



*He restores my soul.
Moments of Recognition*

Dear Friends,

We are still in the season of Easter. In fact, there is never a season for people of faith that is not Easter, never a time when we are not called to live in resurrection hope.

- The thing about resurrection is that the stone is rolled away. If we seek to roll it back, it settles alarmingly easily into place and closes in emptiness, darkness and fear. The question is, “Which side of the stone are we on?” Have we in the church, through our own lack of belief, trapped ourselves behind the stone and cannot find the way out? Is all we are left with the grave clothes of something that was – and is no longer?
- The thing about resurrection is that Jesus comes behind the locked doors of our fear and guilt and lostness. He comes always with the greeting, “Peace be with you.” The greeting is also a gift. Have we received it deep within our beings so that we might stand up in newness and freedom, ready to take on the world and turn it upside down?
- The thing about resurrection is that Jesus goes ahead of us into Galilee – Galilee of the nations, the place of the strangers, the unorthodox, the marginalized, those who are different, and asks us to meet him there. Have we been too cautious, too enclosed within the security of the familiar? Is that why we don’t seem to meet him so much any more?
- The thing about resurrection is that Jesus may appear to us in surprising ways and in unexpected places. We have a set image of him in our minds and we don’t want that image disturbed. We’ve lived with it for far too long and it brings us an anaesthetising comfort. But when he appears as a gardener or a traveller on the road or a stranger on the shore, and is obviously more than ever a pilgrim God who is still urging us on to come with him into unknown places and uncharted territories, we’re not sure we ‘know’ him and the temptation is to scuttle back to the womb-like safety of our particular tradition or culture. He walks on. We are left behind.
- The thing about resurrection is it’s all a bit too much – but, then, Jesus is a bit too much. Have we settled for less and missed out on the ‘much more’?
- The thing about resurrection is that it leads on to Pentecost, to empowering and enabling and stretching and challenging and, when necessary, comforting.
- The thing about resurrection is ‘Christ is risen!’



‘Friends’ enjoy an Agape meal at March Monthly Meeting

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Ruth

MONTHLY MEETING

SACRED STORY

TROSLY RETREAT

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Dates for your diary

MONTHLY
MEETING

Monday 28th April at 8.00 pm in Restoration House.

Title: **I Love You More** -
what would it mean to you as an
individual to love Jesus more?

SACRED
STORY

Sat 31 May at 10.00 am - 4.00 pm in Restoration House

Title: **Writing The Sacred Story**

A day for looking at, writing about, and listening to, our own stories in their context, paying attention to the sacredness of God at work in our lives. Specifically we will look at the two themes of Desert and Harvest. Participants will be given input, have time for writing their own stories, and then be able to listen to others' stories. They will be encouraged to give affirming feedback to one another.

Facilitators: **Jim & Heather Johnston**

Both Jim & Heather are originally from Northern Ireland. Jim is a minister & lecturer in pastoral counselling, a facilitator & a spiritual director. Heather has lectured in Pakistan, has taught in N. Ireland & South Africa, is a spiritual director and has produced books on contemplative poetry as well as materials for women's groups to use. Both lead retreats and their home, Beth Shalam, is a retreat centre in Hilton, South Africa.

**The cost of the day - including lunch - is £10
please contact Restoration House to register .**

Trosly
Retreat

La Ferme - Trosly France

Center at the heart of L'Arche of Jean Vanier near Compiègne

Friday 22 - Thursday 28th August 2008

Title: **Forgiveness & Reconciliation**
with John-Paul II and brother Roger

Facilitators: **Fr Philippe Kearney & Rev Ruth Patterson**

Limited places - please contact Restoration House for further details.