

RESOURCING RENEWAL

Summer Newsletter 2024



RESOURCE

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT
ACTIVE IN MISSION

Theological foundations
for life in the Spirit

Your Shape for God's Service
A new course to discern gifting

Seeking church renewal
and dreaming of Welsh revival

ReSource exists to support local churches in spiritual renewal. With Anglican roots, we work in the Church of England and beyond, with a particular focus on 'little, local, ordinary' churches and their leaders, lay and ordained.

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 @ReSourceARM



Questions about the decline – or otherwise – of the western church seem to have taken an intriguing new turn in recent months. It is, of course, dangerous

to try and speculate about whether established denominations have now moved beyond the lowest point of a post-covid depression – but there are certainly some interesting developments.

Anyone who recalls the confidence of the 'new atheists' of the early 2000s must surely raise an eyebrow upon hearing that Richard Dawkins now calls himself a 'cultural Christian'. He said recently, "I'm not a believer, but there's a distinction between being a believing Christian and being a cultural Christian."

So how might Richard Dawkins, and the thousands (if not millions) of Britons who share his convictions, move from a cultural Christianity to a living faith – even one 'alive in the Spirit and active in mission'? This, it seems to me, is an urgent question in our day, for in most towns and villages, these are the people often cheerfully present on the fringes of church life, happily supporting church-led community events, and probably attending worship at some point over Christmas.

It is for this group that I believe *Saints Alive* is of particular value as a course and opportunity to go deeper. Whereas many introductory approaches to Christianity assume that those engaging are starting from a position of no faith at all, *Saints Alive* addresses equally the longstanding churchgoer, the cultural Christian, and

Photo: Christopher preaching at a united Pentecost service for churches in Malvern.



“It was a very special evening and amazing to see so many – over 150 I am told in all. I think more than anything God was doing something about unity with us. We’ve had several churches together gatherings over the years I have been here, but nothing like that. It really felt different. So we’ll see what God does as we follow it up together.”
Revd Dave Bruce, Team Rector of the Malvern Chase Team.

the agnostic or atheist enquirer. Everyone together, whatever their starting point, is invited to consider (or re-consider) the foundational claims of Trinitarian Christianity.

Around Pentecost I revisited Jesus’ teaching on prayer from Luke 11 – one of the key texts used in Saints Alive about expectancy in relation to the work of the Spirit. I wonder how many regular churchgoing Christians in this country are, in effect, stuck in the earlier verses of the passage. Prayer, in this sense, becomes largely about saying set words; and while those words don’t come any better than those that Jesus taught his followers, Luke 11 urges disciples to expect far more than this alone from prayer.

I love the use of the phrase ‘shameless audacity’ in some translations, when describing how the loving Father should be approached as we ask for good gifts. And Luke is unequivocal about the gift of the

Spirit being the ultimate good gift that the Father bestows.

We know that there are many who value Christian music, architecture and cultural wisdom without yet having embarked on a personally-significant journey of faith. But just think how wonderful it would be if many of these people truly discovered the loving Father; the one who not only gifts them fish rather than a snake, but whose Son promises living water that quenches their deepest existential thirst.

I hope that the pages which follow give you some encouraging insights into how the ReSource family is seeking to minister faithfully in this intriguing context of our day. As ever, please do contact our office if there are ways in which you feel we may be able to support you or your church(es) in spiritual renewal.

Christopher Landau

Director of ReSource

Theological foundations for life in the Spirit

The Revd Dr Helen Collins, Vice Principal at Trinity College Bristol, has recently published “Charismatic Christianity: Introducing Its Theology through the Gifts of the Spirit”. Rooted in the Pentecost narrative, the book considers seven themes in charismatic life and theology: expectancy, enchantment, encounter, expression, equality, empowerment, and enjoyment.

When did you first encounter the Holy Spirit in a personal way?

