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VINTAGE ADVENTURE

@ HOME

THE GIFT OF GARDENS

With our best wishes

Messy Vintage

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 

Dear Friends,

We hope that you find encouragement from this month's Vintage Adventure pack. The gardens in our local parks, famous gardens and our humble back yards or balconies are all bursting with colour and fragrance at this time of year. As we look at the variety of God's creation we cannot fail to be in awe of such beauty. Even the dandelions gracing our grass verges brighten up our day!

Flowers often hold memories don't they? Maybe a special occasion such as a wedding or from a simple bouquet from a thoughtful friend. You may even have a flower which was pressed in order to keep something special from that moment in time. I have a particular houseplant which reminds me of when I was very young, maybe you have too.

Our Heavenly Father has given us so much to enjoy. It's our desire that this pack not only brightens your day but reminds you that our Heavenly Father, the one who created such beauty is only a breath away. He values you so much more than the rest of His creation.

We pray that you are blessed today. Do let us know about your favourite flowers, and don't forget to get in touch if we can help support you.

*With love and blessings,
Margaret and all the Caraway Team x*

WORSHIP

The Gift of Gardens

Opening Scripture

Psalm 46:10

*"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth"*

Prayer

Father God, we take a few moments to pause and be still in Your presence and acknowledge that You are God ...

We thank You that you are sovereign over all that You give us to embrace and to enjoy. You give us much to delight in and we worship You, our God, and receive with gratitude all You richly provide, surveying the wonders of the vast universe and yet gazing upon the smallest intricate detail of the natural world which surrounds us.

Bible verse

Genesis 1:11

Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation – every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came". And that is what happened.

Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Gracious God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:
Gracious God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light:
Gracious God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given;
Graces human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
Gracious God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

John Rutter Public Domain

Reflection

We have only to look at our gardens to see a reflection of all that is beautiful in our universe. The first chapter of Genesis tells us that God approved of all His handiwork, repeating several times "and God saw that it was good". Undoubtedly He is pleased when we recognise the beauty of our world and thank Him for it. God has put beautiful sounds and sights in the gardens we see and enjoy – He gave us ears and eyes to take them in, and minds to interpret what we see and hear, finding joy in the singing of the birds and delight in the colour, smell and touch of wonderfully crafted flowers and even the taste of the season's first fruits carefully nurtured to ripeness.

Bible reading

Colossians 2:6-7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Prayer

Lord, just as roots have to grow strong and deep to give a plant the nourishment it needs to grow and flourish, help me to be rooted and strengthened in my relationship with You. Help me to learn more about You every day, digging deep into Your Word and seeking your guidance and help. Let me draw my life-giving strength from you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn

Your Word is like a garden, Lord,
With flowers bright and fair;
And everyone who seeks may pluck
A lovely cluster there.
Your Word is like a deep, deep mine;
And jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths
For every searcher there.

Your Word is like a starry host:
A thousand rays of light
Are seen to guide the traveller,
And make his pathway bright.
Your Word is like an armoury,
Where soldiers may repair,
And find, for life's long battle-day,
All needful weapons there.

O may I love your precious Word,
May I explore the mine.
May I its fragrant flowers glean,
May light upon me shine.
O may I find my armour there,
Your Word my trusty sword;
I'll learn to fight with every foe
The battle of the Lord.

Edwin Hodder (1837-1904)

Reflection

There are some public gardens with signs saying "Don't pick the flowers" - or we have an understanding that we shouldn't pick them - but in the garden of God's Word we read "Help yourself"! In a garden there is a vast variety and profusion of fruits, flowers, insects, birds and trees and there is nothing that doesn't have its use and beauty. So it is with the words of the Bible. We may need to dig deep but we will find everything we need to nurture our souls, strengthen our spirits and create the beauty of a life lived in union with Christ.

Assurance

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.

