

YOU ARE INVITED!

LIVING WITH LOSS – “TEA ROOM GATHERING” RETREAT

Tuesday 20 – Friday 23 August 2019 (4 days/3 nights)

Hosted by Abi and John May

At The House of the Open Door, Childswickham, near Evesham, Worcestershire.

Cost: £250 (£230 for those sharing a room)

This relaxed retreat is only open to those who have already participated in a “Living with Loss” retreat and will be a small event, up to 9 participants, unless some people share rooms. (There are 9 rooms available, all double or multi-bedded.)

The idea of this retreat is to provide a safe space to explore the issues relating to loss that you are continuing to deal with, and an opportunity to spend time with others who are also coping with loss and the changed circumstances of their lives.

The “Tea Room” in the title refers to the illustration of a retreat being somewhat like a Tea Room you might find on a long walk - somewhere to pause, to speak with other people about their experiences, to get refreshed and rested, perhaps to pick up some maps (information) – before each of us continue our own journey onwards.

The goal of our time together is to be strengthened for our individual onward journey.

Programme

Arrival on Tuesday after lunch, ready for tea and coffee, with our **starting session at 4:00 pm**.

Departure on Friday mid-afternoon (after lunch) **around 4:00 pm**.

We will have a flexible programme, based on the comments received before and during the retreat.

The programme will be looser than at other Living with Loss retreats. There will be a devotional/reflective session at the start of each morning, and possibly a short structured session later in the day.

Besides this, we will spend our time together with:

- Discussions
- Creative writing and poetry
- Craft (there is a nice craft room)
- Walks and/or sightseeing
- Candelighting remembrance on one of the evenings.
- We can repeat any popular activities from earlier retreats, as requested.

All activities will be optional and you will be welcome to rest, reflect and/or head out to explore on your own if that is what you prefer.

Discussion topics: We will be sending around a questionnaire beforehand, closer to the time, to find out the themes you would like to discuss. We can also revisit topics from previous retreats, by request.

There should be opportunity for those who wish it to have an individual pastoral chat with Abi or John.

The location

The House of the Open Door is an ecumenical Christian Community and Retreat Centre in the Cotswolds.

<http://www.houseoftheopendoor.org/>

Childswickham House, Childswickham, Worcs. WR12 7HH

It is a beautiful 17th century property. Our retreat will be held in one or both of the two Retreat Houses so it will be quiet and cosy.

The meals are very nice, and all diets are catered for.

The Centre is located on the edge of the quiet village of Childswickham, two miles from Broadway in the Vale of Evesham. For those who enjoy a good walk in beautiful scenery, the Centre is surrounded by excellent walking country on the edge of the Cotswold Hills with an abundance of pretty 'olde worlde' villages.

This is a link to some of the attractions in the area: <https://www.visit-broadway.co.uk/things-to-do/attractions.php>

The nearest railway station is Evesham, about 5 miles. We can arrange to ferry people to/from the station if you arrive by train.

Accommodation

There are two houses for guests – the Retreat House and the Cottage. We will only have use of the Cottage if we have sufficient numbers.

There are 7 rooms in the Retreat House and 3 rooms in the Cottage. All rooms are double or multi-bedded, and the house has disabled access. Rooms are not ensuite. You can find out more about the accommodation at this link: <http://www.houseofthependoor.org/the-retreat-centre/>

Booking

The cost for this retreat is £250 for a sole occupancy room, and £230 for those sharing a room. This includes all meals, snacks, activity materials, and so on.

We will need to receive confirmed reservations and deposit of £75 as early as possible in order to make sure that we can go ahead with the retreat, as it depends on at least six people booking.

The final date for deposits is 20th April 2019.

Deposits are refundable up until 20th April, if you need to cancel for any reason.

If there are insufficient numbers by 20th April, we will return your deposits.

The balance is payable by 20th July 2019.

We are sorry we are not able to offer bursaries, as this charge is only sufficient to cover our expenses.

Although the retreat programme will end at 4 pm on Friday 20th, it may be possible to extend your stay by one more night if you wish – if so, meals will still be provided, and obviously there will be an extra charge. This is not certain yet and we will let you know.

Unlike most retreats where the host location took care of the administration, this time we are taking care of the bookings. All communications about this retreat should be sent directly to Abi, and not to the House of the Open Door

If you have any questions, please ask by email livingwithloss@btinternet.com, or phone me on 07740 645003 or 0845 643 0484.

If you are fairly certain you'd like to attend, please let me know so I can get a general idea of how many people are interested. (There may be still others from further retreats we're holding over the next 6 months).

If you are ready to book, please let me know and I will send you a booking form and payment details.

Please note that the event will only go ahead with a minimum of 6 participants. We will return any deposits received before 20th April if by then we do not have sufficient numbers.