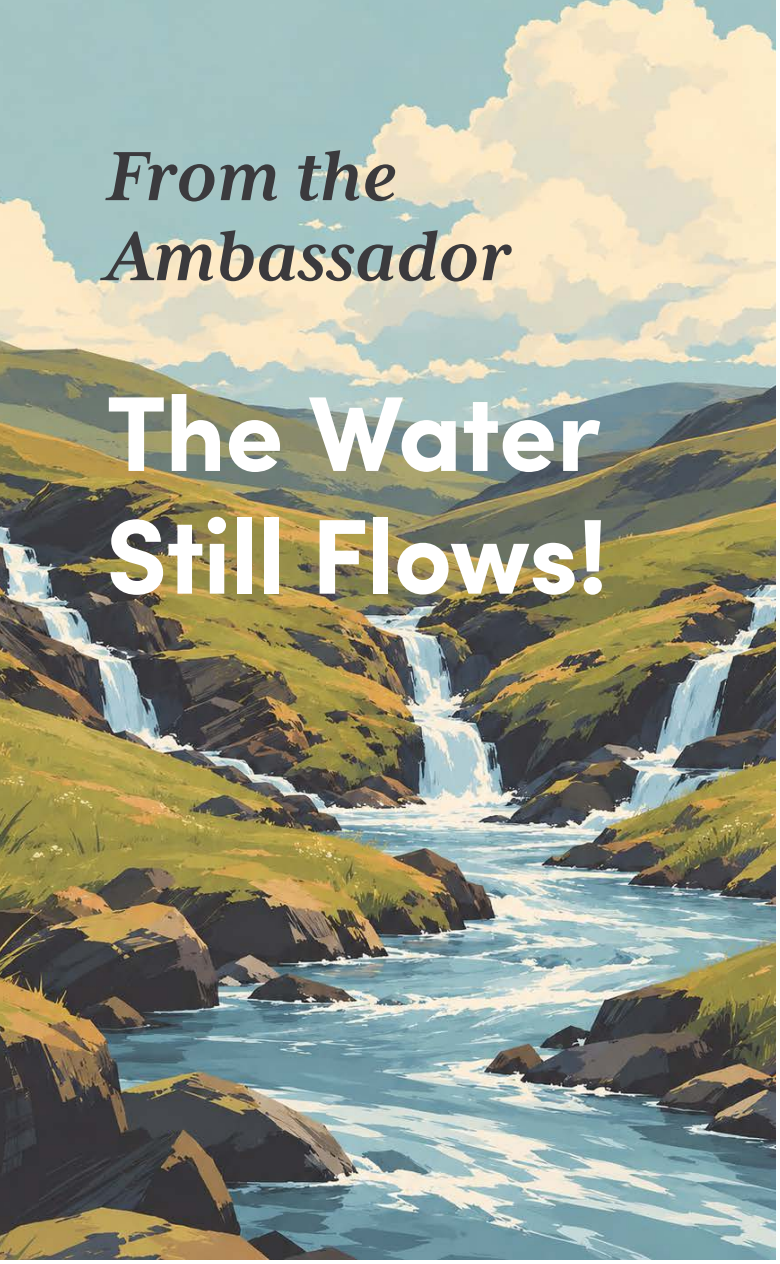


From the Ambassador

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

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