

The Renewal of the Holy Spirit

Many people have been intrigued by my unusual pastoral staff since I was consecrated as a bishop in Westminster Abbey, when it was formally presented to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It differs from the traditional shape by not having a hook-shaped upper section. In fact, it's simply an almost straight stick, as used by many shepherds in the Middle East.



The tree branch that forms this pastoral staff came from Petra, the 'rose-red' city in the Jordanian desert, carved out of solid rock. The Arabic name for Petra is Wadi Musa, literally 'the wet-dry river of Moses'. Traditionally Wadi Musa is a possible setting for one of the Old Testament's most dramatic stories.

One day on the Exodus journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Israelites were so desperately thirsty that they grumbled to their leader Moses. In response, he took his staff and struck a rock, from which immediately opened a spring of fresh water. The people were cleansed, refreshed and literally 'revived' (given new life) to continue their mission.

“We exist to enable churches and Christians to discover and experience the life-giving refreshment and renewal of the Holy Spirit”

My pastoral staff reminds me of a calling to help God's people discover where to find spiritual resources for refreshment, renewal, and new life. That's ReSource's calling too - we exist to enable churches and Christians to discover and experience the life-giving refreshment and renewal of the Holy Spirit, in order that they might be more effective in their mission.

All of our various ministries have this overall purpose. We believe that through publications and online resources,

the work of intercession, parish weekends, speaking visits, Sanctuary Days, our ReSource Ministers, consultancy and the new Alongside Scheme, we can encourage God's people to be more 'Alive in the Spirit and Active in mission'.

Somebody once rather unkindly said that if the Holy Spirit were to withdraw from our churches, most of the activity would continue unchanged! I believe that's harsh, but we are sometimes more obviously thirsty than refreshed. My prayer for ReSource is that the little, local and ordinary churches we aim to serve, might be transformed by encounter with a great, global, and extraordinary God.

God's latest adventure

With this edition we say "Goodbye and Thank You" to Kevin Roberts after five and a half remarkable years as our Director. I want to pay tribute to Kevin's inspired and inspiring leadership. His wise counsel and exemplary ministry have brought ReSource in good shape to a place of great opportunity. We also welcome Christopher Landau as our new Director and look forward to God's latest adventure.

The Rt Revd John Holbrook
Bishop of Brixworth
Chair of Trustees

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The Renewal of the Parish



The parish has become political in the Church of England – and this presents a fascinating opportunity for ReSource.

Who would have thought that the backbone of English community life for centuries, epitomised by the existence of an often

historic Anglican place of worship, would now be called into question so publicly – and its future debated so forcefully?

The debate may not be new, in that Andrew Davison and Alison Milbank's book 'For the Parish', critiquing the Fresh Expressions movement, was published in 2010; but it is this summer that has seen renewed examination of central church planting strategies, the launch of a 'Save the Parish' campaign ahead of elections to General Synod, and even the emergence of a new Twitter account, 'Love the Parish', celebrating parochial life.

It might be tempting to see these debates largely as political campaigns for influence within the church's decision-making structures, in response to a perception that the church hierarchy has lost faith in the parish system.

But I think we need to consider the spiritual questions that underpin both the arguments themselves, and the way they are being conducted.

A new harvest of the fruit of the Spirit

As someone who grew up in the traditional parish system, but whose faith came alive in a network-originated church plant, I know about the strengths and weaknesses of both. But what I have come to lament are the levels of mutual suspicion and misunderstanding between the different tribes and traditions of the church – these truly represent a 'limiting factor' to the church's mission.

Indeed, these are very much the questions I considered in my doctoral research, published a few months ago by SCM Press as 'A Theology of Disagreement'. It seems to me that

only a new harvest of the fruit of the Spirit will begin to heal the tensions that exist as the Church agonises over its future direction. We desperately need more peace, forbearance, kindness, gentleness and self-control – to name a few choice fruit – in our public debates.

The art of Parish renewal

If a spiritual remedy is needed for how we face disagreements about the future of the parish, it is also primarily a spiritual renewal that is needed in many parishes themselves.

