

XIII Take a risk!!

I confess to not being good at taking a risk. I like to know where I am and what's happening. Perhaps I just like to be in control. It was therefore a very big thing for me to go on retreat. That really was a jump into unknown territory. On the other hand, when you know that God is with you and wants you to be there, what is there to be frightened of? Have a look at Isaiah chapter 43.

There are those who argue we have to take risks in our churches. Members have become so used to ways of doing things they have forgotten to ask whether those ways are still appropriate. What happens when someone new comes to your church? Is it enough to offer a word of welcome? Would you dare to invite them to your house, or, if that is a step too far, meet them in a local coffee shop.

More importantly, what about your own life of faith? What is it that feeds you and sustains you? Do you find an hour on Sunday sufficient? Do you need to attend a house group or fellowship group? Have you grown enough in faith and there is no further progress to be made? What would it be like to sit in another pew? to go to another service? to try another way of praying? to go on retreat? to have a quiet day? to find a soul friend or spiritual director? to organise for local churches a week of guided prayer?

Some of those things feel scary. God might take you out of your comfort zone. The biblical witness argues very strongly that when people take risks big things happen. The obvious example is that of Abraham taking the risk of going into the unknown. The life of faith is about risks, the ultimate risk being that of placing our lives into the hands of God. He might even be inviting you to go on retreat. Go on, take a risk. You know you can do it – with Her help.

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