Reflection

We know and trust in the Lord's assurances, but we acknowledge that life isn't always a bed of roses. In gardens plants sometimes don't grow, or they take too long to grow; perhaps they get damaged or diseased. They die. We too – and those we care about - seem sometimes not to develop and grow spiritually or seem to take a long time to grow. We too experience damage or disease, and death. Yet all the while God is working His purposes out, His timing is perfect and He provides the nourishment and sustenance we need, as we rest in trustful dependence on Him and draw our guidance and strength from Him. God created many wonderful things and you, created in His image, are the pinnacle of His creation. His best work ever. One of His original masterpieces. What God created He will not abandon and, through all the circumstances of our lives, He whispers into our hearts and minds ... so will you trust me?

Hymn

Let's rejoice in the gift of gardens...

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven
Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's re-creation of the new day
Eleanor Farjeon

Closing Prayer

Let's rejoice in God and all His good gifts...

O Lord, Our God, we praise you that each new day we have so much to thank you for in your presence and in your provision; for the way you use our natural world to reveal your character, your nurture and care, and for the beauty and joy you enable us to experience as we respond to such generosity. And, more than anything else, we thank you that we are your children, created in your image and embraced into relationship with you through Jesus. How wonderful! We dwell once again on these words:-

"Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"

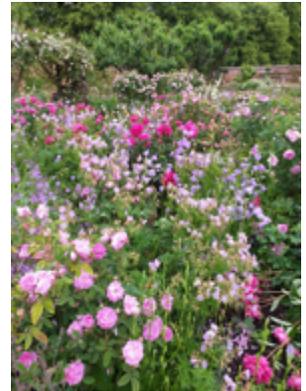
We exalt Your holy name, O Lord.
Amen.

REFLECTION

Have you every been for a walk with a friend enjoying a good old chat as you walked? Perhaps you can remember a time when you visited a friend or relative and they showed you around their garden? Most probably the conversation became a time of sharing thoughts, growing tips, remembering past events and so on. The time spent with the friend or relative became a precious time of sharing and of closeness. At these times friendships and relationships are nurtured.

I wonder if you have ever considered having a walk with God? Or if you do currently walk with God, how this relationship could be deepened?

In the first book of the Bible we read how Adam and Eve walked with God. We read in Genesis Chapter 2 how God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden. We often think of Adam as the very first gardener, but it was God who first planted the garden and then He created Adam to live in the garden and to look after it. In the garden were trees for food, the tree of life and tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It had a river to water the garden which divided into four river heads. I am always amazed at the variety of plants, flowers and trees of God's creation. The variety in colour, shades, shape, fragrance, growing habit, fruit etc. When He decided to create a rose, it wasn't just one form or colour - but in fact today there are over 30,000 different varieties of roses. Some have been bred in more recent years but all from that initial DNA and plant stock! What an extravagant God! That is just one type of flower. There are over 60,065 species of trees in the world. Tall ones, shorter ones, some dark green, some pale green, some evergreen and others deciduous. The garden of Eden must have been an incredible place. The fragrance of the flowers must have been awesome!



In this most idyllic of situations, we read how Adam and Eve sinned and when they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, ran and hid themselves from His presence among the trees. Although it doesn't actually say so, we can assume that it was a natural occurrence for God to walk with them "in the garden in the cool of the day" for the purpose of fellowship and enjoyment. There isn't anything to suggest that this was a "one-off" event. They took a walk together - they were speaking together and sharing thoughts. This conveys the beautiful picture of God, the Creator of the universe wanting to have a relationship with His creation.

What an amazing picture of the Lord God Almighty walking in the garden of His creation at the cool of the day. I wonder what the sound was like? Maybe Adam and Eve could hear the swish of the leaves moving as He passed by, or maybe His footsteps? It must have been a sound they were familiar with. Perhaps this happened every evening - God walking amongst His creation, the freshness of the cool evening breeze, breathing in the fragrance of the evening blooms, listening to the evensong of the birds, looking at what He had formed and enjoying it, because He said "It was good". What a picture!