Earlier this year, the Bishop of Burnley, Philip North, offered three striking proposals in a blog entitled 'The Primacy of the Parish'. First, we should trust the local; second, the reality of failure should be addressed. His third point resonated deeply for me:

'...we need to learn the art of Parish renewal. There are many schemes to train pioneers who can start something from nothing, and they have an important part to play. But what most dioceses need above all is priests and lay leaders who can renew an existing Parish, who can lead tired laity to deeper conversion, who can draw new people into relationship with Jesus Christ...'

I find these stirring and prophetic words. They are words that speak of why Anglican Renewal Ministries was first called into being – and they are, surely, words that continue to describe so much of ReSource's work fostering renewal for mission in little, local, and ordinary parish churches.

A bearer of hope

There are more than enough doomsayers in the church, and as your incoming director I do not propose to join their ranks. Instead, I believe that ReSource is called to be a bearer of hope, rooted in our delight in the work of the Holy Spirit to enliven the driest of bones. No parish is too small, too remote, or too overlooked to benefit from the Spirit's refreshing work. What a privilege for us to pray for and encourage this work of renewal in churches across the country.

The Revd Dr Christopher Landau
Director-Designate of ReSource

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Living in Pentecost

“You’re in Pentecost today, sir” was the memorable bit of unintended theology that came my way one day as the receptionist put me in the lift to the room in the Birmingham Diocesan offices where our Trustees were to meet. Those who are familiar with the offices will know that the meeting rooms are named after the festivals of the Christian year.

On this particular day (well before the pandemic confined us to our desks) our meeting was “in Pentecost”, and the very idea of that livened up the entire day for me! Whatever we were doing (and even renewal ministries like ours have to do mundane business from time to time) we were doing in the era that began at Pentecost, in the territory into which the church was admitted at Pentecost, and in the full flow of the Holy Spirit’s power and provision that was first poured out in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.

The oxygen of the church

Of course, the deeper truth that the receptionist gave voice to that day in Birmingham is that this is the ‘forever’ territory in which the church of Jesus is privileged to live and move and have its being. It’s not just a season in a revolving liturgical cycle, or an experiential playground for those who like that kind of thing. It is the ground that we occupy, the air that we breathe, the very stuff of the re-born life and the oxygen of the church’s existence, until Jesus comes again. To put it simply, we are a Pentecost people, and “Come Holy Spirit” is the church’s constant cry.

ReSource’s *calling* is to live fully in this territory in its own life and doings, to dig deep wells into the things of the Spirit and to live authentically from a place of fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit. Its *ministry* is then to say something like “you’re in Pentecost today, St Mary’s” as we serve churches across the country and come alongside them locally. Maybe that’s the sum of it. We simply remind people of where they now live this side of Pentecost, and with all the grace that God gives us we help churches to step into the bounty that God has for them in the gifts and fruit and beauty and creativity and power and love of the Holy Spirit.

The key to the renewal of the church

And with a passion we say this to little, local and ordinary churches, whatever their spiritual tradition, from a deep conviction that God is interested in the mainstream churches across our country and that their renewal in the



power of the Spirit is key to the renewal of the church and the life of the Kingdom in our land. What a delight it has been for me over these years to visit churches in villages and outer urban estates and inner cities and sometimes featureless suburbs, where numbers have been declining and hope is starting to ebb, and to gently invite people in their liturgy and sacraments and the ordinary stuff of ordinary church life and conventional worship to dare to say again “Come Holy Spirit”.

It has been an immense privilege for me to lead this ministry over the last five and a half years. It has been an honour. Thank you for having me (as I was taught as a child to say to my hosts) and thank you to the colleagues, Trustees, consultants, and intercessors that I have worked with, who have taught me more than I can begin to say. It will be a wrench to leave.

“maybe that’s the sum of it. We simply remind people of where they now live this side of Pentecost”

More Lord!

That said, I’m not entirely disappearing and will continue, as a ReSource Minister, to be available as God leads and as the new Director directs! I hope to do some writing as well as preaching, and maybe to have a bit more time for prayer and retreat than the busyness of ministry sometimes allows. And with a certainty, I shall be praying for Christopher that the good work that God has begun and continued down the years in ARM and ReSource will grow under his leadership to a greater completion still.

