

THE MEN'S RETREAT

They thought about it with some care,
And then made the decision to be there.
A first-time experience for most,
And many not even knowing the host.
Swansea was where we had to arrive,
And just a leisurely two hour drive.

Bringing a pillow and sleeping bag was the deal.
Which always conjures a camping-out feel.
But this was a beach house with a roof overhead,
And each had their own nice soft bed.
There was a large kitchen and lounge as well,
And a toilet – a relief to all, I could tell.

The Retreat agenda was unknown to most,
To be revealed in due time by Phil, our host.
But a male's anxious thoughts always intrude.
What if I don't like someone with ego and is rude?
What if I can't find the words to share?
And what if I can't open my heart to care?

Twelve males were called to be there.
Knowing it would be a time to serve and to share,
Inhibitions being cast aside.
As well as arrogance, selfishness and pride.
Replaced by another worthier kind of light,
A special bonding of souls, that seemed just right.

Now, there is no way I can expose what was said,
But rather to relate the blessings instead.
Each one brought their own talents to share,
And some were able to lay their hearts bare.
Listening to what others have done,
And sharing experiences with laughs and fun.

There was a time for laughter and a time for prayer,
So many blessings, just for being there,
God's anointing was on those lives and in that place.
Confirmed by the responses and look on each face.
Sincerity and trust were there from the start,
Whatever was said came right from the heart.

Chains were broken, new friendships made,
And problems quickly started to fade.
Replaced by a new hope and attitude,
Giving Our Lord the eternal gratitude.
The unity of Christian beliefs was evident to see,
Just the way Our Lord would want it to be.

Bryan Gee
11th November 2007

A dedication to the Dynamic Dozen, who gave their commitment, knowledge, wisdom, humour and unconditional friendship.

**“We came to the Men's Retreat as 12 individuals,
We returned home, bonded as one.”**