There is something special too about the cool of the evening. I like walking in my garden at that time of day. As the light starts to fade the bird song becomes intense before a hush settles over the garden. Bees and other insects who have been so busy throughout the heat of the day are now resting. There seems to be a peace which rests on the garden in the evening. I wonder if that is because God is walking there? I wonder what it would be like to walk with God in the garden in the cool of the evening. God walking by my side, asking me how my day went, pointing out a gorgeous plant or flower, and encouraging and teaching me?

Whilst gardens are special to God as a place where He walked and where He placed man whom He had created, many of us no longer have gardens where we can go to seek God's presence, as Adam probably did. Thankfully we know that He is with us always, in every situation and where ever we are. As you sit reading this now, why not just pause and experience His presence?

When God comes on the scene everything changes. He brings a peace and calmness to our troubled minds and a joy to our hearts. God's presence provides comfort in times of trouble or anxiety and He brings us strength and encouragement. His presence is a place where prayer is heard and a place of blessing. He desires to walk with you and me as much as he did with Adam and Eve. He wants our lives to be transformed into a joyful relationship with him regardless of the circumstances we live in.

Do you daily tell God your concerns, hopes, dreams, struggles, and thank Him for daily blessings? Walking with God is as simple as that. Having a "one to one" chat with a close friend. Likewise, the longer we walk closely with God, the better we will know Him. He is a God of relationship, who loves each of us. David proclaims, "in your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Have a go at "walking with God" in your living room and in your situation right now. He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, who loves you more than you could ever imagine and who is waiting - just for you.

THE GARDEN AND THE GARDENER



JOHN 20: 11-16

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

I was fortunate to visit the Holy Land in 2019 on a pilgrimage; during our time in Jerusalem, I visited the Garden Tomb, which you can see in this photo. There is much debate about whether this is actually the tomb in which Jesus was buried, but there is no doubt that the family tomb in which Joseph of Arimathea placed Jesus would have been similar to this (John 19: 38-42). As a wealthy Jew, Joseph's family would have owned a rock-cut tomb as illustrated in this picture and the body would have been wrapped in a shroud, sometimes placed in a coffin, and then laid in the tomb.

In this passage, we join Mary as she visits the tomb, to grieve quietly in the space of this garden, for the loss of her friend, her Saviour, and in distress discovers that the tomb is empty, that Jesus has gone. There is no description of the garden, but we can assume that the tomb is set perhaps amongst olive trees or is at least somewhere that would have required a

gardener, as through her tears, Mary wrongly identifies Jesus as the gardener!

So, I love that the setting of the empty tomb, becomes the 'Garden of the Resurrection', the place where we can find hope in new beginnings, where lives are restored, where tears turn to joy and the place where we discover that Jesus knows our name, understands our grief and pain, and gently renews and restores us, giving us a new perspective on what lies ahead.

After these last months of isolation, of lives restricted, of separation from friends and family, from gathering in church or sharing a meal together, many of us perhaps feel like Mary, bereft, at a loss and looking for hope. Mary needed a new perspective on the reality she perceived; the tomb is empty, Jesus is dead and now gone, and yet all the time, Jesus is present in the garden with her! In her grief, she doesn't see the truth before her and it isn't until Jesus says her name, that she looks up and sees Jesus looking at her, that she then understands the new reality that will begin to change her life forever. What an unimaginably wonderful moment for Mary! But this is a moment that Jesus wants each of us to experience too. Jesus also calls us by name, always reassuring us of his constant presence during the whole of our lives, including through a pandemic.

I don't know how you're feeling today, but you may find it helpful to read this passage through slowly, perhaps taking time to imagine the scene, the peace in the garden, the early morning dew, the birdsong, the scent of a shrub. Then simply tell God about situations in your own life which perhaps seem hopeless, bring sadness or where you just need a little encouragement; be honest, God wants to listen to you, hear your stories, including your struggles and then through your tears listen to Jesus say your name. Be aware that Jesus is present with you, is calling you by name, and when like Mary, you look up and recognise him, you too will know the encompassing, everlasting love that Jesus has for you, and the eternal hope that lies ahead.