The Venerable Kevin Roberts
Director of ReSource

Set Free to Serve

With a change of leadership ahead, 'it felt good to the Holy Spirit and to us' to use a part of the Trustees' annual residential in July to do a spiritual spot-check on ReSource's history and current ministry, to make sure that we are fit for purpose and free from anything that might hold us back from walking in the things of the Spirit in the season ahead of us. It is something that we have done periodically over the years and, indeed, that we monitor regularly, but that we felt needed to be done at greater depth as we enter a new season in ReSource's life and ministry.

It was my immense privilege to facilitate the process using the 'Steps to Setting your Ministry Free' process from *Freedom in Christ Ministries*, which is based on the letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. It was a daunting task, but I was ably assisted by Esther McCafferty, who facilitates our Intercessors' Network, and by the knowledge that our Intercessors were praying for us throughout. It was also good to be doing the exercise at a point in the ARM-ReSource story when so much care has been invested by the outgoing Director into re-shaping the spiritual heart of our ministry.

Celebrating strengths

It was good to have both Kevin and our new Director, Christopher, with us as tangible representatives of the past and the future of a ministry that in various shapes and forms reaches back to the charismatic renewal of the 1960s and 70s. It wasn't difficult to gather memories of significant moments of blessing over the years and to celebrate strengths in our ministry that have led us to serve the church well for renewal and mission. We took time to log these, to own them and to thank God for them and for the multiple people who have led and served the ministry since the founding of *The Fountain Trust* in 1964.

Enemy attack

What I think we have become very alert to, though, in recent years is just how prone a ministry like ours is to spiritual attack. It should come as no surprise that a work focussed on the Holy Spirit should be of interest to the enemy. So, as well as looking at failings of our own making, and areas where we needed to receive and release forgiveness for hurts experienced or inflicted, we took some time to recognise where we have laid ourselves open to enemy attack and allowed unholiness to settle in our collective ways. We took time to confess specific things that the Spirit

brought to the fore and we asked for God's protection from the ongoing assaults of the evil one.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, firstly to reassure our closest supporters that we are as committed to holiness in the inward parts of the charity as we are to effectiveness in our outward delivery. And secondly, we would covet your prayers for Christopher as he leads us into the next season of the distinguished, sometimes wounded, deeply precious ministry that ReSource has within the church in our country.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches"

Revelation 2:7

On the front-line

Ours is a front-line ministry. In it are the seeds for significant transformation in the mainstream of the church in the UK. Please join us in praying that with our defences intact and our collective heart warm to God and His people, we are continually set free from all that would obstruct us, to serve as God would have us serve with humility and with godly boldness.

What a refreshing, cleansed, invigorating, restored place from which to turn our eyes to the future!

Canon Dr Alison Fleetwood
ReSource Trustee



**FREEDOM
IN CHRIST**

Freedom in Christ Ministries was founded by Dr Neil Anderson in 1989. Its primary emphasis is on equipping and enabling

Christian leaders to make fruitful disciples, which it does through its resources and courses, notably the *Freedom in Christ Discipleship Course* and *Steps to Setting your Church Free*. FiCM helps Christian believers and whole churches to better understand how to walk in the freedom that Christ has won for them. You can find more information at www.ficm.org.uk.

Prayerful, Prophetic Companions

I have recently joined the ReSource team to develop and manage an Alongside Scheme that I believe to be inspired, timely and brim full of potential. I bring with me 30 years experience of Christian leadership in local churches, where I have been privileged to encourage and mentor many in their leadership and ministry. I have also enjoyed wonderful support from the teams around me, lay and ordained, though I know many who have lacked this.



My wife, Frances, is also ordained and I now support her in leading a unique, yet essentially 'little, local and ordinary' church in Oxshott, Surrey. We have two children, both now married, making it four, and it is a particular delight to see all of them following Jesus in different ways. So far we have two grandchildren, who came to live with us for the first 5 months of lockdown last year and will soon be moving five hours away to Newcastle Diocese!