When I was eleven, I went to a charismatic conference for the first time. I didn't really know what we'd gone along to, but I had really powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit in the children's groups – a tangible sense of God's presence. I remember there being holy laughter, speaking in tongues, children praying for one another, different gifts of the Spirit being manifest – and just this sense of my faith really coming alive, and being my own. In the Anglican church [I was attending at that time] I just accepted various things, but wasn't living that in a way that was present and real for me.

And when did ordained ministry become part of the picture?

I started doing chemistry at university, and changed to theology after six days (sorry to any chemists!). My mum was training for ordination in that period, and people would ask, 'are you going to follow in your mum's footsteps?', and I was very resistant to that as an 18-year-old. I trained as a teacher, then lived abroad, and it was later when I was living

in London and working for a local church that my sense of vocation really came alive, and was nurtured by a great team that I was working with there.

What are you seeking to achieve with your book?

In part I want to show that charismatic spirituality and practice has something to say and contribute to wider church discourse; the flip side is wanting to speak to charismatic tradition itself, and say that while there may be gifts that we have to offer to the wider church, there are also a ton of things that we need to receive and learn. I think charismatic tradition has maybe historically been guilty of an arrogance – a kind of dismissal of academic study, or of other traditions. I'm trying to advocate for ecumenical engagement between charismatics and the wider ecumenical world – to say yes, charismatics have something important and significant to bring to the table.

“I want to explore how we equally celebrate the gifted leader on the stage, and the quiet unseen person making tea in times of crisis.”



And you face head-on some of the challenges facing charismatic spirituality, for example in relation to healing and apparently unanswered prayer.

I absolutely believe in the power of prayer, and the power of the Spirit to bring healing that we may not be able to explain in any other way than the language of miracles (although what we mean by that I go into in the book). Let's not just focus on the miraculous ways in which God might heal, and let's recognize that healing is much broader and more diverse than a kind of "zapped" transformation that we might look to. Somebody can feel themselves healed - if what we mean by that is a sense of wholeness and reconciliation with self, with community, with God, and with the wider world - even while physical pains, disabilities, struggles continue.

You name emotionalism, exaggeration, triumphalism, and sensationalism as some of the dangers within charismatic healing ministries...

Sadly I think we could all tell a story of when it's been misused and abused; when people have been given false hope; when people have been told that they don't have sufficient faith for this healing to happen; that sense of disappointment when there hasn't been appropriate pastoral care. I want to explore how we equally celebrate the gifted leader on the stage, and the quiet unseen person making tea in times of crisis - because it's not the Spirit saying this person and their gift is more important than these others. It's about what it means equally to foreground and celebrate and delight in those more normal or ordinary moves of the Spirit, as we seek to participate with

God - while waiting and hoping for unexpected, transforming work too.



Helen Collins

Vice Principal, Trinity College, Bristol
and author of *Charismatic Christianity*

Helen was taking part in our series of five 'Pentecost Conversations' which are all now available on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@resourcingrenewal.

Gathering regionally with ReSource

Alongside Manager, Revd Jolyon Trickey shares details of some of this year's new regional gatherings.

The vision for these Gatherings draws together a number of elements for us. Alongside Companions are scattered but growing in number, and we aim to gather them regionally to work as a team. The theme of Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches, first used at a day in Telford, is relevant more widely. And ReSource has long wanted to encourage area renewal groups, yet tends to work with individual churches or to run residential retreats.

So we began in September 2023, adapting a taster day in Northamptonshire. Companions from our Alongside Scheme from the local area joined in, and met as a group afterwards. In October 2023 we launched officially in Cumbria. Based in an ordinary local church, with a Companion and two friends facilitating sung worship, a good

