



# Waystations

Nurturing faith and creating migratory paths

“The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty” Gen 47:9

Butterflies,  
Odilon Redon,  
wikiart.org



## Questions

A need for inns on roads, islands in seas,  
Halts for discoveries to be shared,  
Maps checked, notes compared  
*ASJ Tessimond, Not love perhaps (extract)*

In what ways am I the recipient of waystations; sources of  
nurture for the expansive and further journey of faith?

In what ways may I contribute to waystations for others?

Can I describe my current pilgrimage in terms of needs  
and desires?

## Reading material

- Alan Jamieson's *Chrysalis: The hidden transformation in the journey of faith*. Chapter 11, pp. 100-105
- Steve Aisthorpe's *The invisible church*

## Planting resource rich waystations on migration routes: a B&B mentality

In the USA there have been concerns for the monarch butterfly, its feeding patches being reduced. The call for waystations (monarch habitats) to be planted in home gardens, at schools, and on other unused plots of land, along migration paths has been made and answered by locals. In various parts of Scotland plans are being implemented to expand and join native woodlands to help develop habitat networks that a more expansive movement of wildlife, hemmed in over many years, may be supported and species may become more robust in the face of climate change.

‘Monarch waystations’ are intermediate stations for the journey providing desperately needed food sources on the butterflies’ migration routes.’

*Alan Jamieson*

Similarly the deep desire to journey (for the love of God, as early pilgrims put it) has meant some shift in habitat for many people: searching for, drawing on and giving to wider faith contexts. To join, extend and add to native faith through resources and contexts can happen through small groups, spiritual direction, books, church communities, blogs, poets. Diverse mini-cultures need hospitable places in order to grow.

The research of Steve Aisthorpe of the Church of Scotland has highlighted that many of those people who have left traditional church structures are not giving up on living out their faith or sharing it with others but on the contrary, they leave out of a sense of deepening faith and a desire to be more present to their own lives and their neighbours.

*(see also The pictures within, Volume 10, Coracle magazine available on the website)*

For many wayfarers\* waystations will be a place to alight, to be refreshed and then be beckoned on again.

*Alan Jamieson*

*\*people who leave churches who are exploring ways forward as Christians in a new context (Jamieson)*

**The Coracle Trust - Helping transition in faith through the life stages**

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