THE MAGAZINE OF METHODIST EVANGELICALS TOGETHER

RE:VIVE

Streams of Renewal – the transforming power of the Holy Spirit

AUTUMN 2026

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EDITORIAL

In this autumn edition, we are exploring how the Holy Spirit has been transforming and shaping lives. We have a wide range of contributors who share their testimonies, their stories and their experiences.

Terry Waters, former National Executive Officer of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, shares powerful testimony on how the Holy Spirit has influenced and shaped his walk with God. Becky Harcourt, church leader shares how God transformed her life.

Charles Whitehead, Papal Knight, shares an insight into his role and what charismatic renewal means today through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Andy Gilmour, pastor and missionary shares how renewal is sweeping through Ghana.

Madi Simpson, Anglican Rector, shares some personal and practical insights on how to keep the flame alive in ministry and David Winstanley, Methodist Minister shares an overview of Aldersgate Renewal ministries.

We trust that you will be inspired and encouraged as you read through this edition!

Marian Izzard - Editor

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Chair Letter

CHRIS BRIGGS

Streams of Living Water

'For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants.'

Isaiah 44:3

For my wife's 40th birthday celebration we went to Rome. It was a wonderful time. We saw the sights, ate well, soaked up the atmosphere, and drank water! None of that was strange, but we were really, really grateful for the water! It was lovely, chilled water which we had in every restaurant and indeed from wells on some of our walks around the historic attractions. All this sounds unexceptional. The point is that we went to Rome in the middle of a heatwave. It was scorching. The sun and heat made us even more conscious of the preciousness and wonder of the water that quenched our thirst and made us cooler. Over this summer we have had some serious heatwaves in this country and it might be that you have had a similar experience of deeply valuing just a basic drink of water.

Jesus spoke about being living water in John 4. Then in John 7:37-39, Jesus speaks of the way that 'rivers of living water will flow from within them'. He was talking about the Holy Spirit, which would well up and pour out of his followers. Surely, sisters and brothers, this is the refreshment that is needed both within our own lives, but also for the world, as the Spirit moves among us and wells up from within, pouring out into the world. Is this not a picture of both renewal and revival?

It seems to me that we are pointed towards the importance of streams of living water which can transform the dry and dying into new life. I try to go to the gym five mornings a week. Apparently, this is a good thing to do, although if I am honest, it rarely feels like it! As a consequence, I have become one of those people that wanders around the gym with a bottle of water to keep me hydrated.

I wonder if we have become spiritually dehydrated Christians. Maybe we do not allow the refreshing water of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fill our lives and flow out of them. God can use us as a kind of divine water company! Of course, God doesn't rely on us to spread his living water of renewal and revival, but he does graciously invite us to be conduits through which his living water can flow and be a blessing to us and to others.

I would suggest that much of the church in this country needs revival and renewal. There is too much dryness, too much withering. We need to encourage openness to the life-giving streams of the Holy Spirit, which can renew us and bring a new thing into communities around us. There is no hosepipe ban on the water of the Holy Spirit!

Let us pray and open ourselves to streams of living water to flow into us and into the people around us. Where might we be more open to that life-giving water of renewal in our lives?





The power of the Holy Spirit at work in my life

TERRY WATERS

Terry Waters, former National Executive Officer of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, shares powerful testimony on how the Holy Spirit has influenced and shaped his walk with God.

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It is important to share that 'Charismatic Renewal' is a term to help us describe or explain what was, and is, a sovereign move of God, calling the church back to a fundamental biblical relationship with himself. It involves the importance of salvation by faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, the need for repentance and the essential work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church and individuals. As a result, the word of God, prayer and worship become central in our lives, and holiness and integrity become our focus as we seek a deeper walk with our Lord Jesus Christ.

I came to faith before the term 'charismatic' was ever mentioned. The challenge of a personal commitment to Jesus came uninvited and unexpected. I attended the Methodist Church in Grampound Road, Cornwall and believed in Jesus. At a mission service, we sang 'O Happy Day' (Methodist Hymn Book 744).

O happy day, that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day:
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

(3rd verse)
'Tis done, the great transaction's done!
I am the Lord's and He is mine;
He drew me and I followed on;
Charmed to confess the voice divine.

Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

The third verse proclaims: 'Tis done, the great transaction's done! I am the Lord's and He is mine'. A voice within said, 'There had been no transaction'. I could not sing 'O Happy Day that fixed my choice', because I had never personally invited Jesus to become my Saviour. Rev. Sidney Taylor invited us to sing the third verse again. In 1953 we rarely sang anything twice! I cannot explain how, but I found myself weeping at the communion rail and I was born again; Jesus became real and he has been ever since.

Four churches, who had never previously worked together in Truro, facilitated the Billy Graham relays from the Glasgow Kelvin Hall crusade in 1955. In the St Mary's Methodist Church, Truro, about a thousand people came each evening to hear Billy Graham speak. Hundreds came to faith. Three years later, I was sent to Luton by my employer, where I attended Chapel Street Methodist Church, and saw the amazing growth in the congregation from 60 to several hundred. Chapel Street Methodist Church became the Luton Industrial Mission which trained many industrial (or workplace) chaplains to serve throughout the UK. Rev. Bill Gowland preached in the open air every Saturday at the Corn Exchange, reaching unchurched people and, during the Easter missions, hundreds were reached for Jesus. I was birthed in mission and continue to live out that vision to this day.

I became involved with the Billy Graham Earl's Court Crusade in 1966. Thousands attended every night for weeks. The final meeting of almost 100,000 people was held in the old Wembley Stadium. In 1966/7 my work took me back to Callington in Cornwall. In a circuit mission in the autumn of 1966, 200 had come to faith and a young people's coffee bar was opened, led by David Cole, a Cliff College evangelist. It provided a place for youngsters to come off the streets and many came to faith because of this outreach. An after-church rally commenced with speakers like Rev. Malcolm Widdecombe from Bristol, David Chaudhary, Trevor Dearing and Dr Cecil Stewart. In the very early days of the 1970s outpouring of the Holy Spirit, many came to faith in Jesus and amazing healings took place. I was somewhat sceptical and went to 'check it out', but the presence and power of God exceeded my evangelical faith, so I too became hungry for more of God.

I was a successful businessman, the Portreeve (local mayor) of the town council, chairman of the Caradon District Council Finance Committee, a Local Preacher and Sunday School leader. Unconsciously, I had become a 'God if you want it done, I will do it for you' person. In October 1977, at an all-night prayer meeting, God spoke

> *God spoke to my heart: 'Terry I want you, not what you do'. I asked for prayer, sharing what God had said, I re-dedicated my life to Christ,*

to my heart: 'Terry, I want you, not what you do'. I asked for prayer, sharing what God had said. I re-dedicated my life to Christ, coming under a powerful experience of being washed in a shower. God was so personal; it was a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit for an hour; most of those present were in tears, as the presence of God filled the room.

I resolved never to work for God ever again, BUT instead to let God work through me. Later, I felt that God was asking me to lay everything down, so in 1978, I stopped preaching, did not seek re-election as a councillor and resigned from most leadership roles, to seek God for the future.

In January 1979, for the benefit of our young daughters, we joined the Elim Church in Plymouth and I was invited to attend a meeting in January 1980 about the work of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGB). I left that meeting appointed as President to lead the new Plymouth Chapter, beginning an amazing adventure of a Holy Spirit journey. It was an incredible experience of hundreds attending, people being saved, healed, delivered and experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit.

I became involved nationally, and around 1986, the FGB Convention was held in Bournemouth. The London Gospel Community Choir was invited to sing in the schools during the week, and on the Friday there were 4,500 in attendance, including hundreds of young people, in the Bournemouth International Centre to hear the choir sing. Rev. Paul Jinadu gave a powerful testimony and over 250 young people responded to the call to follow Jesus and during this time, the choir sang for an hour.

As chairman, I was to close the evening in prayer. As I moved to do this, God spoke into my heart, 'make another appeal'. I argued with God: 'I can't do that, you don't make two appeals in one meeting!' He responded, 'Make an appeal'. I stood in the spotlight and God gave me these words: 'There are older people here who committed their lives to Jesus when they were teenagers who are now saying, 'I wish I had continued to follow Jesus'. Come now, rededicate your lives to him and be filled with the Holy Spirit'. Imagine the beating of my heart! Was I making a fool of myself? I spoke the words as instructed and out of the darkness over 120 people responded and were prayed for.

A few months later, I was on a business trip to Spain and invited to their FGB National Council annual meeting. At dinner that night a lady asked, 'Do you remember me?'. 'No', I said. She went on to say that she was in the group that I had prayed for at Bournemouth when she was baptised in the Holy Spirit. Her husband was the President of the Madrid Chapter, she said that she never really understood about the Holy Spirit but now she is able to fully support her husband in the work of FGB. It was a confirmation that obedience to the prompting of God makes a difference to other people.

The excitement, joy and thrill of following Jesus for 73 years is impossible to condense into a short article!

A FEW FURTHER REFLECTIONS:

During the mid 1990s, at Plymouth Methodist Central Hall, my wife Eileen and I were helping with the nurturing of young people who were keen to understand the Bible. Each week we had informal worship, prayer, Spirit-filled messages shared by the leadership and testimonies shared from the group. In two years, the group grew from 20 to 200.

News of the move of God among us led to invitations to lead missions weekends around the country. One of these was to be part of the prayer team at Easter People in Torquay. God moved powerfully, and hundreds were touched. We had to move to a larger space at the event to accommodate those who wanted to come.

My wife Eileen was promoted to glory on 23 April 2002. She was a wonderful disciple and prayer warrior for her Saviour. In June 2002, the FGB asked me to become the National Executive Officer and in the following seven years we saw God move in many ways, with hundreds who re-dedicated their lives to the Lord. I moved to Ireland after marrying Joyce, my second wife, and together we serve the Lord. I continue to preach the Gospel averaging 4-5 times a month and we host a fellowship hour on a Monday where the Holy Spirit leads the meetings, and lives are touched.

I am a member of Enniskillen FGB; I have been told by God that he wants more from me as an 88 year old youngster, and to expect more of him in the days to come! God uses ordinary people who are willing to be obedient. So, for all the lay people who are reading this - know that you are part of an essential group of people who can make a difference.

Terry Waters has been a Local Preacher for 64 years, served as National Director and Executive Officer of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship and his purpose is to love Jesus and be led by the Holy Spirit.





Revive Gathering

LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE!

Friday 13th – Sunday 15th November 2026

SPEAKER: ANDREW ROBERTS
(Methodist minister and author of the best-selling book 'Holy Habits')

The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, DE55 1AU

Weekend: £300

Further details and to book: metrevive.uk/revive
or email admin@metrevive.uk
or phone 01823 765975

The Great Exchange – God's Renewal for My Brokenness

BECKY HARCOURT

Church leader, Becky Harcourt, shares her experience of how God broke in and transformed her life.

Many years ago, I had a life-changing dream. In it I knew, the way you know things in dreams, that I was the owner of a house and all the land surrounding it. Around the back of this house, I discovered a patch of ground that had been dug up ready for planting, but on the edge was a big, dead bush whose roots would, I knew, interfere with anything new that was planted. I heard a voice say, 'It's going to be hard work, but that will have to be dealt with before anything new can grow.' Then I woke up.

Almost thirty years later, I'm so grateful for that dream and how God used it to motivate me to get the help I needed. You see, I knew what that dead bush represented, and I wanted to deal with that issue, but it was through the dream that I began to understand the undermining effect it was having on me.