A BLIND GIRL IN THE ORCHARD

An extract from Helen Keller, The Story of My Life, 1903

Everything that could hum, or buzz, or bloom, had a part in my education – noisy-throated frogs, katydids and crickets held in my hand until, forgetting their embarrassment, they trilled their reedy note, little downy chickens and wildflowers, the dogwood blossoms, meadow-violets and budding fruit trees. I felt the bursting cotton-bolls and fingered their soft fibre and fuzzy seeds; I felt the low sighing of the wind through the cornstalks, the silky rustling of the long leaves, and the indignant snort of my pony, as we caught him in the pasture and put the bit in his mouth – ah me! how well I remember the spicy, clovery smell of his breath!

Sometimes I rose at dawn and stole into the garden while the heavy dew lay on the grass and flowers. Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of the lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror, as the little creature became aware of a pressure from without.

Another favourite haunt of mine was the orchards, where the fruit ripened early in July. The large, downy peaches would reach themselves into my hand, and as the joyous breezes flew about the trees the apples tumbled at my feet. Oh, the delight with which I gathered up the fruit in my pinafore, pressed my face against the smooth cheeks of the apples, still warm from the sun, and skipped back to the house!



Helen Keller 1880-1968, was born in Alabama, and lost her sight and hearing through illness at 19 months. Until she was 7 she communicated through home signs, but then she met Annie Sullivan who taught her language and speech and the ability to read and write. Her first lessons involved spelling words into her hand. Later she learned the Tadoma method of communication involving feeling the speaker's mouth, cheeks and throat. She was the first deaf blind person to gain a BA at Radcliffe College at Harvard University. She was a prolific author and lecturer and campaigned for people with disabilities, women's suffrage, labour rights and world peace. The story of Keller and Sullivan was made famous by her 1903 autobiography, followed by stage adaptations under the title *The Miracle Worker*, both translated into many languages.

(With thanks to Wikipedia)

Spiritual wisdom from my garden: 6 lessons to encourage growth

Ruth Clemence

I consider myself an amateur gardener who would love to be amazing at it. I really enjoy getting stuck in and will give it a good go, but it's an act of faith to see what will grow and a lot of the time I don't really know what I'm doing.

Being a follower of Jesus can feel a bit like that for me too. I'm willing and enthusiastic but waiting for change in my life doesn't always look the way I think it should. Sin can sprout up like weeds and it's hard to contend with. I can feel wilted rather than strong in my faith. Sometimes I think, 'Have I missed something vital for growth as a Christian?' Spending time in the garden and reflecting on my faith have helped me realise a few ways where gardening and growing in the Christian faith marry up.

Gardening can teach us spiritual lessons.

1. Gain wisdom from seasoned gardeners

My father-in-law got me started with gardening by helping me to choose plants and ensuring I used the right tools for the job. He knew what he was talking about from experience and I soaked up his knowledge enthusiastically. His advice has



served me well and I've seen my flowers grow beautifully. In a similar way, I think it's important to listen to wisdom from Christians who have walked through the highs and lows of faith and can impart their experience graciously. They can serve as encouragers and help equip individuals on their own faith journey.

2. Beware of hidden pests

One piece of advice that I didn't follow was to regularly check for slugs and snails as they would ruin the foliage. I checked half-heartedly and intermittently which unfortunately meant some of my marigolds died. That reminded me of what happens when sin is left unchecked. People may look like they have it all together, but the reality of what is going on in the heart is seen by God alone. Sin and death are not pretty things, but God doesn't leave us this way – he gives us life to its fullest (John 10:10) and has given us everlasting life through Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

3. Deadheading is necessary for growth

Another valuable piece of advice was to pull away the dead heads of the flowers to encourage new growth and strengthen the plant. If the dead heads of the plant are not removed, it will go to seed and stop producing flowers. While we're on this earth, things may creep into the heart that go unnoticed and do great harm. Jesus removes the dead heads, sometimes through painful pruning in trials and challenges, so that our character is refined and we blossom into holiness.