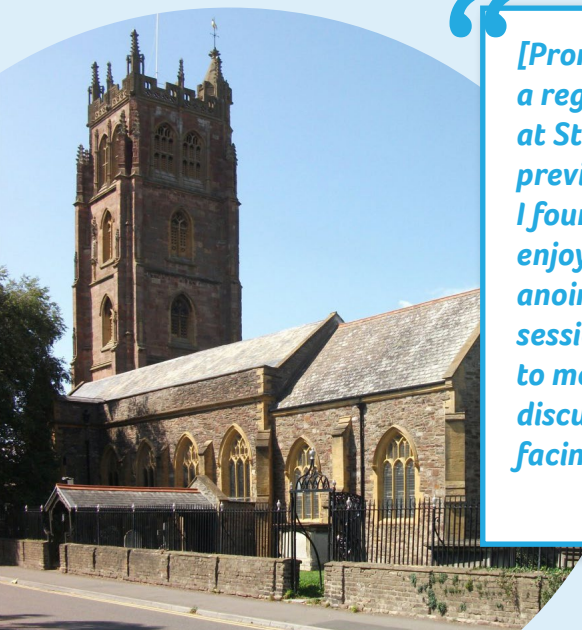
proportion of those attending were new to ReSource. Seven Companions acted as a host team – such a rich experience – and we chatted over pizzas in the evening.

I found it really restorative and felt a new sense of God's encouragement and reassurance about our work where we are.

- Sedgebrook

[Prompted by a friend] I attended a regional gathering of ReSource at St James in Taunton. I had no previous experience of ReSource. I found the gathering to be really enjoyable and felt prompted to be anointed with oil at the end of the session.... It was very encouraging to meet with other Christians to discuss and pray about issues facing smaller churches.

- Taunton



Three further Regional Gatherings in 2024 have each taken on their own character, as different Companion teams planned together and contributed richly to the day according to their gifts (whether welcome and interviews; cakes and catering; forming a diverse panel; facilitating discussion and delivering talks).

In Taunton we used an ordinary local church with little link to ReSource and a solo worship leader; In Leeds we were in a church with a deep ReSource history, a gifted local worship leader and many friends! In Blackburn we were again in a new church to us, with a local vicar leading worship. At all three, many attending were new to ReSource. Lives and ministries were impacted.



The topic of “Renewing hope” was exactly what I needed, and the combination of input, discussion, worship, and opportunity to receive prayer was a gift from God.

- Blackburn

I was just encouraged to treasure the small things God is doing in our churches and keep looking to him to lead us - focusing on discipleship over strategy.

- Blackburn

I found it was an encouragement and felt uplifted and blessed from the day.

- Leeds

The next Regional Gathering is in Norwich on 28th September. Others are planned for 2025 including in the North East and South East. If you would like to welcome us to your region, please be in touch.



Jolyon Trickey

Alongside Manager

Companionship... for the Companions

The Alongside Scheme now brings together around 70 volunteer Companions supporting more than 100 church leaders. Part of the support offered to Companions comes from a group of Supervisors, and Revd Dr Caroline Friswell has recently joined this team.

Before retirement I was the priest in charge of an ex-mining rural parish in County Durham. I also have long-standing connections with a parish in North Devon that has undergone many different pastoral reorganizations over the years. In Durham I attend an urban church with an academically and ethnically diverse congregation that superficially appears to be flourishing but is perhaps punching below its weight. I am therefore very well aware of the many challenges facing church leaders in both urban and small rural parishes, including the need to develop vision and encourage spiritual growth amongst ageing congregations – and to make the necessary changes that will attract and nurture younger people who are in search of God.

What is more, church leaders can feel very isolated, and may face significant hostility from members of their congregations who are resistant to change of any kind. Pressure on churches to grow financially and numerically, without

any understanding of the primary need for spiritual growth, adds further problems for church leaders – especially those who have multiple benefices to oversee. Those church leaders who are not ordained can face all of the same problems with the added difficulty that they may not have the formal support from existing deanery, diocesan or equivalent bodies.

This is where the Alongside Scheme comes in. We seek to encourage and prayerfully and prophetically support church leaders – both lay and ordained – who share our passion for the spiritual renewal of our churches, big and small, and to help local churches to grow God's kingdom in their own communities. By coming alongside individual leaders and building a relationship with them founded on prayer and compassionate listening, we are helping them to fan the flames of new life in the Spirit where they are.