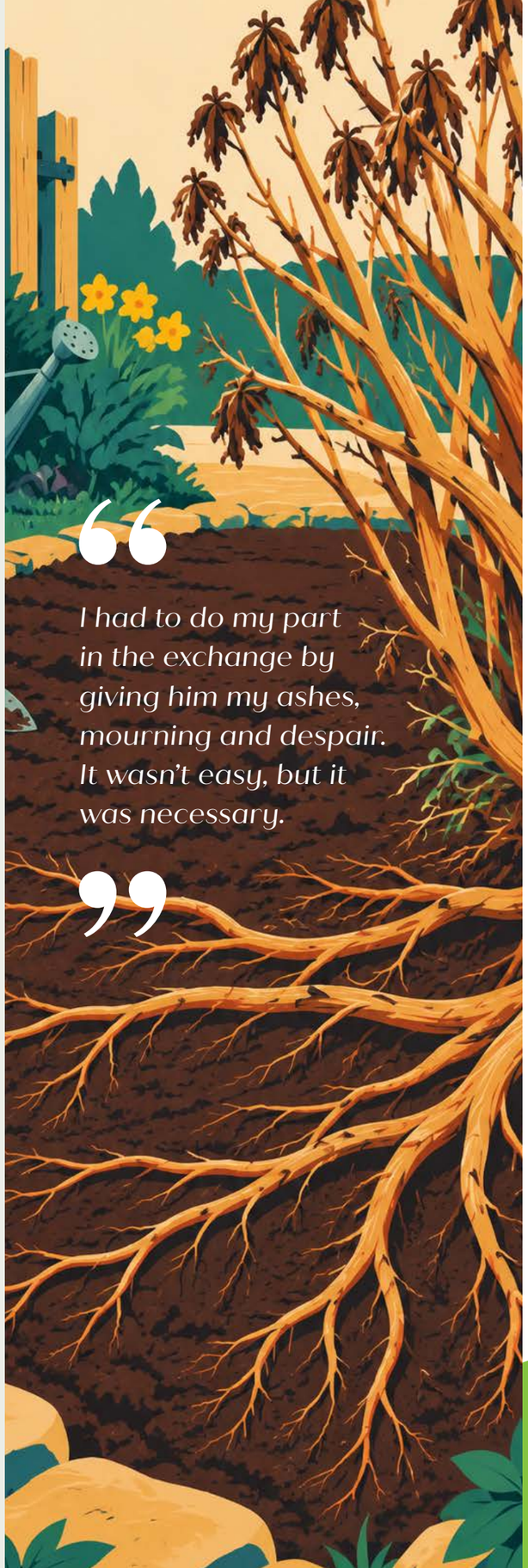
That bush symbolised all the trauma, guilt and shame I was carrying due to an accident in which my younger sister died when I was the one responsible for looking after her. I was 13 years old at the time and, because of the accident and her death, I pretty much shut down emotionally and become very guarded in my relationships because I felt so ashamed.

I had been raised in a Christian home and had asked Jesus to live in my heart as a young child, so I did have God in my life, and my faith in him wasn't affected by what had happened. However, I wrongly assumed that God must blame me for the accident in the same way I blamed myself, so I would never allow myself to talk to God about it, and if any memory of my sister came to mind, I would immediately push it down as it was just too painful to think about. In every way I could, I detached myself from what had happened, which means I became well and truly stuck.

Years later, when I had the dream about the bush, I was still stuck, still shut down emotionally and still guarded in my relationships. Yet, in the intervening years, I had begun to learn about how God speaks today, which helped me to pay attention to the dream. I also understood more about how Jesus' death on the cross doesn't just guarantee my place with him in eternity, but it's also a resource for my healing (physical, emotional and mental) in the here and now.

I decided to attend The Healing Prayer School. This is a ministry run by Lin Button, who just happens to also be a member of our church. Lin had been part of Leanne Payne's European team (Leanne was a great teacher and writer on emotional healing) and Lin had started her own ministry doing the same sorts of things. Each year in the spring, Lin runs a five-day conference with worship, teaching, and lots of Holy Spirit-led prayer. It was through attending one of those five-day conferences that I began to emotionally thaw where I had been frozen and numb for many years.

Through the teaching and prayer offered at that conference, the trauma I'd lived with, represented by the bush in my dream, began to be cut back. In the years that followed, it was cut back more and more until it was just a stump that could be dug up by the roots and thrown onto the fire.



What that meant was that I needed to take all my pain, shame and guilt to the cross. It was too much to deal with all at once, but bit by bit I would hand it over to Jesus, and in exchange would receive God's renewing and restoring love and mercy. Just as Isaiah 61 promises, God gave me a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair, but I had to do my part in the exchange by giving him my ashes, mourning and despair. It wasn't easy, but it was necessary. As a result, I'm free of guilt and shame and instead of being stuck, I'm on the move.

I now like to think that the empty dug-up garden bed I saw in my dream is flourishing, full of colour and life because, as I worked with the Lord to deal with the dead bush, the seeds that he'd planted in me were able to grow and mature. I'm so grateful.

I've also been able to help others discover God's renewing love for themselves. I'm now part of Lin Button's Healing Prayer School team and so, alongside Lin and others, I have the privilege of taking part in the teaching as well as praying for the people who come along. I've been blessed to see God touch and renew so many people through this ministry.

The exchange we read about in Isaiah 61 isn't just pretty words, it's real. Jesus died on the cross so we could receive what the Father always wanted to give us – life in all its fullness.

(To find out more about Healing Prayer School, go to healingprayerschool.org.uk. The five-day conference in 2027 will be 5-9 April at All Saints Woodford Wells.)

BECKY HARCOURT

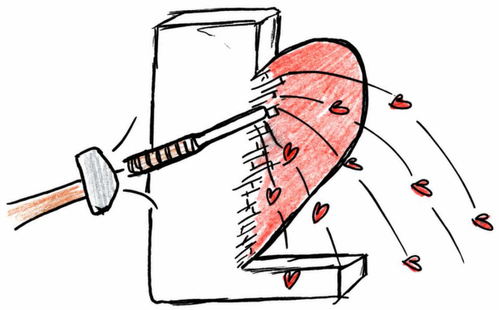
Becky leads, alongside her husband, at All Saints' Woodford Wells in NE London. She is also an ambassador for both Open Doors and New Wine.



Prophetic Art

LISA HUTT

Lisa Hutt shares some of her prophetic art in words and pictures



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A SCRIBBLE WITH A MESSAGE

Some years ago, I went on a Foundations for Ministry Induction Day. Early on, we were asked to break into threes and talk about the church. In my handbag, I had a prophetic word about the church, along with a scribble to go with it that I had received when I had prayed two days before. I knew this was what I had to bring.

When the groups were asked to feed back, a person in my group said I had something to share! After I spoke, a hand went up and another person in the room said that their wife had had a similar picture. They felt it was an important word. One person came up to me later and said it had confirmed their calling.

BE IN THE COMPANY OF PROPHETS

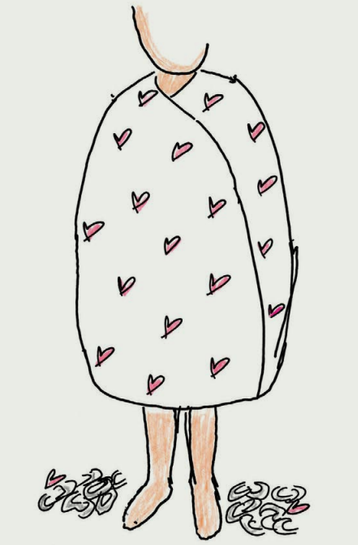
When I heard these words – 'Be in the company of prophets' – I remember thinking, where are they? Who are they? I prayed and asked God to help this happen, as I did not know a 'company of prophets'. Early in the Covid pandemic, I became more active on Facebook and joined Prophetic Releasers for UK Revival. One day, I decided to join their Zoom call. Some of the team prophesied into my life. They did not know me. What they said was such a confirmation. I had found a prophetic community. In time, I was asked to be on their team, first as an intercessor and then later as a prophet. Years later, I discovered that before they were called Prophetic Releasers for UK Revival, they had been called the Company of Prophets. God had answered my prayer, and I did not know it! What has been such a blessing is how they have encouraged me to step out with prophetic art and see others also step out to share prophetic art too.



Let me wash your feet
As you wash the feet of others
chains will be broken
Who the son sets free they will be free indeed". John 8:36 (NIV)

JOURNALING

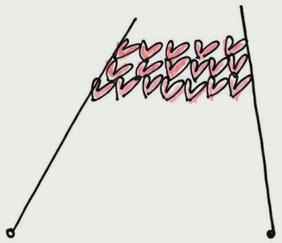
I decided to keep a Blessing Journal whilst I co-wrote a book with Wendy Thomas on the Father's Love and Blessing. I would draw the pictures I received and then pray and unpack how God was speaking. Most prophetic art I draw includes hearts, as my passion is to share God's love with any insight the Holy Spirit gives.



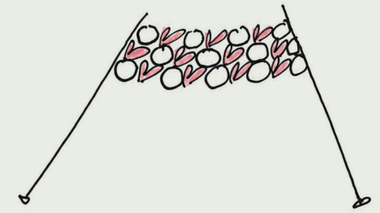
Wrapped in God's love
No longer in fear.
I am a child of God.

A PROMPT FROM GOD

One day, I was sitting at my desk and heard the Lord clearly speak to me saying, 'Get a black pen and use coloured pencils; get down the pictures I give to you.' Walking this out with God has been extraordinary. It has brought me closer to Jesus. Just like a preacher will have had their life changed by the message God has laid on their heart, similarly the prophetic art impacts me, and from that place I am able to share the message in an authentic way.



Love will overcome
The warmth will come
Choose love
One action at a time

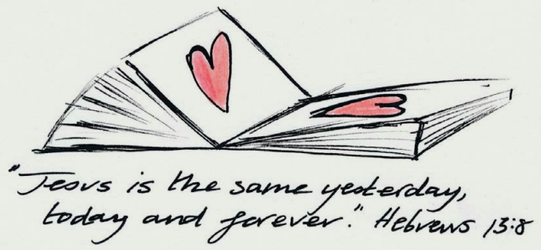


Knit one pearl one
As you spend time with God
you will share pearls with others.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE PROPHETIC ART

God has granted me favour to share prophetic art on the Prophetic Releasers Zoom, on the National Day of Prayer and Worship Zoom platform (NDOPW) and within the ministry of Houses of Light (formerly Neighbourhood Prayer Network) as Director of Prayer.

It has been so wonderful to see how the messages with each piece of prophetic art have touched lives and confirmed how God had already been speaking to others. In my own church, I have sometimes shared projected prophetic art to aid prayer, or when I have led a service. This year, I was invited to display some prophetic art on our church stall at a local community event. One lady was drawn to the artwork 'Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). She wanted to take a photo of it. In the past, she had attended a Methodist church, and you could see the Holy Spirit was meeting with her afresh.



"Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

PROPHETIC ART AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

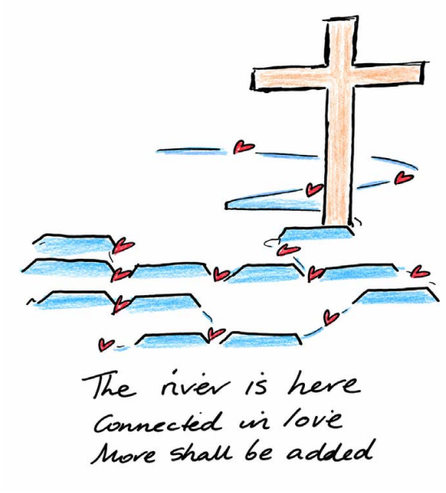
Where language is a barrier, the pictures speak for themselves. One week, I felt led to take some little printed art cards by Chris Duffett that I had been given. On the back there were Bible verses. I translated and printed these verses on paper. I invited those around to select a picture. One woman chose a picture, and when she read the scripture in her own language, she said it was her Bible screensaver on her phone! She was

so touched. Not long after this, she suddenly moved. On the morning that she left, I had a picture and word for her which I sent by WhatsApp. She was much encouraged.



PROPHETIC ART – BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM

I have co-led a prophetic art workshop at a local church. We waited on God and stepped out in faith. One activity involved giving each person a plain postcard with a unique Bible verse from a Psalm on the other side. We asked everyone to listen to God and draw something on the plain side. Once finished, there was an opportunity to share why they had drawn what they had and put them side by side. There was a blessing in bringing together all the prophetic artwork.



PROPHETIC ART TO AID TEACHING, PREACHING, CONVERSATION AND PRAYER

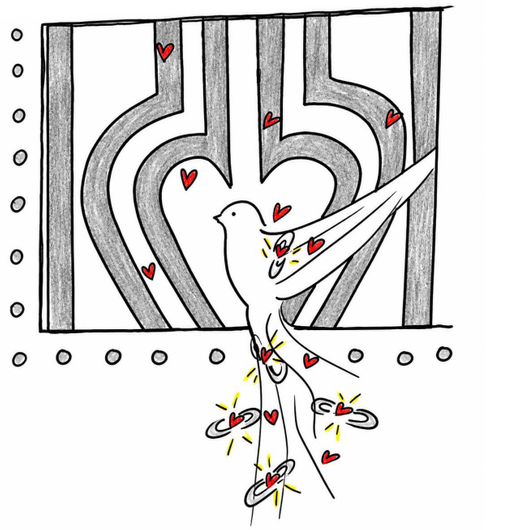
I have included prophetic art in PowerPoint presentations as an aid to teach about prayer and have sometimes used laminated copies of my prophetic art when I have preached. The laminated prophetic art has also opened up conversations and helped people pray.

PROPHETIC ART

I can remember listening to the song 'I Am Available', sung by Petra, for the first time. I was ironing and the song became a prayer. Part of my surrender to God to being available for his plans and purposes has been walked out through prophetic art. It has been a joy and privilege to share prophetic art and see this gifting bless others.

PRAYER

Lord, help me share your love through creativity in any way you would lead me. Amen.



LISA HUTT

Lisa is the Director of Prayer for Houses of Light (formerly Neighbourhood Prayer Network). She is married to Graham and has two grown-up children. She has a passion to mobilise and encourage prayer for neighbours and streets wherever the opportunity presents itself. Lisa is a prayer leader for the National Day of Prayer and Worship (NDOPW) and is on the Prophetic Releasers for UK Revival team.



A Profile of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries

DAVID WINSTANLEY

David Winstanley, Methodist Minister and CEO of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries-UK (ARM), reflects on the powerful, renewing work of the Holy Spirit as he shares an overview of the work of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries.



‘Our approach to ministry at ARM is very gentle, perhaps even understated, because the Holy Spirit does not need us to shout or whip up a storm to do the amazing things that he does.’



Aldersgate Renewal Ministries began in the United Methodist Church, USA in the late 1970s with one man, Gary Moore, asking the question, ‘Is this all there is to being a Christian?’ He had grown up in the Methodist Church; his grandfather was a minister; he had served in various roles within the church, and had always been active and committed. Yet he was still left asking that same question. You might have asked the same question yourself and, if you have, I suspect you’re not alone. From that question came a journey of discovery that said, ‘Yes, there is more – so much more!’ That led to Aldersgate Renewal Ministries being formed.

Within our churches, probably across all denominations, there are many people who love Jesus and want to follow him and serve him as best they can; yet they do not know the Holy Spirit and have very little experience of him. Our hope at ARM is that through our weekend renewal events – Life in the Spirit Experience (LISE) – we can be a part of bringing about a change in that situation.

Some years ago, I was preaching in one of the churches of which I had pastoral charge, speaking about the difference between ‘receiving’ and ‘being filled’ with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus greeted his disciples in the Upper Room, he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’ (John 20:22). However, he also told his followers that they needed to wait and be ‘clothed with power from on high’ (Luke 24:49). All who know Jesus as Saviour have received the Holy Spirit, but there is more to being a Christian: being clothed with power from on high. That is what it means to be filled with, anointed by or baptised in the Holy Spirit.

I ended the sermon by saying we were going to sing a song, and that, during the last verse, anyone who wanted to pray to receive that power from on high should come and stand with me at the front of the church, where I would pray. There were about 60 people in church that day and probably 40 came to stand with me! That was the first surprise. The second was that, when I prayed, nothing happened. There was no great rushing wind, no tongues of fire, no-one rested in the Spirit, nothing.

After the service, a very dear, faithful couple came to me: Frank and Margaret. They had led Bible studies and had been mainstays of the church for years, and were now well into their 80s. Margaret was shaking and crying and saying, ‘I don’t know what’s happening.’ She had asked God to fill her with his Holy Spirit, and the Spirit was moving. It was Margaret’s next words that have stayed with me: ‘Nothing like this has ever happened to me before.’ She had been a devout Christian all her life, faithful in prayer and service, yet had never experienced the anointing of the Holy Spirit. I felt that was incredibly sad.

The ‘Life in the Spirit Experience’ is a team-led renewal weekend event in which biblical teaching is given about the various ministries of the Holy Spirit, personal experiences shared, and everyone is invited to receive prayer ministry. Times of worship are integral to the whole weekend. Our team members are drawn from churches we have previously visited and, having had such a deep experience of the anointing and movement of the Holy Spirit, they want to share that experience with others. Very few team members are ordained ministers, Local Preachers, or worship leaders; they are regular people from regular churches. This is important to us at ARM and is one of the strengths of the ministry we seek to share.

When we lead a LISE weekend, we fully expect to see the Holy Spirit move in the lives of the people of the church we are visiting (and the team members!). We ourselves have experienced the anointing power when the Spirit moves and we know that is something God wants for all his people and indeed promises to us (Joel 2:28). Peter declared that promise had been realised on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16) and that is what we regularly see during a LISE weekend.

The Life in the Spirit Experience is more than a programme that might bring a little bit extra to a church for a season. It can be a springboard for a church, bringing new life to its worship, ministry and witness. In 2011, Hucknall Central Methodist Church hosted a LISE weekend, and it had a profound effect on many people. One couple, Kim and Dave, who lived close to a sister church (Eastside), decided to start an after-school club for children living on an estate with significant levels of deprivation. The idea of the club was simple: to love these children as Jesus loves them. Over many months, they ministered to children who were struggling to look after an alcoholic parent, had a parent serving a prison sentence, were not coping with everyday things such as going to school, or had no food in the house. They decided to hold a Sunday School session once a month, and very soon the children asked if they could have it every week. Only the Holy Spirit has the ability to empower such a ministry.

Our approach to ministry at ARM is very gentle, perhaps even understated, because the Holy Spirit does not need us to shout or whip up a storm to do the amazing things that he does. Over the years that we have been leading LISE weekends, we have seen people come to faith, others rest in the Spirit, many people healed (physically, emotionally, spiritually) and people released from chains of oppression. There have been tongues spoken and an interpretation given, words of knowledge and prophetic understanding received and shared, and times of worship where we inhabited a very thin space.

Throughout it all, we can truly say that we have seen the promise of God pouring out his Spirit, and the renewing power that this has brought to the lives of individuals and their churches.

Although ARM is largely based within the Methodist Church, we will go to any church, of any denomination (or none) that invites us, and we have team members from both the Methodist Church and other churches. No matter what church we go to – big or small, lively or struggling, already moving in the Spirit or not sure who he is – that same promise of God that Peter spoke about holds firm. God is true to his promises, and this is what we all need to claim for ourselves, for the building up of God’s church, and for the growth of his kingdom where we are.

If you would like to know more about the work of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries-UK, please go to our website www.aldersgaterenewal.org.uk. To begin exploring an invitation for us to come and share a Life in the Spirit Experience weekend with you at your church, email contact@aldersgaterenewal.org.uk

REV. DAVID WINSTANLEY

David is a Methodist Minister and has been CEO of Aldersgate Renewal Ministries-UK (ARM) since its inception in the UK in 2012. ARM has ministered alongside churches throughout the UK, and has also partnered with churches overseas.



PRAYER FOCUS

ALDERSGATE RENEWAL MINISTRIES (ARM)

Give thanks for the work and vision of ARM, for David Winstanley and all on the ministry team. Pray for more opportunities and openings to share the power of the Holy Spirit with churches across the nation; for a realisation in all churches that there is more to Christianity. Pray for greater power and fulfilment through the Holy Spirit, and a deep yearning to seek it (Romans 8:11; John 16:13-15).

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

MET:Revive: Pray for Chris Briggs as Chair, and for the trustees and office holders, and for David Hull in his role as the MET:Revive Ambassador. Pray for the weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings. Pray for the Revive Gathering weekend (13-15 November), focusing on 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me' with speaker Andrew Roberts, and for safe travel for all (Isaiah 41:9-13; Hebrews 10:22-24).

Revival: Pray for the wind of the Holy Spirit to sweep through the church, bringing transformation and vibrancy to local churches throughout the land; for the church to regain confidence in the power of the gospel message and to proclaim it with passion (Romans 1:16-17; John 3:16-17).

FOCUS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

The Government: Pray for Prime Minister Andy Burnham, and all members of the cabinet as they discuss and formulate policies affecting the nation, that they will put national interests before their own advancement. Pray for a recognition that Jesus Christ is the true hope for our nation, and that all our leaders will recognise his authority and pattern for our lives. Pray for God to reign supreme over all legislation, and for Christian MPs, that their integrity will shine out, influencing all discussions and policies, and for their protection (Proverbs 11:1-3; Philippians 4:8)

Anti-social behaviour: Pray for creative solutions to the underlying issues which are causing a rise in crime and lawlessness in parts of the country. Pray for the tackling of organised crime gangs, knife crime and the use of drugs and alcohol; for youth workers – particularly those who are Christians – reaching out to those stuck in the cycle of violence, drug and alcohol abuse. Pray for perpetrators to find new direction, focus, and positivity in Christ, transforming their lives. Pray for support for victims; for the police force on the front line as they tackle these issues (Luke 19:10; Isaiah 55:6-9).

FOCUS ON WORLD ISSUES

Natural disasters: Pray for those caught up in natural disasters across the globe: wildfires, flooding (Tibet & Nepal), drought (Europe & Britain), tornadoes, volcanic eruptions (Venezuela), and earthquakes. Pray for God's peace where loved ones have been lost along with all material possessions; for the resources to enable people to rebuild their lives; for solutions to tackle the causes where our warming, changing climate has exacerbated situations; for victims to find hope, reassurance and love in Jesus (Romans 15:13; Isaiah 43:1b-3).



