unrepentant Jacob, was a conduit for God's blessing, so we too, can be vehicles for God's blessing, simply because he is a great God. So we received a fresh outpouring of grace for the ministry to which we are called.

At Peniel (Genesis 32:22-32), we encountered a scared Jacob, trembling at the thought of having to face Esau; a Jacob wrestling through the night with a strange man, who proved to be God; a Jacob who was to walk with a limp after his encounter. Once more, we saw ourselves in him. We thought of the people with whom we have had to wrestle and began to see God in them. So a few more rungs of the fellowship ladder were put in place - mutual confession, repentance and forgiveness.

At Mahanaim (Genesis 33:1-19), after a better night's sleep than Jacob had managed, we encountered a Jacob subtly changed, whose duplicity, grasping and fear is met with generosity and love by Esau. Yet, in the end, despite the offer of reconciliation, of ongoing deep relationship, Jacob retreats and chooses a different path. We reflected on our need for reconciled relationships, and our need for personal purity and integrity.

And we left a strange bunch - a wide mixture of churchmanship, ministries and (dare one say it) ages, but having found our fellowship in Christ through our honesty and vulnerability. We left still tired, perhaps even more aware of our limps, but blessed and reliant on God's strength. And we left to go back to the same challenges and the same difficult mission field, renewed by God's call to minister in the hard places and refreshed by his amazing grace.

The Revd Stewart Fyfe

What people are saying

'This was what I'd been waiting for – it seemed this was for me. My heart was pounding, I was shaking (although I don't think anyone else could see it) and I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in a way I had never experienced before. I didn't want the evening to end.'

Emmanuel, Guildford church weekend

'I came home feeling very much at peace with myself and found the whole experience totally uplifting'

The Vine, Sheffield church weekend

'Thanks for everything. Your input is still reverberating!

Wigan Church Leaders' Advance

'I have heard some good stories of people 'having weights' lifted off them. In the morning 'free time' I felt the Lord said to me that he was going to do a deep work that wouldn't necessarily be seen in immediate signs and wonders which is what has happened'

Stratton Team Ministry day away

'We are so grateful to God for you, and the gifts that he has given you. He used you both to bless us so much, and spark us into action.'

Hebron Evangelical Church, Carlisle weekend

'I had the most wonderful encounter with God. I was prayed for and met Him. It was the most wonderful time of my life.'

St Mary's, Camberley weekend



Farewell and Thank You



Kinga Gorak

Sadly, we shall be saying farewell in February to Kinga Gorak who has worked for ReSource for the last fifteen months as Rooted in Jesus Administrator. Kinga has been the epitome of efficiency in her work, which she mastered quickly, and she has been a main point of contact for UK Team Leaders and overseas dioceses. She has been a wonderful ambassador for ReSource and a pleasure to have on the office team in Wells. In her final months in post Kinga is assisting Paula Smit in more general office work for ReSource, including the management of some of the transitions. Kinga is not yet clear whether her future will be in the UK or in Poland, but we wish her, Niko and their daughter Emilia well in whatever God opens up for them in the months and years to come. They will be greatly missed!



Jonathan Rendall

The changes in our work portfolio also affect Jonathan Rendall who has been part of the ReSource staff for a number of years, helping for a while to administer Rooted in Jesus, and as the main facilitator of Rooted in Jesus Junior. Jonathan wrote large parts of the Junior programme and has poured himself unstintingly into extending the use of the material in African dioceses as the leader of 11 overseas teams. Jonathan has a passion and zeal for helping to grow young disciples of Jesus in Africa and it is not an overstatement to say that the success of Rooted in Jesus Junior is largely down to his efforts. In recent years he has made regular telephone contact with Diocesan Coordinators to maintain close communication and to inform the quarterly Prayer Letters, which he produced for us. As Jonathan lays down his current work I am delighted that he will continue to be part of the wider ReSource team, and we look forward to working with him in new capacities in the years to come.



Clemency Fox

Thank you too to Clemency Fox who has recently indicated that she is standing down from her role as Rooted in Jesus Intercessors Coordinator, after almost seven years. Those who have been on Rooted in Jesus overseas teams will be familiar with Clemency and hugely indebted to her as the mainspring for the team's prayer support. She has liaised closely with team leaders, mobilised a team of UK intercessors and helped to supply team members' personal intercessors with the details they have needed to pray in an informed and sustained way while the team has been away. This has been a largely hidden work, but a hugely important one. We look forward to Clemency continuing to be part of the ReSource team and helping to pray for our work in the future.

*Renewal for mission in the power of the Holy Spirit
remains our longing and our prayer*



Autumn through the office window

ReSource
Melbourne House
36 Chamberlain Street
Wells BA5 2PJ

Director: Kevin Roberts
Administrator: Paula Smit
Administrator: Kinga Gorak
Acting Chair of Trustees:
Philip Carver
Patron: John Sentamu,
Archbishop of York

Contact us:

Paula Smit, ReSource Administrator
E: office@resource-arm.net
T: 01749 672860
W: www.resource-arm.net

How to give to Resource

Single donations can be made by cheque, by CAF voucher, or through the donate button on our website www.resource-arm.net.

Standing order and gift aid forms are available on the website's 'Get involved' page, or from the office.

Information about how to remember ReSource in your will is also available on the website or from Paula.



ReSource is a UK registered charity
no. 327035