I have a very particular and personal vision for the Alongside ministry, having benefitted from prayerful and prophetic companions for much of my ministry. In recent years two such wise and prayerful saints were Jean & Harry Whitehouse. They had been part of the team who launched New Wine in the 1980s. In later years their structural contribution to church life was more limited.

What they did offer to me and to my wife, Frances, was friendship, prayerful companionship in ministry and from time to time

a prophetic word, challenge, or encouragement. I was emboldened to pursue good, but uncomfortable, change in the local church. I know that without their counsel, I might well have lacked the insight to discern both what the Lord was asking me to do and the courage to do it.

My vision for the Alongside Scheme and ministry is therefore very simple: 'a Jean or Harry for every church leader who lacks one'!

“the person and work of the Holy Spirit is unique, yet sometimes we need someone to embody this for us”

Are you a gatekeeper?

Two passages of scripture, two amazing ideas, frame and express the potential of this scheme. The first is found in John 10:2-3 “The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own by name and leads them out”. The shepherd, Jesus, is the one who ‘comes in’. He “calls”. He “leads”. Yet there is also a “gatekeeper”, almost invisible, who “opens the gate for him”. We are on the lookout for people who recognise God’s call to be such “gatekeepers”: able to listen, encourage, pray and occasionally speak prophetically into the lives of ordinary church leaders, lay and ordained.

The second idea is found in Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever”. The word used - paraclete - fundamentally means ‘one alongside’, as in ‘in parallel’. The person and work of the Holy Spirit is of course unique, yet sometimes we need someone to embody this for us.

The Alongside Scheme seeks to provide this. We are on the look out for insightful, mature, prayerful people willing to ‘embody’ the work of the Holy Spirit for Christian leaders, accompanying and encouraging them in their journey of service.

Do you need a friend alongside?

Finally, a word to Christian leaders reading this. Our calling is immensely isolating and draining. We can lose our way and our connection with the Father’s gift yet have no-one on hand to turn to in confidence. We learn to survive on the trickle, rather than the full immersion in the Spirit that Jesus intends for us (Mark 1:8). If, especially after the last two years, you lack a wise, prayerful, and insightful friend in ministry, to walk alongside you, consider the Alongside Scheme. Together we will discern the right companion to pray for and walk with you, to embody the presence of the Spirit for you.

The Revd Jolyon Trickey
Alongside Manager

If you think God may be asking you to explore being a ReSource Companion, or you are a church leader looking for a Companion to journey alongside you, please contact [Jolyon on Jolyon@resource-arm.net](mailto:Jolyon@resource-arm.net)

Resources for a Church like Yours



One of the defining aspects of the vision of ReSource is to equip the little, local, and ordinary churches that are the beating heart of Christian witness across the UK, and beyond. When I was invited to join the ReSource team as the Resources Manager, it was this commitment that most attracted me. It is clear

that many wonderful resources for discipleship ministry within churches and small groups are not written for the typical church, and we have set our face to change that! Being able to shape and make available small group courses through the new online Resources Hub is a key element of what ReSource will be all about in the years to come.

This summer we have released two new courses which you can read about here. We have more planned over the next few months and years. Watch out especially for *The Healing Course* coming in 2022. Our aim is to make these courses available as PDF downloads on a donation basis, but any financial support will help us to develop more resources for churches just like yours.

If you are not already familiar with our online Resources Hub, do take a look on our website!

Mr Ian Matthews
Resources Manager

Liberating Sabbath

Discover, in this small group resource, the freedom and rest offered by God through Sabbath, and the liberation experienced by understanding its significance in our lives.

With eight sessions ranging from Jesus and his attitude to the Sabbath, through to key issues such as work, the environment and racial justice, all with a focus on the Bible and how it relates to our lives, *Liberating Sabbath* offers churches and small groups a resource ideal for all participants regardless of age or background.

Easy-to-use, with clear guidance for leaders, and midweek notes for the whole group, this resource will equip and nourish your congregation and encourage a deeper spirituality and discipleship. Included each week are Bible reading notes for every day so that the whole group can journey together as they discover the riches of what the Bible says about sabbath living.