John pictured at Cliff Festival in May 2026

TRIBUTE TO REV. JOHN HIBBERTS (1943-2026)

It is with great sadness that we share the news that John Hibberts died in early September.

John had been a Methodist Minister for 40 years, concluding his ministry at Swanbank, Burslem where he served for 25 years. John and his wife Val had been members of MET for many years.

He will be remembered by many as a leading light at Easter People with his enthusiastic, engaging, vibrant and dynamic personality. He became involved with the first Easter People at Camber Sands in 1988 and faithfully stayed the course for the next 20 years of the event. He led many of the all-age worship celebrations, notably as 'ringmaster' at the Tower Circus in Blackpool during the mid-1990s.

John loved people, had a zeal for the Lord and a passion for the gospel.

Rev. David Miller writes:
John was a tireless campaigner for dynamic, positive Evangelical Methodist discipleship and witness. Someone we will miss greatly.

MET:Revive

MET SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE



PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS: AVOIDING THE PARALYSIS OF THE CHURCH

Friday 29th – Sunday 31st January 2027

LIVERMEAD CLIFF HOTEL, TORQUAY SEAFRONT, TQ2 6RJ

SPEAKER: CHRIS BRIGGS, CHAIR OF MET:REVIVE

Visit metrevive.uk/SW-2027 for details

Chris Briggs, speaker for the weekend, shares some insights into the theme

PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS: UNPACKING THE THEME

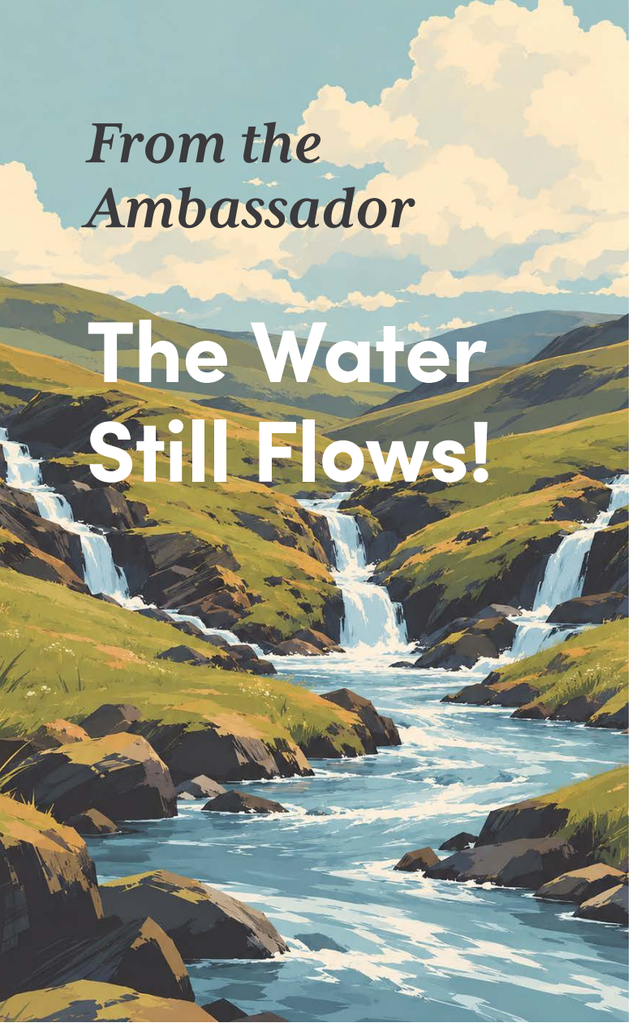
The traditional enemies of the Christian life are the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. We will explore how these are both separate enemies, but also how they can be used together to undermine the pursuit of holiness.

Understanding what is going on in these hidden realms can enable us to identify that which paralyses the church. We can too easily limp along when we should be standing with Christ.

During the weekend we will seek to:

- **identify the powers that we battle against**
- **see how the powers work independently and together**
- **examine how the powers might cause paralysis in the life of the church**
- **look at the resources we have at our disposal as we stand against the powers**
- **understand some of the strategies we can employ.**

This is a vast subject and we will build in opportunities for interaction so that we might learn from the experience and knowledge of each other.



From the Ambassador

The Water Still Flows!

I like to think of MET:Revive as a river that flows with the water of three streams. Each runs on from one of our three predecessor organisations with its own distinctive emphasis: the authority of the Bible, prayer for revival, and our continual need for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. Together, they are the tributaries which feed and sustain our work to this day.

Over recent years, I have had the privilege of representing Methodists within the Charismatic History Project, which is tracing the legacy of Charismatic Renewal within the Church of England. I have served on one of its working groups – known as 'hives' in the hope that we would busily produce some honey! - alongside Madi Simpson, who writes elsewhere in this issue. It was a great joy to present some of our work at the national conference earlier this year.

I first experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a profoundly personal way in the mid-1990s – what I tend to think was the tail end of the Charismatic Renewal, if a renewal can ever truly be said to end (itself a hotly debated point at the conference!) That experience, and many since, continue to shape my ministry.

It was in those early days that I first encountered Terry Waters. Reading his article in this magazine has brought back evocative memories of those times. Years later, Terry once quipped that, back then, he often felt entirely out of his depth, simply working things out as he went along. He always seemed to me to be the embodiment of wise and seasoned leadership!

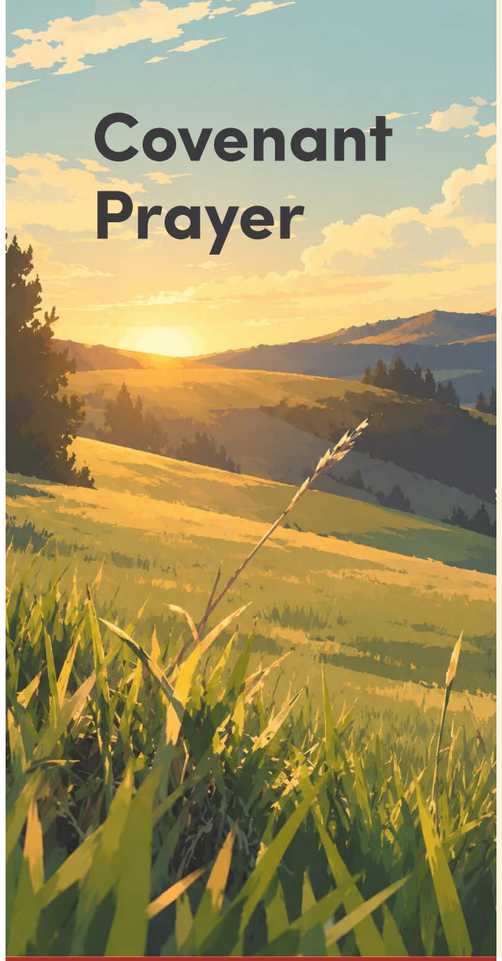
At the conference, I reflected that not every development within charismatic circles over the years has necessarily been for the good. One shift seems to have been from openness to the Spirit's spontaneous work – simply praying 'Come, Holy Spirit', trusting the Lord would move as was right for that moment – towards something more formulaic. At times, there seems to be a suggestion that the right words, repeated in the right way, often and loudly enough, will guarantee the right results! I am sure there is much we can learn again from those who experienced the early days of Charismatic Renewal, some of whom I have been delighted to come to know over recent years.

As Ambassador, I have the great joy of travelling around the Connexion, meeting people who share this deep longing. Most recently, I have been to the North, visiting Bingley, Oldham and Bury. We spent afternoons discerning the Lord's call to be moving in mission, and evenings praying together for a fresh, renewing and reviving infilling of the Spirit. We have reminded ourselves – as our Chair, Chris Briggs, reminds us at the beginning of this issue – of Jesus' invitation, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink,' and of his promise: 'Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' What a picture of Word and Spirit coming together in Renewal and Revival – the vision that carries us forward, as the Living Water still flows today.

I would love to visit your area too. Find out more about the role at metrevive.uk/ambassador and future dates at metrevive.uk/ambassador-visits. To explore what might be possible where you are, please contact Janet Walker: janet.walker@metrevive.uk.

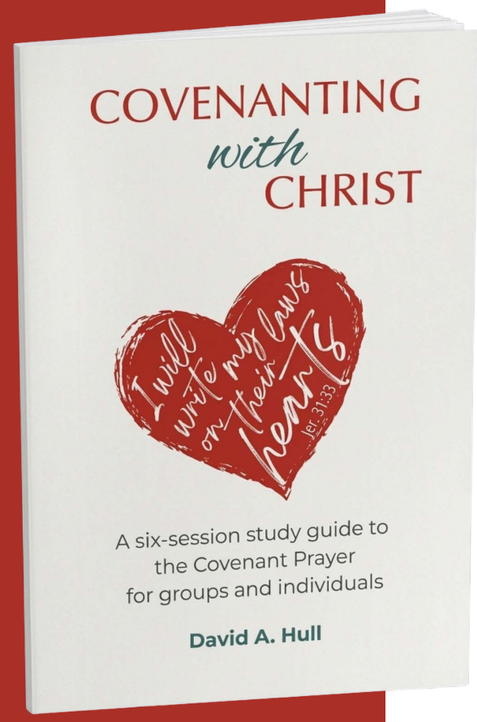
REV. DR. DAVID HULL

David is a Methodist Minister, currently serving as Lead Pastor of Freedom Church Bristol (findfreedom.org.uk). He is MET:Revive's Ambassador, Founding Chair of the Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals (AWE) and Chair of Share Jesus International.



Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen





Covenanting with Christ

A six-session study guide to the Covenant Prayer for groups and individuals

DAVID A. HULL

Bible Study

The Holy Spirit

MARTIN TURNER



I write this Bible Study with a great degree of trepidation, for the theme I have been given is 'renewal', with an emphasis upon the work of the Holy Spirit. I am only too aware that RE:VIVE readers are people who long for a deeper movement of the Holy Spirit and will have no doubt heard every sermon and read every book on the topic, so forgive me if you have heard it all before!

I want us to focus upon three areas:

- Who did the Holy Spirit come to?
- How the Holy Spirit might touch us
- Facing up to the mystery

WHO DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME TO? - ACTS 2:1-13

The first group the Holy Spirit came to were the disciples. They are often portrayed as eagerly waiting to see what might happen, but in truth they were struggling with faith and struggling to find a future; in fact, at the end of the Gospel of Matthew (28:17), we are told that even in the presence of the Risen Christ 'some doubted'. So here you have a group of people who don't have a clue as to what has really happened or what they are to do, with some even none too clear as to whether or not Jesus is risen from the dead - but the Holy Spirit still comes to meet with them! Isn't that so encouraging?