I have been an Alongside Companion for nearly two years and have a background in academia,

counselling, supervision and spiritual accompaniment. Above all I have spent much of my ministry encouraging Christians not only to deepen their relationship with the Lord but to discover, seek and exercise the gifts, ministries and powers of the Holy Spirit through prayer, preaching and retreat leading.

As a new supervisor I have only scratched the surface of what this new role involves though it is definitely not a management role in any sense of the word. Instead, I am offering something of my own experience and prayerful listening to enable an Alongside Companion to find their own way through a particular issue and to encourage them in their ministry to individual church leaders.

“By coming alongside individual leaders and building a relationship with them founded on prayer and compassionate listening, we are helping them to fan the flames of new life in the Spirit where they are.”

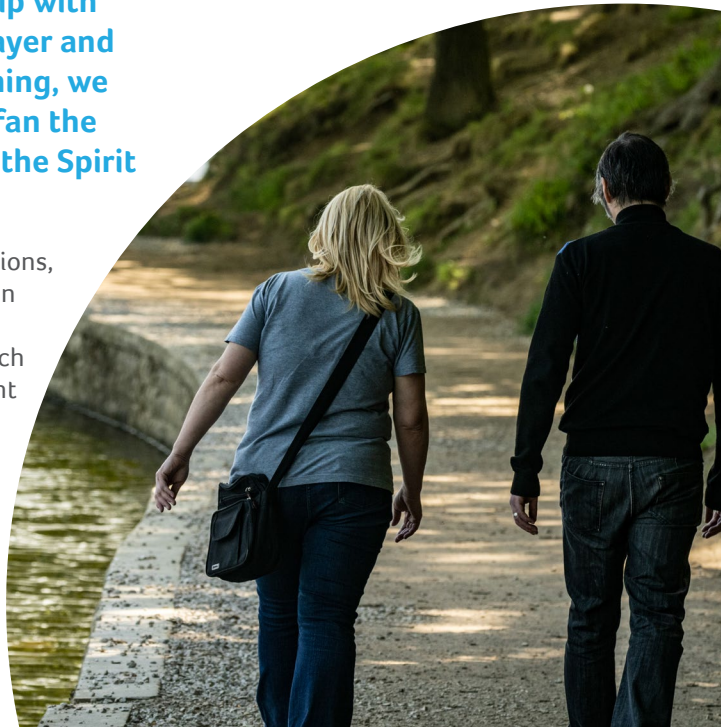
Sometimes we, as Companions, can feel a bit stumped when listening to some of the challenges facing our church leader. Sometimes we might need to discern whether or not it is appropriate for the church leader to be referred elsewhere. Sometimes we might sense that the Lord is giving us a word

for that leader that may not be well received and needs to be tested first. Sometimes something may come up in a conversation with our church leader that triggers something in us that we might need to reflect upon. Whatever the reason for seeking the help of a Supervisor, I hope that our Companions can be assured that they can share, in confidence, anything they encounter in their role – and that they will be prayerfully supported.



Caroline Friswell

Alongside Companion Supervisor





Finding Your Shape for God's Service

ReSource is delighted to be launching a new course which helps Christians discover their unique calling. The Revd Canon Amiel Osmaston explains the history of the course, and how it can be used in local churches.

Many church leaders are exhausted by trying to run several churches, and 'do all the ministry' themselves. They wish that more church members would come forward to share in ministry and outreach. If this describes your situation, then the course "**Your SHAPE for God's Service**" could create God-opportunities for transformation.

What is "Your SHAPE for God's Service"?

Six meetings in a small informal group of church members, helping each other to explore our unique God-given "SHAPE," and how we can use this in his service.

This includes discovering our:

Spiritual Gifts: God's unique gifts to me

Heart's Desire: what motivates and excites me

Abilities: my talents, knowledge and skills

Personality: my character, personal qualities and strengths

Experience: my life experiences and all I've gained from them

...for God's Service

Why is this important?

I was motivated to create "**Your SHAPE for God's Service**" when I was Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Carlisle, helping church members and clergy to keep growing in faith and Christian service. I realised that most of us are so aware of our own weaknesses and failings, that we lack confidence to offer ourselves in Christian service. This made me determined to enable people to discover more of their gifts and strengths, the way God has shaped and grown them, and what they have to offer!

