

invest

developing character and gifting for mission

Over the last three years we have seen incredible growth in all kinds of areas with our Investors. Here are just a few of their testimonies and feedback in their year spent with us.



Steven Chandanam

Invest has given me the platform and impetus to step out to do things I would not have the courage or confidence to do. More importantly it has caused me to bring change in my prayer life through the empowering and leading of the Holy Spirit. It has given me the time and space to realise that 'being' is more important than 'doing'. I

have since become more certain of my calling to encourage and strengthen the churches and champion prayer in the life of believers and churches.

During the course, I believe God was particularly speaking to me directly through these verses:

But encourage one another daily,...(Hebrews 3:13).

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

I have been intentionally putting this in practice everyday from Invest and since, which has been so beneficial in supporting and helping people through the COVID season. By the grace of God I've been remarkably unaffected by COVID in anyway to be able to keep praying and encouraging people everyday since the first lockdown. I believe Invest was a time of preparation for such a time as this.



Sarah Williamson

How have you grown/developed in your leadership role through and since Invest?

Since Invest I have been more involved in leading the studies in our housegroup. I have also led the Sunday services a few times in our Welton community. I have also formed a team at church to set up our Renew Wellbeing space that I now organise and lead. A lot of the things I've been involved in have meant doing things that are outside of my comfort zone.

I'm more willing to say yes to things that perhaps I would have said no to before Invest. I'm more willing to give things a go even if I'm not comfortable doing them at first.



Sharon Petchey

How have you grown / developed in your leadership role through and since Invest?

Leading ABC through the last two and a half years has been the most amazing blessing, we have grown in membership and have more regular attendees we have become a charity including updating constitution and all policies, I have project managed a £65k renovation and successfully written grant bids for most of

these funds so our prayerfully led plans will soon be possible.

We now have a screen, speakers and mixer to screen online service talks and music enabling us to worship completely without physical help from Cirencester (using their

talks). During lockdowns we were visible in the community and put on outside events at Christmas and Easter for the community with a Christian message. None of this would have happened without the skills and confidence I gained from Invest that I now pass onto my team.

I have taken 2 weddings and a funeral they all went really well, God is great.

I have a regular mentor for myself and I mentor our single youth member who recently with help from us and CBC led a youth service in the parish church in our village where 100 plus came to the service usually they get a dozen it was amazing.

I am so excited for the future, we may be a small church but we are prayerful and God is walking with us every step. We never look down, we trust he has bigger things for us.

How have you personally grown as a disciple of Jesus through Invest?

I have changed and continue to do so, I have far more confidence in God and understand more and more what Jesus did for me.

I'm starting to feel confident in my identity as a Christian whereas before I hid my faith rather than speak in case I drew (what I considered bad attention), now I am proud to speak up as I feel I have better tools, before I couldn't confidently answer the big questions.

Spiritually learning through reading (bible and books recommended for me) has really helped me grow.

My support network my mentor whom I met at the Webnet conference, CBC staff and Cotswold cluster ministers plus Webnet have all been there throughout. Prayer has become a much bigger thing in my life reaping rewards far outweighing my efforts, I feel very blessed that Invest has enabled all this to happen in the name of Jesus.



Clare Green

It's taken me a while to realise that being a leader isn't defined just by having a 'role' to fulfil to validate you as a leader. It's primarily about being a disciple and having the characteristics of Jesus in all you do....the rest will follow!

For many years I have found fulfilment in serving our church and God and this in itself has given me opportunities to develop my faith and love for Him. The more intimate you are with God, there is an element of wanting to do more, as I love Him and want to please Him with my acts of worship in this way.



Tom Griffiths

Firstly, my confidence has grown significantly since starting the invest course.

Talking and praying in groups or with individuals about my faith has really helped with my confidence and also having the opportunity to lead Alpha courses and a Bible Study has been a great experience.

Having a mentor to talk to and reflect with has been very helpful, encouraging and really puts things into perspective.

The zoom sessions are also helpful and are great for keeping me focused and encouraged.

I'm developing a much clearer picture of who I am- The good the bad and the ugly!!! (as Jonathan would say) I've found that to follow Jesus is challenging as well as AMAZING! Being completely honest about my short falls as well as leaning into Jesus for love, direction and encouragement is the key to everything for me. I've definitely found that keeping God in the middle of my life through regularly praying and listening comes before anything else. As soon as this slows down, so does everything else!



Becky Allison

How have you grown/ developed in your leadership role through and since invest?

I think I have become a lot more confident in my own individual abilities and recognise that I am a leader a lot more which I have tended to struggle with at times.

I am continuing to mentor a couple of people as well and also being a lot more intentional in what I am doing. I have taken on another leadership role in helping to set up our Renew Centre.

How have you personally grown as a disciple of Jesus through Invest?

I think I recognise a lot more that I can't do things in my own strength but through His strength. I am spending more time with God and reading bible/ as well as reading Christian or leadership books a lot more than I used to. I think that has helped me grow a lot more, although I could definitely improve! Regularly spending time with my mentor as well.



Rachel Howell

How have you grown / developed in your leadership role through and since Invest?

One of the goals in my plan was to develop my leadership in Housegroup and I believe I have become more confident in this, taking a lead more often, also preparing and leading studies.

The teaching sessions as well as my personal reading have encouraged me to think more broadly about Church issues.

I have also developed in my mentoring of individuals as I have learned from the course which Invest enabled me to do.

How have you personally grown as a disciple of Jesus through Invest?

Invest kick started me into reading more spiritually enlightening books which has helped to broaden my perspectives on many things.

Being on invest and being accountable to my mentor has also strengthened my Bible study and time with God.