4. Watering is vital to life

We need water to live. That is true for the flowers in my garden and my life as a

Christian. I water the flowers in the evening when it's cool and allow the water to run deep into the soil. It gives time for the moisture to be taken up into the plant before the

heat of the day arrives. I find that I need to spend time with God every day to prepare me for the challenges of life that can hit me like the noonday heat. As I pursue God in prayer, reading his word and spending time with



other believers who encourage, support and spur me on, I am being watered in my faith. It strengthens me, builds me up and results in growth.

5. Gardening is a labour of love

If I want a well-kept garden with delightful flowers, I need to look after it. I need to make time for it, even when I don't feel like watering the plants, digging up the weeds or investing time where I could be doing something else. To see growth in our lives and the lives of others requires sacrificial living and loving our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus laid down his life sacrificially for all of humanity and said 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). That's real, unfailing, unconditional love. My garden would be a botanical paradise if it experienced love like this.

6. It's exciting to see plants bearing fruit

When the first ripe strawberry appeared, I wasted no time in picking it, washing it and cutting it in half to share with my husband. We wasted no time in enjoying the fruit of our labour. It made me think of the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is something beautiful and exciting in a Christian's life when the Holy Spirit works to transform us into the likeness of Jesus. If I get that excited by one ripe strawberry, how much more excitement there will be as I experience the fruit of the Spirit in my life and the lives of others?

There are plenty of lessons for the Christian life if we pay attention to what is around us. The Lord is sowing his truth daily and I pray that hearts will be prepared like good, fertile soil ready to receive Jesus and be rooted, watered and established in his love.

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<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/spiritual-wisdom-from-my-garden-6-lessons-to-encourage-growth/129831.htm>

Ruth Clemence is a freelance writer and award-winning blogger based in Devon. She can also be found writing at www.ruthclemence.com and on Twitter [@ruth the writer](https://twitter.com/ruth_the_writer).

How To Plant Your Garden

First, you come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses.

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

Plant three rows of peas

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul



Plant four rows of squash

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness



Plant four rows of lettuce

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



No garden is without turnips

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends



Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

A Walk in the Park

Southampton City Council
are responsible for the Parks across the City

A very handy map is included in your pack.
It shows the full extent of the open spaces
and green places across the City.

We take you on a walk around some of the
Parks in Southampton with photos showing us
how fortunate we are to have such beautiful
gardens we can enjoy for free in this City.

We started our walk in the Houndwell Park area of the city and then into the Central Parks



The Bandstand, Palmerston Park, SO14 1ND

No scheduled events due to COVID. But maybe in the future.

The park is well serviced by bus routes. Some research may be required to find your nearest bus.

For those living further out of the City, refer to the Open Spaces map may help.



Carefully crossing New Road we entered the next section of the Central Park



This photo indicates just how close the Park is to the main shopping area.

We should be very proud of our Parks. Not too many large Cities have a park so close to the Centre. Maybe this will inspire you, if able, to venture out on a nice day and enjoy them.

My Favourite Plants

This picture shows my latest indoor garden. It is a group of 5 different plants with interesting leaves. In the daytime they tend to spread out horizontally but in the evening they fold up vertically, consequently they are commonly called prayer plants as they remind people of praying hands.

Chris



We loved going to the local woods with Mum and Dad when we were children, coming back with armfuls of bluebells to put in vases (those were the days when there were no restrictions on picking wild flowers). Bluebells – or “blubbles” as my Dad called them – were his favourite flowers and now bring back fond memories whenever we walk through the bluebell woods in Royal Victoria Country Park – a beautiful carpet of colour each April. *Jenny*

Ever since childhood my favourite flower has been the sweet pea. I love the range of colours, from pure white to deep reds and purples and many shades in between. I also think the perfume is truly unbeatable, and the delicate shape of the flower with its intriguing tendrils to be just wonderful.