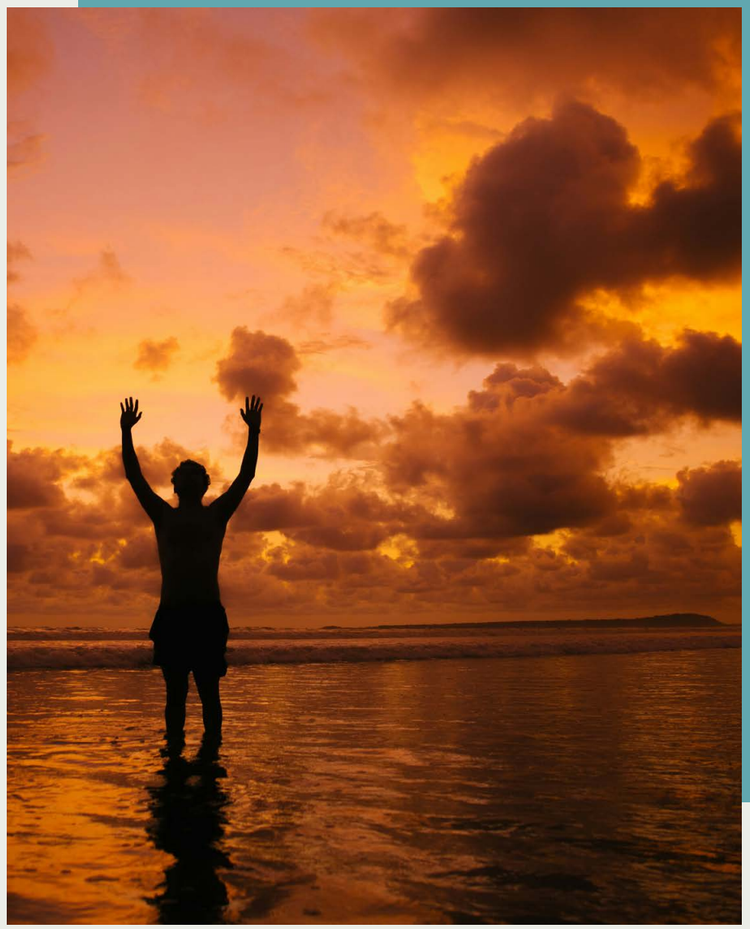
You may not be clear as to exactly what your faith is all about, or as to exactly what the work of the Holy Spirit is; in fact, you may not even be at all certain as to whether or not you actually want a deeper experience of God through the work of the Holy Spirit. But the Spirit comes when the Spirit comes! He comes in love to fill you; he comes in a mighty wind to turn you in the right direction; he comes in flames of fire to deal with and burn up all the dross and sin of your past; he comes with tongues to give you a new language of love. You don't need to be ready, for the Holy Spirit is ready!

The second group to whom the Spirit came were the onlookers; we read about them in verses 5 to 13. They come from across the known world and we are also told that they were 'God-fearing'. These are people looking for truth, seeking the reality of faith rather than just religion. We read their response in verses 11 & 12: 'What does this mean?'

You see, when the Holy Spirit works in power, people notice and become open to the good news of Jesus; indeed, Peter builds upon this to preach a sermon explaining what has happened, and we are told that thousands came to faith.

When people see the Holy Spirit actually working, they become open to faith.

For a while, I was a prison chaplain, and one task prison chaplains have is to interview each new arrival. One guy arrived in a real state because he didn't know what was happening to him and was worried that he was cracking up. I asked him about the issue and he told me that, because the Bible was the only book in his cell, he had started to read it, then he thought he might try a prayer, but instead of intelligible words coming out, all that he spoke seemed to come out as gibberish. I read him this passage from Acts and explained to him that what had happened was that he had been filled with the Holy Spirit and given the gift of tongues. I can tell you he went away not only rejoicing but also greatly relieved! Let's ask the Spirit to work so powerfully that people notice.



HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT MIGHT TOUCH US - EPHESIANS 5:18-20

I am sure that we don't just want to read about the Holy Spirit, we also want to encounter the Holy Spirit, which is part of our Methodist heritage. We are familiar with hearts that are 'strangely warmed' and 'all can know that they are saved'.

In seeking this encounter, we often hear fervent prayers and pleading, such as 'Come Holy Spirit', but I have to be honest and say that I really struggle with that phrase! It is a phrase that we often use in songs and in prayers, but it is nowhere to be found in the Bible. I struggle with it because if we are inviting the Holy Spirit to come, it rather seems to imply that until we pray that prayer the Holy Spirit is absent. Just to be quite clear here: we do not command God the Holy Spirit to come and go with our prayers; the Holy Spirit is not a power or a person to be summoned when we have the fervour of a religious moment!

Now, of course, I understand what we all mean in our hearts when we pray 'Come Holy Spirit'. We are hoping and praying for a deeper experience of God, but that experience is a gift of God which is graciously given, not an experiential gift to be demanded. So let us pray 'Come Holy Spirit' by all means if it is helpful, but as we pray, let us humbly realise that what we are doing is asking God to make real the presence of the Helper who is already there.

Perhaps a better approach is to ask for the fullness of the Holy Spirit (v. 18b). Think of that time you were having a wonderful meal and the host asks if you would like another helping of pudding. Well, of course you would, but you say no because you are full and just don't have any more room. Ask yourself: what do you make room for in your life? Ask yourself: what is filling you? Paul suggests here that, as disciples of Jesus, we should be making room for the Holy Spirit, making room for God's presence.

FACING UP TO THE MYSTERY - JOHN 3:1-8

I wonder if one of the problems that we evangelicals wrestle with is that we like everything neatly tied up! Our problem is that you just can't do it with God. As the poet Sydney Carter said: 'Catch the bird of heaven, lock him in a cage of gold, look again tomorrow and he will be gone'. As the Gospel writer John writes here: 'The wind blows where it pleases' (John 3:8). How frustrating this is!

We pray for a movement of the Holy Spirit in a meeting and nothing happens, we pray that a friend might find Christ but she does not, we pray for a particular gift of the Holy Spirit, but we do not receive it. How very much we would like it if we organised things rather than God! But the Spirit blows where the Spirit blows.

I have led six churches in my ministry, preaching the same gospel, setting the same priorities, working alongside committed lay folk. In three of them, we moved into a very real experience of the Holy Spirit in our worship and life together, in the other three we faithfully soldiered on. When the Spirit came, the Spirit came; each time it was after some years: so hard to define, but something you could sense. We need to learn to live with mystery at the heart of our faith. Perhaps this is why so many young people are at present being drawn into the Catholic and Orthodox faith. We may not approve in any way of 'smells and bells', but the rituals point to that which is beyond. The Holy Spirit is always here, but also always there, always working - but not always working within either the confined walls of a church building or the confining doctrines of a particular theological position.

Questions for personal or group study

Read each passage slowly and thoughtfully before the discussion or your personal reflection.

READ: ACTS 2:1-13

1. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt the Holy Spirit was sweeping in to shake up your life?
2. The Spirit came as cleansing fire. To what extent do we neglect the issue of repentance?

READ: EPHESIANS 5:18-20

3. Sit for a moment and ask yourself what it is that fills your life (not necessarily negative things; think also of family, friends, Christian service, etc). Does this leave room for the Holy Spirit?
4. What do you think being 'filled with the Spirit' (v. 18) might mean for you?

READ: JOHN 3:1-8

5. Do you resonate in any way with the fact that the wind of the Spirit blowing 'wherever it pleases' is a bit frustrating?
6. What space do you leave in your faith for mystery?

Try simply sitting quietly for ten minutes a day – no reading, no music – and see if that makes some of the space you need to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

REV. MARTIN TURNER

Martin is a Supernumerary Minister who has served in Yorkshire, Hertfordshire and Central London, and is a former Chair of Headway. He still pastors a Church in Cheltenham. Married to Biddy, they have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.





METHODIST CHURCHES UNITE FOR SHINE YOUR LIGHT 2026

HUNDREDS of Methodist churches across the UK are to join forces with thousands of UK churches this December to bring hope and light to local communities.

Now in its fourth year, Shine Your Light encourages churches to take their carol services and other Christmas events out from church buildings, and into the streets, market squares, shopping centres, nursing homes and so on .... to wherever people gather over the Christmas season.

Last year over 3.5 million UK citizens were reached with the gospel through Shine Your Light. This year the vision is to see 5,000 churches mobilise 500,000 Christians to reach 5 million.

Has your church registered yet?

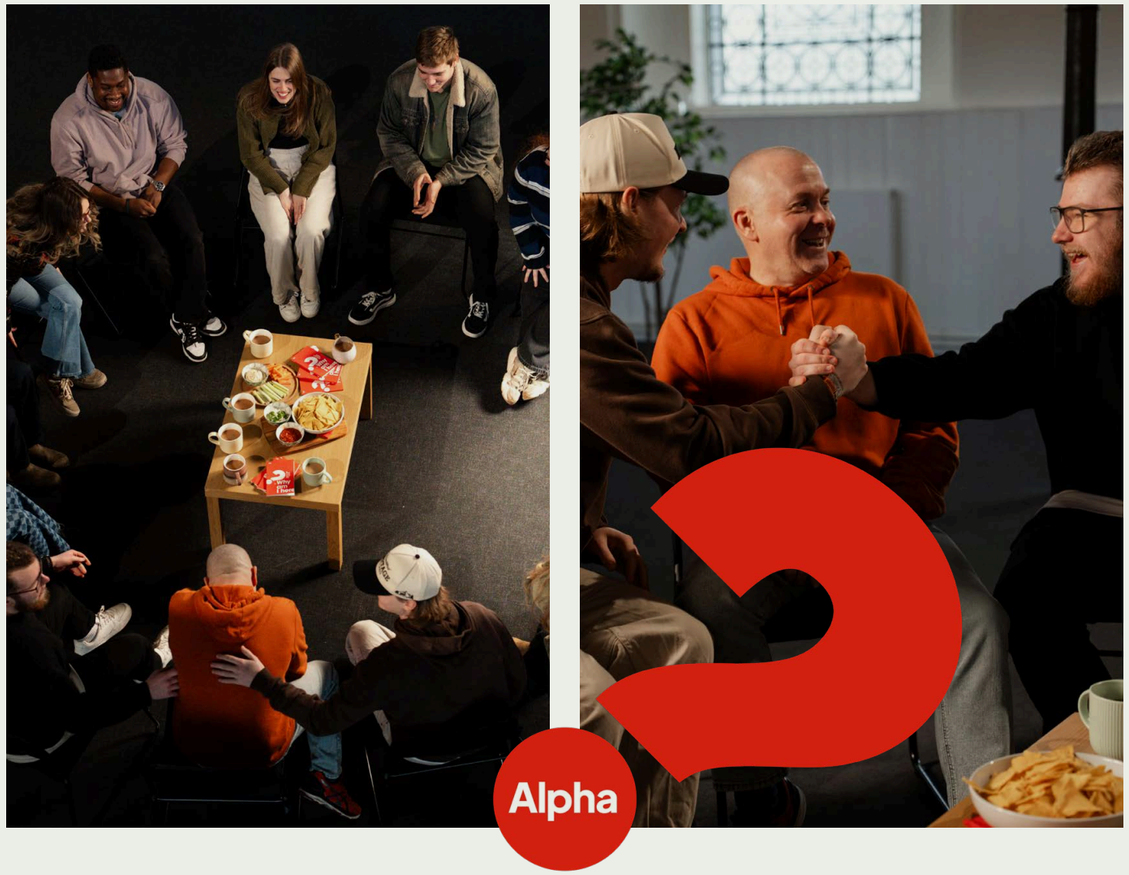
This year, in addition to traditional outdoor carol services over the weekend of 11th -13th December, Shine Your Light will be resourcing churches with a FREE Toolkit of ideas to reach those on the margins of society, and those often overlooked, including:-

- Prisoners and young offenders
- Hard to reach communities and council estates
- People experiencing homelessness
- Those who are lonely or isolated, including older people, care home residents, women's and children's hostels, and people living in asylum and refugee accommodation

Shine Your Light founder, Pastor Jonathan Oloyede said: 'Everywhere we turn today, our communities seem to face new challenges and new reasons for division. Conversations around immigration, race, identity, nationalism, government failures, policing, war, economic hardship, free speech, cultural change and faith have become increasingly heated.