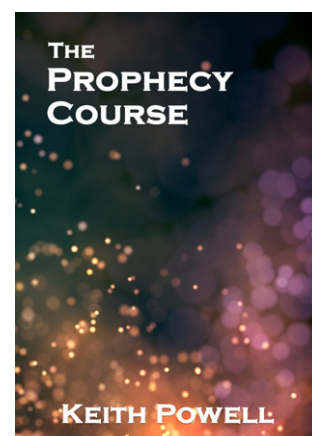
The Prophecy Course

For many Christians, prophecy seems like a daunting concept that only exists in the Bible. In this six-week course, Church of England minister Keith Powell shows how the spiritual gift of prophecy is for everyone today.

Designed for people of all backgrounds, *The Prophecy Course* helps participants discover what the Bible means by prophecy, how God speaks through people, how to exercise the gift of prophecy, and how to do so safely and effectively.

The course also helps course leaders to gently and safely introduce this wonderful gift of the Spirit to small groups and churches of all traditions, with space for reflection and prayer at the end of each session.

Consisting of group discussion, practical exercises, and exploration of what the Bible teaches about prophecy, *The Prophecy Course* is an approachable and accessible course designed specifically for the local Church in the UK.



Local courses

Have you created a course that you use with your church that you feel might be of benefit to the wider church? Do let us know. We can't publish every resource we get sent, but we can take a look and help to review material for a wider audience. In the first instance email: courses@resource-arm.net.

Connecting Online and by Social Media



When the pandemic hit in 2020, our ministry had to adapt as almost everything in society became predominantly online. For a ministry that is so used to being 'on the road' and connecting with churches face to face, lots of adjustments had to be made in order for our work to remain

accessible throughout the three lockdowns and the long period when churches were unable to meet in person.

One of the main ways we did this was by hosting our Sanctuary Days online via Zoom. We used our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) to spread the word about these events. This meant that those who were shielding or observing social distancing measures were still able to attend. Though we couldn't gather together in person, social media allowed us to remain accessible by connecting with little, local and ordinary churches online.

Online Sanctuary Days

Our online Sanctuary Days, led by ReSource Ministers, provided a wonderful chance for leadership teams or church groups to take some time out and be refreshed in the midst of all the lockdowns. During these online retreats we carved out space for individuals and groups to process and pray through their experience of the pandemic. One attendee said, "I found the ability to join in fellowship with other people in these desolate days most helpful" and another "It brought me back to a place of peace amidst the turmoil of the world at the moment."

Over the last year we've had lots of encouraging feedback from those who have benefited from the online Sanctuary Days that we offered on the main Christian festivals, and each night through Holy Week. We look forward to continuing these in the Autumn, and through next year.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the morning as it was an opportunity to take time out at the beginning of Lent and spend time with God. I wondered how it would work trying to retreat with the household jobs around and the potential distractions that you don't get at a retreat centre - but it worked brilliantly."

"As someone who describes myself as a Charismatic Anglo-Catholic, I have missed the opportunity for charismatic worship as much as I have missed the sacrament at those times when our churches were closed for worship. The Sanctuary Day went some way towards re-affirming the charismatic element of my spirituality."

ReSource Blog

We've had the joy of sharing many fantastic contributions to the ReSource blog, including video blogs (vlogs), on our website. We've shared these vlogs on a weekly basis across our social media platforms and have been encouraged by their growing popularity. Our blog and vlog contributors have provided inspiring, challenging content, helping readers and viewers to process the unprecedented season we have been journeying through.

PrayerMate



You can now stay updated on our daily prayer topics by subscribing to ReSource's feed on the PrayerMate app. We also share these prayer requests daily on Facebook and Twitter and it has been wonderful to see people liking, commenting, and letting us know that they are praying for ReSource.

We hope to keep growing our online presence and helping to serve more and more little, local and ordinary churches, as the church nationally grows the online aspects of its worship, teaching, and mission.