Does it 'work'?!?

Yes! "**Your SHAPE for God's Service**" has already been used widely. It's been tremendously exciting to hear from hundreds of people who say their Christian lives have been transformed by doing the course. It has created opportunities for the Holy Spirit to show people how he can use them for God's glory. Now I've worked with ReSource staff to create a special new edition of the course for ReSource.

A church member wrote to me:

"I would encourage every Christian to do "**Your SHAPE for God's Service**".

A group of us from several churches across our rural benefice did it four years ago. It has really helped us to realize our God-given gifts, and to know which direction to take in serving God. Looking back, it's clear that lay ministry has really taken off in our benefice and it all stems from when we did the SHAPE course. Before that, most of us expected the Vicar to do all the ministry and at best we just saw ourselves as 'helping the Vicar'. Now we know we have something to offer and have a clearer idea what it is!"

What do the sessions involve?

The course helps people feel safe to share things at a personal level. Each session includes some input from the leaders, discussion, Biblical study, practical activities and prayer. Between sessions everyone does a practical exercise to get external feedback and reflect.

There are full instructions for the leaders, so any experienced group leader can lead the course.

After the course ends, each person has a private **Individual Review** session with their Church Leader, to discuss their SHAPE, discern possible areas of ministry, and decide practical action. It's no good discovering our gifts if we aren't enabled to use them fruitfully.



Photo: © John Fleetwood

“Looking back, it’s clear that lay ministry has really taken off in our benefice and it all stems from when we did the SHAPE course.”

Feel free to adapt the materials!

Your SHAPE for God’s Service is appropriate for all kinds of churches, of any denomination. You can use the materials ‘straight’ as a pdf download, or adapt the Word documents provided to suit your people and context. There are no copyright restrictions. Many clergy have also valued using some SHAPE materials with individuals, for vocational discernment or a ‘Spiritual MOT’.



Amiel Osmaston

Author of “Your SHAPE for God’s Service”

To find the pdf and Word versions of the course on the ReSource website, go to www.resourcingrenewal.org/courses-resources.

“Your SHAPE for God’s Service” would be ideal as the next stage of growth for church members who have done the “*Saints Alive*” and/or “*Alive in Christ*” courses.

Seeking renewal, while dreaming of Welsh revival

One of our recently appointed trustees, Ven Mones Farah, reflects on the past, present and future of the Holy Spirit's work in Wales.

In the last census, Wales saw the greatest drop in those identifying as Christians. To be honest, it created a huge shock among our church leaders and congregants alike. Not that we didn't know that the situation wasn't good, but we did not expect it to be this bad either.

For the land with the reputation of being the land of revivals, with a chapel or a church on every street corner, to reach this state within one or two generations is sobering - and a great wake-up call. These buildings are a constant reminder of what has been, and a continual prodding image of what could still be.

As we all know, for a nation or a community to be touched afresh by the hand of God, the church needs to be renewed and come alive first. I came to a living faith through one of the first renewal meetings that used to be held in Brecon Cathedral in the early 1980s. An independent group of renewed individuals had reached the conviction that something needed to be done, and so they hosted a few meetings for Wales. I suppose these renewal services were coming out of, or on the heels of, the ministry

of the Fountain Trust. I attended three of those meetings with three guest speakers: the first led by Peter Quinten, the second by Jean Darnell, and the third by Colin Urquhart. In the first, I came to faith, and in the following two, my faith deepened and got rooted and refreshed, which led on to my being an Anglican priest for the last 36 years. I will forever be grateful for those pioneers who made sure that there was a signpost in Wales for renewal and the work and life of the Holy Spirit.

“for a nation or a community to be touched afresh by the hand of God, the church needs to be renewed and come alive first.”