Many people are hurting. Some are angry. Families are divided, friendships strained and communities fractured. People are searching for hope, purpose and meaning. This year we want to encourage every Christian and church - whether they have participated before or not - to register for Shine Your Light and access a wide range of practical resources and ideas for engaging with these four marginalised groups.'

To REGISTER your church, and for further details, visit **shineyourlight.org.uk**



Is It Time To Set Out Another Chair?

ANNA WATSON

Anna Watson from Alpha UK considers the invitation gap – those non-Christians who know about Alpha but have not yet been invited.

Can you sense the stirring across the UK? As I meet with church leaders and hear stories of people encountering Jesus, I'm increasingly convinced that God is drawing people to himself in fresh and unexpected ways.

Back in May, whilst at Alpha Leadership Conference in the Royal Albert Hall, I was particularly struck by the testimonies shared of people's encounters with Jesus and experiences of Alpha. As the different testimonies were shared, a pattern started to emerge. People were encountering Jesus for the first time outside of the church setting: in their bedrooms, on their way to work, and even through the social media algorithms.

I'm hearing more and more of this as I meet with church leaders across the region. On week one of Alpha, the first question is always: 'What brings you to Alpha?' and traditionally, the answers range from 'My friend dragged me', to 'I heard there was free food'.

Now, though, there feels like a shift. Many guests share about reading the Bible, having a tangible experience of the Holy Spirit, or simply feeling a pull towards the church building. One church leader recently shared with me that they had a guest come to Alpha because they asked ChatGPT where they could find their purpose, and ChatGPT suggested they join an Alpha! God is drawing people to himself, and we are invited into what he is already doing.

The best part of my role is hearing testimonies each day of people finding faith in Jesus. 2025 was a record-breaking year for Alpha UK, with 10,000 Alpha courses across the nation and a 35% increase in the number of guests. But there are still millions of people who are waiting for an invitation.

In 2024, we carried out research to measure Alpha's brand awareness amongst the UK population. What we found revealed that Alpha continues to be recognised but we have a missed invitational opportunity:

- 1 in 5 adults in the UK know what Alpha is.[1]
- Of those 1 in 5, 71% have never been invited to Alpha. That's roughly 7 million people who have heard of Alpha but haven't yet received an invitation. [2]

We know that 2 in 3 people who are invited to Alpha, say 'Yes' to coming. This means that if we invited those 7 million people, we could potentially see up to 4.7 million guests on Alpha – this is before we even invite those that haven't heard of Alpha!

We call this the invitation gap – the number of people who know about Alpha, are curious and spiritually-open, but haven't been invited yet.

Our vision is for everyone, everywhere to hear the Good News of Jesus. Alpha helps creates spaces for people to be heard, and to ask their questions, and to meet the person of Jesus.

The invitation for us as the Church is not to manufacture a move of God, but to notice where he is already moving – and make room for the people he is drawing to himself.

I particularly love the story of Philip and Nathanael in John 1:43-46. 'The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see', said Philip.

In the face of Nathanael's doubt, Philip responds to Nathanael with the simple invitation to 'come and see'. Philip doesn't pretend Nathanael's doubts aren't real, he doesn't have all the answers or applies lots of pressure; he simply invites him to encounter the person of Jesus.

Philip trusts that an encounter with Jesus can speak for itself.

Perhaps this is part of what it means for us to join in with what God is already doing. We don't have to create a hunger for God in people. We don't need to have the perfect answers to every question. We can simply notice those who are searching, make room for them, and extend the invitation: come and see.

God is drawing people to himself. The invitation is already being written.

Perhaps our task is simply to set out another chair.

1. IPSOS Mori carried out research surveying 2,238 respondents from around the UK. Respondents were between the ages of 16 and 75.
2. IPSOS Mori carried out research surveying 2,238 respondents from around the UK. Respondents were between the ages of 16 and 75.

ANNA WATSON

Anna has the joy of overseeing Alpha across the North and Midlands. She loves creating spaces for others to have an encounter with Jesus and has a heart for hospitality-led evangelism. When not at work, Anna leads the youth in her local church in Liverpool.



There's More, So Much More!

CHARLES WHITEHEAD

Charles Whitehead, Papal Knight and Former President of the Pontifical Council for the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal, shares an insight into his role and what charismatic renewal means for individuals and the church today through the power of the Holy Spirit.



WHAT IS A PAPAL KNIGHT?

A Papal Knight is a person who has been given a papal knighthood – an honour conferred by the Pope to recognize individuals for their service to the Catholic Church.

MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING A PAPAL KNIGHT

I was educated by the Jesuits and left school to go to Durham University in 1961. My faith was intellectual rather than alive. I met Sue at Durham and we married in 1966 after leaving university. Both of us experienced the baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1976 and became very active Christians together, and remained in our respective churches – the Catholic church for me and the Anglican church for Sue. We both became very involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

In 1988 I was elected to represent Northern Europe on the Pontifical Council for the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The Council met in Rome twice a year for three or four days, and consisted of about 20 leaders from all over the world. We had an office in Vatican premises with a staff of two full-time workers.

At my second meeting they elected me their President, a position I held for 15 years. I had regular meetings with the heads of various Vatican departments, and Pope John Paul II welcomed me whenever I was in Rome. I had a permanent invitation to his Daily Mass at 7 am in his private apartment, and he often asked me to join him for breakfast afterwards. We met regularly and became friends. He invited me several times to give talks to him and his Papal Household. On one occasion, on the eve of Pentecost 1998, he had an international meeting in the Square outside St. Peter's, Rome, for 455,000 leaders of the new movements in the church. He invited me to give a 20-minute response to his talk which was in Italian about the charismatic and the hierarchical dimensions of the church being co-essential to her health and life.

During my time as the Council President, I met leaders and gave talks in 85 countries around the world. Pope John Paul II usually wanted to hear my views on the countries I visited when I was next in Rome. In 2003, he awarded me a Papal Knighthood for my services to the church.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THE CHURCH TODAY

Two thousand years ago, Jesus said to his disciples, 'I am sending down to you what the Father has promised.

Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high' (Luke 24:49). So they stayed in the city, received this 'power from on high' and then went out and preached the gospel throughout the world.

In 1967, a group of Catholic students from Duquesne University in the USA gathered for a weekend retreat and prayed for the same power. What began then among them has become known as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

As I reflect on this, I rejoice that all over the world people have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, and have experienced a new freedom and reality in their Christian lives. Some have met Jesus Christ for the first time. Others have become men and women of a new and richer faith. Many have answered the call to live and preach the gospel in a radical way – challenging the values of our materialistic world.

It hasn't all been easy – there has been a price to be paid. I must also admit that we have often failed, turning back to the safe and comfortable instead of moving on into the unknown. It seems a good time to take stock. After all, the Charismatic Renewal is well established, even though it is still often misunderstood. Perhaps we can learn from the mistakes we've made and so face the future with a new confidence.

The coming of the Spirit is an integral part of our normal Christian initiation. Through it, we are called to be more committed to Jesus Christ and his church. This is why we emphasise the need to be at the heart of the church – part of normal parish life. However, there can be few 'card-carrying charismatics' who have not experienced tolerant smiles, mocking laughter, unloving remarks or outright rejection from their fellow Christians. These things can hurt. We are, after all, only trying to do what we believe the Lord is asking.

We love Christ and we love his church – imperfect as it is – but then we are far from perfect ourselves. As we are the church, how can we expect it to be perfect? With all our faults, we are called to serve in the love and power of the Holy Spirit, accepting rightful authority and praying that the Spirit of Pentecost will continue to bring new life to the whole church. We are all working to see the world committed to Jesus Christ as Lord. If the Charismatic Renewal is to fulfil its role in this, we must remain properly rooted in the life of the church whilst retaining both our charismatic and ecumenical dimensions.

We must also recognise that we are called to be prophetic. We have to challenge and disturb the comfortable – and much of the church is very comfortable indeed and set in its ways. This calls for the courage to speak out when things are wrong, and it is not going to make us popular. It has always been so for those who are Christians in word and deed rather than in name only, so why should we expect anything different?

Rejection comes not only from the world, but also from the church. Yet, we have no right to challenge the church unless we love and remain part of it. There is, however, a danger here which needs to be avoided – the danger of developing an excessive desire to be accepted and approved. Such a desire may lead us to compromise and conformity, so that we no longer teach and practise those things which cause others discomfort. I am, of course, thinking of such things as asking for baptism in the Spirit, speaking in tongues, prophesying, and praying for healing. It is certainly true that these things are open to abuse and are sometimes misused, but the answer is proper teaching and practice, not embarrassment and prohibition.

To walk in the Holy Spirit is to realise that, in everything, we are to live not out of ourselves and our own efforts, but out of the Father's provision of life, love and power in Jesus Christ. It means turning from self to God, from works to faith, from law to Spirit.

The Spirit brings us a new freedom (Galatians 5:1) and there should be a passion in our hearts for his freedom. We need to be filled and filled again with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Every Christian needs to know the love, power and freedom of the Holy Spirit if we are to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our needy world.

Through the Charismatic Renewal, the Holy Spirit has reminded us that we are his temples (1 Corinthians 6:19), and he wants to work in and through us. He has brought the charisms to our attention again, and taught us how to use them. This is a sacred trust for which we are accountable.

If we are to be faithful to what God is asking of us, the Charismatic Renewal must remain a move of the Holy Spirit and never be allowed to become a bureaucratic structure. History has seen too many moves of the Spirit fail when the prophetic vision has died and over-organisation has strangled their life.

If we restrict the Spirit, the gifts will disappear again. The Lord doesn't baptise techniques, systems or programmes in his Spirit – he baptises men and women. Let's keep asking him to do that. We must let God be God, and do things his way – not ours. This renewal must remain fully charismatic. Then in thanksgiving for all that is past, and in eager anticipation of all that lies ahead, we can say with Paul: 'Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen' (Ephesians 3:20-21).

I believe we are part of something very important that God is doing – but we're only seeing the first fruits. There's more, so much more, still to come!

CHARLES WHITEHEAD KSG

Charles is a Knight of St Gregory the Great, awarded by Pope John Paul II in 2003 for his services to the universal church. Charles continues to serve the church in many different ways, maintaining contacts with Pope Benedict, and then with Pope Francis whom he knew when he was Cardinal Bergoglio in Buenos Aires. He is married to Sue and is an active member of the Carmelite parish of St. Joseph's in Gerrards Cross.



PRAYER FOCUS

THERE'S MORE, SO MUCH MORE

Pray for all parts of the church to seek deeper faith, from the leadership to people sitting in the pews; the raising up of more people willing to speak boldly about receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit; for an awareness of the intensity of the spiritual battle and of the necessity for complete and continued reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit and closeness to our Lord, through prayer and Bible study (Acts 2:38-40; Matthew 10:16-20).

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

Children and young people: Pray for the Methodist Youth President, Genesis Padgett; for all youth and children's workers across the Connexion; for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide children and young people into biblically based teaching. Pray for 3Generate (2-4 October); for all young people to find the joy of a loving relationship with the Lord Jesus and to spread the Good News enthusiastically to their peer groups (Matthew 18:5-6; Titus 2:6-8).

