

Anglican Diocese
of Cyprus
and the Gulf

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Retreats Facilitator

KATAFIYIO RETREAT HOUSE



waiting to welcome you in 2020!

If you have never been to Katafiyio, we would like to welcome you here this year for rest, time out of your usual doing, and may be for a guided retreat.

You are welcome for just a few hours alone or with your friends. Or come and stay over night.

Come for some undistracted time to read a book, sit in the sun, have a walk, paint a picture, try some craft. Get in touch with God the way you feel works for you, or try out something new.

Katafiyio is for YOU.
Do be in touch.



We are pleased that our new volunteer Caretakers, Dave and Jacqui Hewitson (pictured above), will be joining us for 2 years at the end of March.

An occasional letter 16: 13 January 2020



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Welcome

“The act of welcoming, the experience of being welcome, the call both to receive and to pass on a welcome, are central to Christian faith and theology, because the hospitality at the heart of both is also in the heart of God.” (Rev Dr Malcolm Guite, *Retreats 2019* magazine.)

The retreats ministry of the Diocese has ‘welcome’ at its heart.

The retreats on Cyprus over the last few months at St George Church, Troodos, St Barnabas Church, Limassol, and at Katafiyio, have welcomed those keen to take time out and listen to God who welcomes.

There will be other opportunities of welcome in the coming months in:

St Luke Church, Ras Al Kaimah, UAE, 25-31 January - Retreat in Daily Life.

St Andrew Church, Abu Dhabi, 9-13 February - Retreat in Daily Life.

St Paul Church, Nicosia, 29 February - Reflective Morning with Rev Mark Chadwick, UN Padre.

St Helena Church, Larnaca, 14 March, retreat day with Rev Roy Shaw, visiting spiritual director, Cyprus.

St Barnabas Church, Limassol, 30 April, Easter Quiet Morning with Canon Andrew Mayes, Spirituality Advisor.

A Poem of Welcome

*Something you may find
helpful to meditate on.*

Welcome,
The word is always on
your lips,
Each welcome warms
another one inside,
An interleaving of relationships,
An open door where arms
are open wide.
First welcome to the child
and through the child
A welcome to the Saviour
of the world,
And through the Saviour's
welcome all are called
Home to the Father's
heart.

Each call is curled
And nested in another,
as you were
Nested and nested in your
mother's womb,
As Mary carried One who
carried her,
And we are wrapped in
you, deep in the tomb,
Where you turn our
rejection into welcome,
And death itself becomes
our welcome home.

(Malcolm Guite,
*Parable and
Paradox*)



An Exercise

As we enter 2020 you may like to consider how you might be welcoming in this new year.

Notice where God is welcoming you in your days - through friends, strangers, places you go, what you listen to, what you see, etc.



Try opening your arms each day as a sign of welcoming God into your life and activities.

How could you pass on that welcome to others you meet each day - possibly in a word, a smile, an action?

Spiritual Direction/ Accompaniment,

is one way of giving and receiving welcome. Sitting with someone, sharing confidentially whatever is on your heart, can be very life-giving in a world where many are only welcomed when they conform or ‘fit’. Do be in touch if you would like to try meeting with someone who would welcome you and your story, helping you to see where God is in it all.