This was subsumed by New Wine Impact, Bulth Bible Weeks, Anglican Renewal Ministries Wales, and New Wine Wales. However, the one out of these four that still has an impact in Wales within the renewal movement



today is New Wine Wales. Around the middle to the end of the last decade, Anglican Renewal Ministries Wales folded, leaving a huge gap – as its work and focus are more needed now than at any other previous time.

There was an attempt by a few Anglican ministers, towards the end of the last decade, first independently of each other and then coming together, to launch a new movement in Wales focused on Anglicanism and renewal. This led us to launch a couple of meetings during the pandemic on Zoom, and one in-person meeting at the tail end of the pandemic, but it struggled to consolidate and flourish. This led me to make contact with ReSource, little expecting that within a year or so I would be invited to join the board of trustees.

It is an accepted fact that from the 1680s to the late 18th and early 19th century, the state of the Christian faith in Wales was bleak. But then God sent a few revivals, almost a decade apart, and after a short period of revival absence, he sent the revival of 1904, referred to as the Great Revival.

I am very careful about speaking of revivals, but it is when it gets too bleak that God renews his Church afresh, and new life rises and begins to refresh all that surrounds it. ReSource may still be one of these instruments in the hand of God to renew and refresh his church in Wales, and maybe be one of the catalysts of a new revival in the Land of Revivals.



Mones Farah

Archdeacon Missioner,
Diocese of St Davids
and ReSource Trustee



Help us find 30 new Alongside Companions

The growth of our Alongside Scheme means we are actively seeking wise and prayerful new Companions. Might God be calling you to serve the ministry of ReSource in this way? Or do you know someone you might be able to recommend?

Newly recruited Companions will join a team of more than seventy volunteers, who support an increasing number of church leaders. Companions are lay or ordained, and come from a range of churches and church backgrounds.

We adopt a rigorous, but light touch approach to selection, taking up references and conducting a brief and informal interview. Initial training, ongoing support and supervision are provided.

Companions are invited, at our cost, to a ReSource Family Gathering in Swanwick on 22nd – 24th October 2024.

We have set up online Companion training days on any of these dates:

Wednesday 3rd July	2pm – 4pm
Tuesday 17th September	10am – 12pm
Tuesday 15th October	2pm – 4pm

For more information please visit

www.resourcingrenewal.org/becoming-a-companion

If you have any questions or would like to chat anything through please contact katie@resourcingrenewal.org.

Upcoming Events



A Day of Prayer for Renewing Hope in Smaller Churches

Join us at the beautiful Harnhill Centre in Gloucestershire for a day of inspiration and prayer, focussed on the life and renewal of 'little, local, ordinary' churches.

**Tuesday 2nd July,
10am – 4pm.**

Tickets: £15,
includes lunch
and refreshments.



Music and Worship in Smaller Churches: 24hr residential retreat *with day-only option*

Join Roger Jones (Director of Christian Music Ministries) and Revd Dr Christopher Landau (Director of ReSource) for a 24 hour retreat designed to equip and inspire those who lead worship - whether musicians or singers, lay ministers or clergy.

Friday 5th - Saturday 6th July.

Cuddesdon Retreat Centre, near Oxford.

Overflowing with Hope - Lee Abbey, Devon

Saturday 24th – Friday 30th August

Inspired by Romans 15:13, during this week we'll draw closer to the God of hope, and be reminded what it is to be filled with a unique joy and peace as we trust in Him. There will be time to reflect on those challenges in our lives, or the church, that can undermine our ability to trust God. From a place of honesty, we will seek the restorative power of the Holy Spirit, so that we might return to our everyday lives or ministry truly overflowing with hope.

Led by ReSource Director, Christopher Landau and Revd Canon Felicity Lawson



Book at resourcingrenewal.org/events

Do you have memories to share about your experience of charismatic renewal, within or beyond Anglican contexts, in the years 1960-2000?

Our Charismatic Renewal History Project questionnaire is now live, and we are seeking responses this summer to inform a Consultation happening in September at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. If you would like to complete the Questionnaire, please access it at www.resourcingrenewal.org/charismatic-history, or call 01952 371300.



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

Charity no. 1180394