Local Churches: For every member and attendee of the church to have a desire to read and study the Bible and a thirst for prayer, to seek the power of the Holy Spirit, to seek God's agenda and strategy for each individual church, to eagerly desire biblical holiness (Luke 11:9-10; Matthew 24:12-13).

FOCUS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

Political Landscape: Pray for the promotion of and funding for hospices and End of Life Care; for the protection of children and teenagers from all sexual distortions; for the rights of Christian parents to teach biblical truth; for freedom for the gospel to be preached across our land (Genesis 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

Terrorism and National Security: Pray for the perpetrators of terror to encounter God, and for victims to find healing and peace. Pray for a change to regimes across the world which encourage acts of terror, cyber-attacks and international espionage, particularly from Russia. Pray for a readiness in the nation to combat any attack to our national security (Proverbs 28:13: Acts 3:19).

FOCUS ON WORLD ISSUES

Planet in crisis: Give thanks for initiatives tackling our exploitation of the planet to bring renewal and change – for conservation areas on both land and sea; for projects and initiatives seeking to bring change and restoration to stricken areas. Pray for a worldwide commitment to reduce all plastics; for the world to wake up and take seriously the stress the planet is under, and to commit to the funding of initiatives to bring about improvements including the clearing up of polluted habitats (1 Timothy 4:4-5; Isaiah 24:4-6).

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Focus on Eritrea, the fifth most dangerous country in the world for Christians. Pray for hope and freedom for the many imprisoned Christians who exist in appalling conditions. Pray that God will provide for the daily needs of Christians who are arrested or detained; that President Afwerki's heart will be turned away from oppression and toward the love of Jesus.

Focus on Syria, the sixth most dangerous country in the world for Christians. Pray for the shocked and frightened survivors of the Damascus church attack in June 2025, particularly as they are still under persecution. Pray that Christians who live with constant uncertainty will know God as their rock; that new believers rejected by their Muslim families will find love and fellowship (James 1:12; Hebrews 12:2-3).



Houses of Light, Igniting the Fires of Revival

REBEKAH BRETTLE

Rebekah Brettle, founder of Houses of Light, shares the vision for reaching out to our neighbours through prayer, practical care, and sharing Jesus.

WHAT ARE HOUSES OF LIGHT?

A House of Light is an individual or household – PRAYING for their neighbours, CARING for their neighbours and SHARING Jesus with their neighbours. Christians across the UK, of all mainstream denominations, take part and the vision has already become a catalyst for unity in some villages and towns. It aims to mobilise the whole church, so that every street in the UK covered in prayer, with five new disciples of Jesus on every street. It costs nothing other than your time; it ignites enthusiasm for prayer, and it works! Our neighbour across the road from us – for whom we have PRAYED and CARED, and with whom we have SHARED Jesus - was baptised two weeks ago!

PRAYING

We ask you to pray every Friday for your street, starting with five homes: the houses to the left and right, and three over the road. Through our weekly newsletter, we provide a scripture and a prayer to use each week, often linked to news stories or events. Prayer walking your street every time you leave the house – or, if you cannot leave your home, praying a blessing over the street – is powerful. On the last Saturday of September, we ask Christians everywhere to prayer walk as many streets as possible.

CARING

Get to know your neighbours. Offer to prepare a meal when they are unwell or going through difficult circumstances; help with shopping if they need assistance; or invite them for food or tea. Love your neighbour as yourself!

SHARING JESUS

Invite your neighbours to church events or an Alpha course. Share stories of how Jesus has changed your life, or the lives of others.

We also encourage prayer triplets called Beacon of Light: three people praying once a week for half an hour over, three streets. They spend ten minutes praying for each of the three streets, ten minutes praying for the postcode area and ten minutes praying for all the streets in the UK.

We have several free digital resources. 'Beyond the Letterbox' is a six-week course that can be used individually or by a group to get started. 'Through the Lens of the Street' is a popular 40-day prayer guide with scriptures and suggested actions, which many people use during Lent.

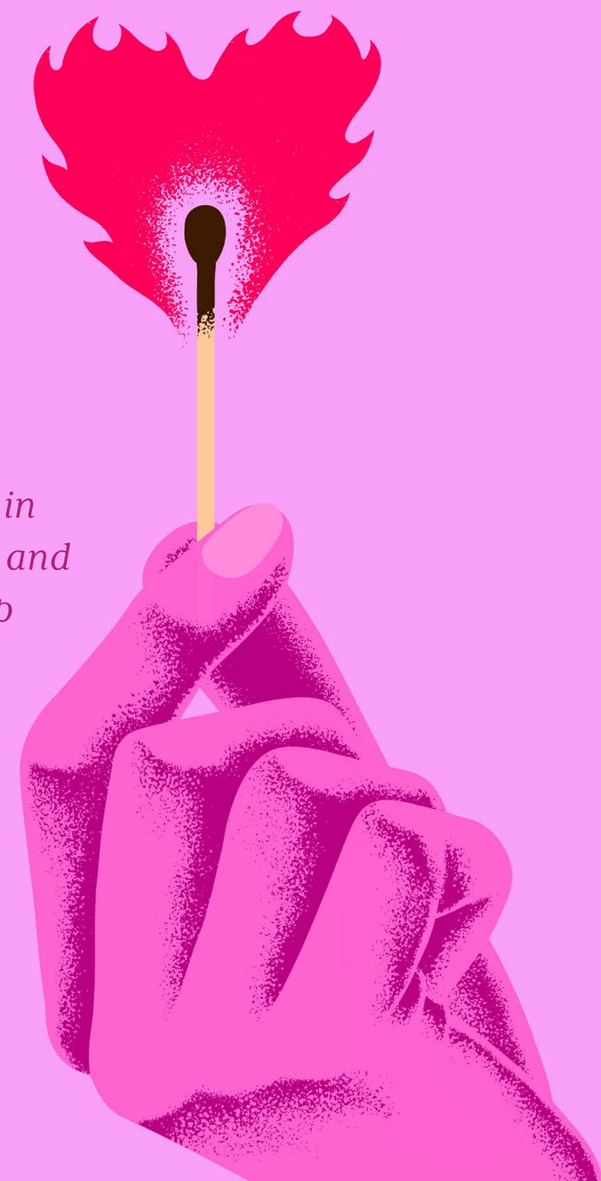
John Wesley, the founder of Methodism and a personal hero of mine, prayed for at least four hours a day, rising at 4 am to pray for two hours. He also fasted following the evening meal on Tuesday until 3 pm Wednesday, repeating the fast from Thursday into Friday. His prayer life, together with those he led, ignited a Christian spiritual and social transformation in the UK!

As a child, I attended both an Anglican and a Methodist church. Our office is in the Neath Methodist Church vestry, and my Dad continues to volunteer proudly in Altrincham Methodist Church. I would love Methodists to take the lead in igniting, shaping and accelerating this vision across the UK. Combined with the foundations of Methodism, the fires of revival will surely follow. Will you join us?

Sign up at www.housesoflight.net or email ceo@housesoflight.net if you have questions.

Keeping the Flame Alive in Local Ministry

MADI SIMPSON



Madi Simpson, Anglican Rector in Cumbria, shares some personal and practical insights on how to keep the flame alive in ministry.

> *'The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood...'*
>
> Leviticus 6:12

I recall a session of Deanery Synod (an area gathering of Anglican clergy and church representatives) some years ago. I was a relatively new curate and had been invited to share a bit of my story and vision for the local church and for Cumbria. As it happened, I had been asked to do the same for the Bishop's Leadership Team and a few ecumenical extras a few weeks prior, and it had gone down well. There were no flies on my vision. After I had shared, a single voice rose up in the room: 'Well that's just youthful enthusiasm.' It belonged to one of the 'powers that be'. I was 41.

There will always be people to pour cold water on your flame. In my experience, they mainly pop up in church. Fortunately, as with Elijah on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18, cold water is no threat. Far from it: it actually makes magnificent fuel for fire.

A few more quenching comments from the archives: 'Are you really going there?' asked the college Dean. 'The problem is, they struggle to attract clergy,' commented a London vicar on return from the 2018 Moving Mountains mission. 'We've made the mistake of showing candidates a parish, but they never apply,' said the interviewer for a curacy post elsewhere. I savour these comments. They reveal so much, mainly the limits of other people's faith. Some people will insist on the gospel having no traction in certain places, whereas the Lord promises to be with us wherever we go.

Here are some things that sustain me and help keep the flame alive in local ministry:

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Two great truths carry me through the day: that there is a man risen from the dead, and that he is with me. We can't carry the flame for others if it's all a bit damp in our own souls. When I was a young adult, a church leader once wrote a reference for me, which stated, 'Madi has a simple faith.' I found it a bit patronising at the time (more cold water). Now I cherish it. I don't want to move on from childlike faith, simple wonder and awe in our Lord Jesus. Jesus is risen from the grave. Hallelujah! I don't ever intend to recover from that. Nor should the local church.

TAKE RISKS

Without challenge, we coast. Jesus could have made it all smooth waters and stormless skies for the disciples. He didn't. In fact, he 'made the disciples get into the boat' (Matthew 14:22). To be sure, a quiet life is acceptable to God (1 Thessalonians 4:11), but that doesn't mean sitting back on the call. Mission mostly doesn't come to us. Like the Good Shepherd, we need to exit the sheep fold and reach into the thorn bush for the lost sheep. Taking risks is also more fun. There are stories to tell, which Jesus seems to enjoy.

There were lots of reasons why we shouldn't move to Cumbria. Like Jesus and Bethlehem, it's a choice. Reach in. Reach in to the community you're in now. The Spirit knows how, and he will show you. In June, I met a couple of people who wanted nothing to do with God. Six weeks later, they requested a Bible, asking me to show them how to read it. I made next to no mention of God during the six weeks, but just showed up for them, carefully, prayerfully asking God to guide my words and actions. I could easily have stayed in my chair. The risk is simply doing whatever God tells you to do.

PIPE UP

Anglicans are very good at demure, but we are part of something vast and gloriously weird. Historian Tom Holland has said, 'Christians should preach the weird stuff.' It is traditional for Anglican clergy to give the notices at their licensing service. At my licensing, prompted by the Spirit, I dared myself to give only one notice: that Jesus is alive. I very nearly didn't say it. Because the Spirit prompted it, it made an impression. Small gestures, prompted by the Spirit, act like sparks. You don't need a big voice, big message or platform, just a word from God in scripture or prayer, and the courage to share it. He'll shape the words of an email and the words you share at the checkout. Pay attention, pipe up as the Spirit prompts, and sparks will fly.



GET THE KETTLE ON

After my training incumbent retired, I found myself praying alone for months at the weekly Wednesday morning church prayer meeting. No-one came. What brought it back to life was coffee and croissants. We now have 8-12 regulars, and pray for an hour instead of half an hour. If God gives you a vision for something, dial up the vision for that thing. Anything that helps people pray is fire!

LOWER EXPECTATIONS OF YOURSELF AND RAISE EXPECTATIONS OF GOD

Jesus wants to roll away stones and raise the dead, and we stand around saying, 'But Lord…' (John 11:39). We humans are limited, sinful and of little faith. Thank the Lord that he loves us anyway. Don't walk in the glory of your best days. You are fallible. Walk in the train of God's mercy and grace, and put your faith in him.

Finally, look after yourself, and look after your leaders – or, as a friend said, 'Say your prayers, do what you can, get some rest.' Ministry is tiring; all contexts are challenging, but God doesn't want any of us to burn out. Tend to yourself, your relationships, your family, and your own flame. We honour God and others in that. Good self-care keeps people safe and hearts warm.

