



## Gallery into Oratory

East Gallery, Bishop's Palace, Wells;  
windows of light, in and on three  
walls.

At the previous evening's preview,  
people gathered without gathering,  
and looked without seeing.

In the peace of a fresh morning,  
the gallery becomes oratory,  
flowing with your presence.

I bring a chair to sit  
and gaze, amazed, at you,  
the Saviour and Giver of Life.

I peer through wood and tempera  
to you, the Peerless One.  
You see through my appearances,  
and pierce flesh and temperament.

Your right hand gives  
the sign of bread and blessing;  
your left hand holds  
the Word of life and love.

To you, I give thanks for saving me;  
to you, I turn and return my life.

Though icons are unsigned,  
Silvia's love for you  
shines through and through.

She is the woman who  
wipes the hair of her brush  
on your face and neck,  
your hands and garments,  
pouring out her life.

Signing the invoice,  
my inner voice sighs:  
Pearl without Price,  
owning nothing, I owe everything  
to you, the Only One.

Through the abundance of your face,  
flow the subtleties of your grace,  
knowing, guiding, anointing,  
searching, guarding, sending.

Graham Kings

Mary Magdalene's Day, 22 July  
2007, on the icon  
'Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Giver  
of Life', by Silvia Dimitrova,  
during an exhibition at Wells.