I have many happy childhood memories of sweet peas, from being taken to flower shows and experiencing the heady perfume of the sweet peas as you enter the tent, to being taken to visit an elderly family friend who grew sweet peas as a hobby. He would take me into his garden, give me a pair of scissors and tell me I could cut as many sweet peas as I wished. For me, that was a real dream come true experience! *Marion*



Here are some of the roses from our garden *Margaret*



“Mum in a Million” - a Mother’s Day gift from one of our daughters. It has the most heavenly fragrance



Name unknown - but it has a wonderful old fashioned fragrance and is a firm favourite

“Compassion” - a thank you gift from a neighbour



Rosa “Salvation” - named after the Salvation Army - given to my Dad (a lifelong member) on one of his last birthdays.



“Margaret Merrill” - given to me by a friend on a very special birthday!



“Ruby Wedding” - a gift on the occasion of our Ruby Wedding Anniversary



“Crimson Glory” - an old fashioned rose with glorious scent. As it was my parents’ favourite, it reminds me of them.

WORDSEARCH

Creation Garden Genesis 2-3

H	P	S	A	G	S	G	A	M	X	A	P
E	H	D	R	C	N	N	I	S	E	R	E
L	W	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	N	D	F
P	S	T	H	P	T	S	V	Y	O	O	G
E	L	A	R	O	M	A	T	I	C	O	O
R	A	A	W	R	D	E	W	O	L	F	D
R	M	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	I
E	I	E	U	T	M	P	O	N	A	U	E
E	N	V	C	R	E	A	T	U	R	E	S
S	A	E	E	V	V	D	N	O	D	D	H
Y	K	S	D	R	I	B	T	R	E	E	S
A	S	E	T	H	L	S	R	G	N	N	I

ANIMALS	GARDEN	PLANTED	AROMATIC
GOLD	PLEASING	BIRDS	GOOD
RESIN	CREATURES	GROUND	RIVER
EAST	HEADWATERS	SKY	EDEN
HELPER	TREES	EVIL	KNOWLEDGE
WATERING	FLOWED	LIVING	WOMAN
FOOD	MAN		

The Language of Flowers

In Victorian times having a symbolism relating to each flower became very popular. It was called floriography. Often flowers delivered secret messages, and they still do today to some extent, as a red rose sent especially around St. Valentine's day is a well known symbol of love.



FLOWER	MEANING
Red flowers	Passion, love and affection. Red flowers are also used to symbolise courage, respect and desire too. Red is the universal symbol of Christmas cheer.
Pink flowers	Pink flowers have different meanings in different cultures. They usually represent grace, joy and innocence. In Thailand, they are a symbol of trust, in China, they represent good fortune and in Japan, they symbolise good health. In Western cultures, pink flowers are used to represent femininity and playfulness.
Yellow flowers	Yellow flowers have the meaning of joy and light heartedness, happiness and friendship, The yellow rose symbolises both friendship and joy.
White flowers	White flowers have a meaning of purity, humility and innocence. In Asian countries however they symbolise death and mourning. White roses reverence, humility and innocence. Lilies indicate purity, innocence and sympathy.
Tulips	Tulips have a meaning of perfect love, if they are red tulips it will indicate your one true love.
Carnations	Carnations have a meaning of love and fascination. Red carnations will symbolise a deep, affectionate love.
Dahlia	Dahlias symbolise lasting bond and commitment.
Freesias	Freesias symbolise trust, friendship and thoughtfulness.
Alstromeria	Alstromeria symbolise friendship with a meaning of mutual support, devotion and strength.
Chrysanthemums	Chrysanthemums have a variety of meanings around the world, but generally represent happiness, longevity and love,
Hydrangeas	Hydrangeas expresses sincere, heartfelt sentiment and represent gratitude and understanding.
Sweet peas	Sweet peas are known for having a meaning of gratitude with a meaning of hope and trust.
Poppies	The poppy flower is the most well-known remembrance flower.
Cala Lilies	Calla lilies beauty, innocence, magnificence and purity.
Peony	The peony flower has a meaning of prosperity, good luck and a happy life.