REV. MADI SIMPSON

Madi is Rector of Ulverston in the South Lakes, leading both Ulverston Parish Church (www.ulverstonparishchurch.org) and St John's Osmotherley, a beautiful rural church on the Cumbria Way. She is married to James, with three teenage children.



Dave Greave photography

PRAYER FOCUS

KEEP THE FLAME ALIVE

Pray for all God's people to have a 'simple' faith which aims to focus entirely on God's agenda, and that they will be alert to the smallest prompt of the Holy Spirit. Pray that all workers for Christ will have the courage to step out in faith into whatever God may be asking, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and that he will help them to be diligent in prayer, constantly seeking his guidance (Psalm 25: 4-5; Hebrews 13: 20-21).

FOCUS ON THE CHURCH

The Methodist Church: Pray for the President and Vice-President, Rev. Mark Slaney and Caroline Stead, for inspiration, wisdom and discernment through the Holy Spirit, and for safe travel as they move around the Connexion. Pray for all Presbyters, Deacons, Local Preachers, and worship leaders to receive fresh inspiration from the Holy Spirit at the start of a new Connexional year. Pray for probationers taking up their first appointments, and for those who have come to serve in Britain from the world church, that they will adapt well to a different culture and new ways of doing things (1 Kings 3:7-9; Acts 20:28-31).

Cliff College: Pray for Rev. Andrew Stobbart as Principal; for all students in a new academic year, especially those who are new to the college, for suitable placements where students can share their faith and love of Jesus, and for adequate funding for all courses (Romans 10:13-15; 2 Timothy 4:1-4).

FOCUS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

Education: Pray for Lucy Powell, the Education Secretary, for protection for our children and young people against harmful ideologies, that the proposed introduction of witchcraft and paganism to the syllabus of the religious education curriculum will be strongly rebuffed and not tolerated, that all curricula will be honouring to God (Mark 9:42; Colossians 2:8).

FOCUS ON WORLD ISSUES

War torn areas of the world: Pray for the de-escalation of all conflicts, especially Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Gaza, and Sudan, for wisdom for peacemakers, for truth and justice to prevail over lies and deceit, and for God's will to be worked out in individual situations (Psalm 121; Psalm 55:22-23).

World poverty: Pray for people living in abject poverty through no fault of their own, for compassion and continuing aid from richer nations, for those who are forced to live in refugee camps, that they will have adequate food, sanitation, housing and health care, and for support and resources for charities tackling these situations (Matthew 25:34-45; Psalm 140:12).

Renewal and Church Growth in Ghana

ANDY GILMOUR



Andy Gilmour, preacher, pastor and missionary, shares how renewal is sweeping through Ghana.





I am often asked why I chose to be a missionary in Ghana. My reply is, 'I didn't choose Ghana. Ghana chose me!'

In 2011 Benjamin Oduro, a Ghanaian pastor serving in the UK, along with Archbishop Samuel Addae from Ghana, visited Canaan Christian Bookcentre in Staines, where I was the manager. They invited me to visit Kumasi to speak at the Shiloh Bible Training College for Pastors (now the Archbishop Addae Theological Institute).

Archbishop Samuel had witnessed the huge growth in churches and had seen the need to train these young charismatic leaders who had much zeal, but not much knowledge. They were mostly from new independent churches, though some came from the mainline denominations too.

In 2012, another local pastor and I travelled to Ghana to speak to 120 student ministers preparing for graduation and ordination. It was remarkable to be present at this event and to take part in a large outdoor service with 6,000 attending, witnessing these new pastors and evangelists being commissioned and sent out to the mission field.

Little did I know that this was only the beginning and that, 14 years later, I would be living there for more than half my year. After retirement in the UK, I found that a new field of service had opened up. Not only in Kumasi, where I am based, but in the less-reached regions of northern Ghana.

Ghana is a predominantly Christian country with approximately 65% of the population identifying as Christians. In the north, it is a larger mission field, with a larger proportion of Muslims and ancestral worshippers. However, the kingdom of God is growing there too, as I discovered.

From working with churches and individuals associated with the Bible college, my work has broadened to contacts with many different churches as an itinerant missionary. In the Kumasi region, this has involved me mentoring young ministers, many of whom trained at the college. A group known as 'Gleaners from Ghana' sprang up and meets regularly for mutual encouragement. The group stresses the importance of mission, with a focus on the Word and the Spirit. This is important, because amongst the wheat there are tares; that is, groups and churches which have deviated from the truth of the gospel. For this reason, I am always keen to get good books and materials into their hands.

Kumasi has many churches on nearly every street. They vary in size; the worship is alive and infectious, and the Holy Spirit is moving in significant ways in people's lives. Fervent prayer undergirds so much of the renewal in Ghana and all-night gatherings of prayer are a common feature in many churches.

A few years ago, I was invited to Tamale, the northern capital, to speak at some revival meetings in a Baptist church. That was to be the start of an outreach into the less-reached and less-developed northern regions,



visiting many poorer villages to share the Good News. This included being invited to a predominantly Muslim village to preach. From that visit we have been able to help establish a bore well and set up a mission school for younger children. Through practical support and prayer, we have seen some turn to Christ and a small church formed.

Two years ago, we visited a church in a large village in the North East Region where the leaders were seeking revival. Because it was the dry season and therefore no farming, the congregation came along for three mornings. We shared on the theme 'One Lord, One Faith and One Body' from Ephesians 4.

The first day, 95 people had gathered and, following the message, all the chiefs came forward in response. This even surprised my translator, as normally chiefs come just to observe! The next day, there were 150 people, with several different churches represented. Nearly everyone came forward for prayer at the end. On the final day, over 250 people came along. The message was about being part of the body and knowing our place and gifts within it. Afterwards, there was a feedback session and it was encouraging to hear how the Lord had touched many lives.

Following this event, we heard that people had returned to churches they had not attended for years. I revisited in January 2026 and saw for myself how the church had grown. They had got what they prayed for. Many of the people in these villages live in arduous conditions, so it is all the more encouraging to see their heartfelt response to the gospel.

This spiritual growth is in both the cities and the villages. On this recent trip I was invited to a 'word and fire prayer ministry' event in Kumasi. It was led by a Methodist Local Preacher who had started a healing group. The event had grown so fast that they now have a larger meeting place to accommodate the growing congregation. I spoke on two nights to a large number and witnessed the Holy Spirit move as many lives were touched.

It seems that God is blessing Ghana in a significant way spiritually. 'Faith is in the air', with a great openness to the gospel in the nation. Clearly, this is the fruit of much sowing that took place in the past. I believe that we can learn a lot from their dedication and faith.

Sadly, since being asked to write this article, Archbishop Samuel Addae has gone to be with the Lord. He was 80 years of age and leaves a great legacy in the lives of the many people he trained for ministry, who now serve both in Ghana and throughout the world.

REV. ANDY GILMOUR



Andy lives both in Staines, UK and in Ghana. For 38 years he headed up Canaan Ministries in Staines, which has a bookshop and counselling service. He is a preacher and has had an interest in Christian mission and unity for many years.



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Walking the Edges

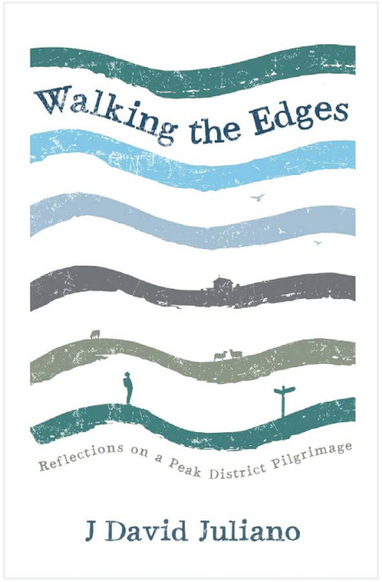
REV. J DAVID JULIANO

Instant Apostle, Nov 2026
Available from Amazon
pp 200
£12.99

After more than thirty-five years of pastoral ministry in England and in Florida, I hit a wall. Not a dramatic collapse – just the slow, grinding emptiness that many in ministry know and few admit to. I was, as we say in the American South, lower than a snake's belly.

So I did something that made no sense on paper. I flew four thousand miles, laced up my boots, and set out with my friend and mentor Jorge to walk the Peak Wesley Way: 47 miles through the Derbyshire Peak District, from Matlock Bath to Edale, linking the chapels and meeting places where Wesley and the early Methodists once preached.

Six days. Blisters. Sheep. Weather that changed its mind every twenty minutes. Chapels that smelled of furniture polish and faithfulness, and in Bakewell, Baslow, Hathersage and Castleton, ordinary Methodists quietly keeping the doors open, the kettle on, and the gospel alive in places where the numbers tell a discouraging story.



I went looking for answers and didn't find many. What I found instead was that God meets tired people on footpaths as surely as he met Wesley on the road – and that renewal often comes not from praying harder, but from putting one aching foot in front of the other and letting him walk alongside.

Walking the Edges: Reflections on a Peak District Pilgrimage is the story of that week: part travelogue, part confession, part love letter to British Methodism and the stubborn, beautiful people who make it up. It's funny in places and honest throughout.

If you've ever felt stuck – in ministry, in faith, in life – I hope it encourages you. If you're within reach of the Peak Wesley Way, I hope it gets you walking. Revival, I've come to believe, may well begin at ground level.

Rev. J David Juliano is Lead Pastor of First Sebring Methodist Church, Florida.

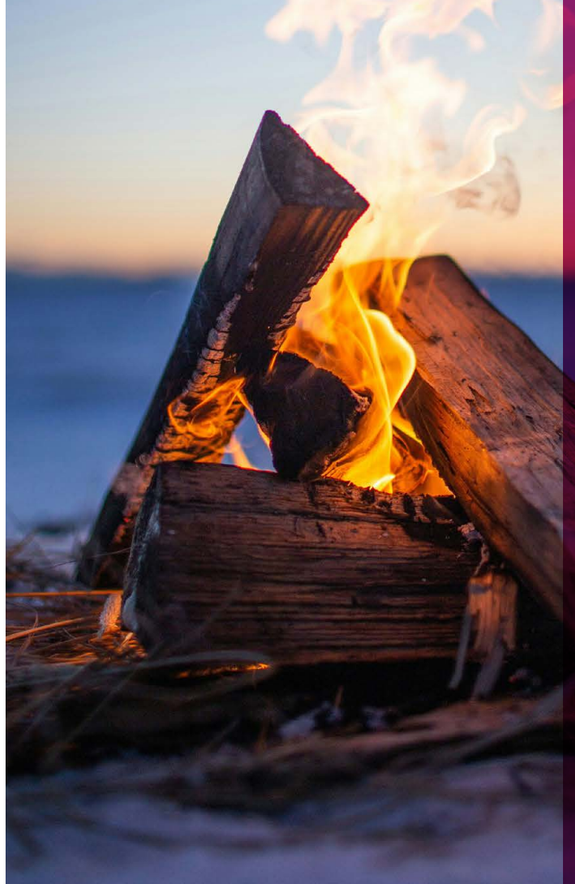




(Rev. J David Juliano is pictured centre in LH pic and right on RH pic)

O THOU WHO CAMEST FROM ABOVE

CHARLES WESLEY
(1707-1788)



O thou who camest from above
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me –

Ready for all they perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

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