Mrs Mutsa James
Media Manager

Keep in touch with us on social media

Twitter: @ReSourceARM
Facebook: ReSourceARM

For Latest News and upcoming Events

www.resource-arm.net

Watch our weekly vlogs on YouTube

ReSource for Anglican Renewal Ministries

Online Sanctuary Days

Our online festival retreats can be booked through the Events page of the ReSource website and are free of charge. They run online from **9am – 1pm**.

6 October – Harvest Retreat led by Stewart Fyfe

30 November – Advent Retreat led by Rod & Jan Allon Smith

21 December – Christmas Retreat led by Christopher Landau

Please let us know if you would like an online Sanctuary Retreat for your church or leadership team.

News Items



RESOURCE

Retreats at Foxhill and Scargill

ReSource is once again partnering with Foxhill House, Cheshire and Scargill House in the Yorkshire Dales as the locations for church leader retreats during the autumn. The leaders' retreat at Foxhill will be held over three days 29 September – 1 October and is followed by an open retreat 1 – 3 October. The Scargill retreat is for lay and ordained leaders over three days 16–18 November. We are very conscious of the pressures that church leaders have been under during this last year and of just how many are in need not only of a good holiday, but of space and opportunity to meet with the God who lifts our burdens and restores our

souls. These retreats are in locations that never fail to restore tired lives.

The Scargill Leaders Retreat will be led by our Director, Christopher Landau, and ReSource Minister, Adrian Stone, the Vicar of Trentham, and we are delighted that Adrian and Esther Stone will lead the musical worship. Christopher will lead the Foxhill Leaders Retreat with Felicity Lawson and Jolyon Trickey, and the Open Retreat with Alison Fleetwood. You will find more details on the Events page of our website. The Scargill Retreat is a hybrid event, with the option of participating online if that suits your circumstances.

Grants Available

We are delighted that The Lingwood Charitable Trust has given a generous grant to ReSource to help fund the cost of Sanctuary Day retreats. Rather than using the grant to cover our internal costs we would like to use the fund to cover the travelling and other expenses attached to running Sanctuary Days for churches for whom a grant covering expenses would make an event of this kind achievable. Because ReSource works on an expenses and donation basis for its events, this would make a Sanctuary Day in your church entirely cost-free. Please let us know if you would like to apply.

Autumn Appeal

We will once again be holding an Autumn Appeal to help fund the ministry of ReSource. The response in previous years has been generous beyond our expectations, and we hope that those of you who value our ministry will feel able to give again this year. The income from the appeal has become a significant factor in our ability to sustain the current scale of our ministry, and an increase in income from any source will help us to grow the work in the future. Our particular focus this Autumn will be on growing the scale and reach of our Alongside Scheme.

Find out about us

We are holding two events this autumn which combine elements of retreat and an opportunity to find out more about ReSource's ministry. The first is at Launde Abbey on 5 October, with Bishop John Holbrook, and the second is at Foxhill House, Cheshire on 10 November, with Bishop Mark Tanner as the speaker. Both events will be led by our new Director, Christopher Landau, and will include times of worship and ministry as well as opportunity to enjoy the grounds. Each day will be fully catered for a small, subsidised charge of £10. Please book through the Events page of our website.

Bishop Mark Tanner
Patron

Bishop John Holbrook
Chair of Trustees

Kevin Roberts
Director to September

Christopher Landau
Director from October

Lydia Farnham
Administrator

Clare Olliver
Bookings Coordinator

Kathy Smith
Finance Officer

Ian Matthews
Resources Manager

Mutsa James
Media Manager

Jolyon Trickey
Alongside Manager

Esther McCafferty
Intercessors Facilitator

Kevin Lawrence
Fundraising Consultant

James Lazarus
Development Consultant

Merisa MacInnes
Development Consultant

Giving to Resource

If you feel moved to give to the work of ReSource, thank you!

Donations can be made directly into CAF Bank, *ReSource for Anglican Renewal Ministries*, account number 00032578 and sort code 40-52-40 or through the *Donate* button on our website. Regular donations can be made by standing order, using the form available in the *Ways to Give* page of our website or from the office. Gift Aid forms are available on the website or from the office, as is information about how to remember ReSource in your will. Thank you!

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