BIRTHDAY FLOWERS BY MONTH

The tradition of linking a particular flower to the month you were born became very popular in Britain during Victorian times, and many books were written on the subject. Here is a list of them:

January: Carnation

The carnation symbolises love (hence its popularity at weddings), fascination, & distinction.

February: Violet or primrose

Both of these unassuming but colourful flowers representing modesty and virtue.

March: Daffodil or jonquil

These two close relatives are associated with the rebirth that comes with spring, and with domestic happiness – but beware, they can sometimes be guilty of vanity!

April: Daisy or sweet pea

The daisy represents purity and innocence, while the sweet pea signifies intense pleasure, perhaps because of its heady fragrance.

May: Lily of the valley

Lily of the valley is traditionally seen as symbolising humility, purity, and the return of happiness.

June: Rose or honeysuckle

The symbolism of the rose needs no introduction: it's the flower of love. Honeysuckle, too, signifies devotion and affection.

July: Larkspur

The larkspur, or delphinium, represents love and joy.

August: Gladiolus or poppy

The first of these flowers symbolises honesty and strength of personality, and the second sleep and peace.

September: Aster

The aster is traditionally associated with love, elegance, and faith.

October: Marigold or cosmos

Because of its resemblance to the sun, the marigold is often associated with warmth, love, and creativity. The cosmos represents order, tranquillity, and balance.

November: Chrysanthemum

This month has just one birth flower, signifying happiness and optimism.

December: Narcissus (paperwhite) or holly

The paperwhite is associated with sweetness, and the holly with peace and goodwill.

Some poems and a well known hymn.....

I Come to the Garden Alone

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet
The birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He give to me
Within my heart is to ringing.
And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

I stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me is falling.
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.
And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Source: [Musixmatch](https://www.musixmatch.com) Songwriters: Deniece Williams / Austin Miles I Come to the Garden Alone lyrics © Music Sales Corporation, Music Sales Corp., Black Eye Music, Word Music, LLC

Confessions of a Green Gardener

Yes, I believe in gardening green;
making compost is my scene.
I feed selected seed to birds
and keep their bath refilled and clean.
I store the water from the roof
and cater for discerning bees
with buddleia and choice sweet peas.
I even have a special patch
of nettles planted tenderly
for butterflies and caterpillar.

And yet I must confess –
I slaughter slugs with poison pellets
or tempt them to a beery death
in sunken jars of alcohol.
I stamp on snails with all my strength
and spray for every crawling pest.
There's even blood on my green hands,
for once I shot a courting pigeon.
Are these God's creatures, great and small,
all ranged against me since the Fall?

David Corfe

Taken from: 'More From My Knapsack', Selected poems 1980-2017

My Garden of Prayer

My garden beautifies my yard
and adds fragrance to the air.....
But it is also my cathedral
and my quiet place of prayer

So little do we realise
that 'The Glory and The Power'
of He who made the universe
lies hidden in a flower

Helen Steiner Rice

Test your gardening knowledge!

1. What colour is the speedwell flower?
2. Which flower's name comes from the Ancient **Greek word for star**?
3. **True or false.** Ericaceous plants *like* acid soil?
4. Who was the popular presenter of *Gardeners' World* from 1969-1976?
5. Which **large, wild** plant (two words) widespread in Britain, if touched causes a serious chemical reaction which makes skin hypersensitive to ultraviolet light? Clue: wild pigs are called **Hogs**!
6. What is the usual name for the tree often found **near water** called *salix babylonica*? Two words starting with same letter.
7. Which country are most species of eucalyptus native to? Cyprus, Australia or Thailand?
8. Which flower is also **the goddess of the rainbow** in Greek Mythology?
9. Name the garden in the **Cotswolds** notable for its miles of sculptured hedges. (Also a name for a type of lavender).
10. Which king mentioned in the Bible created the **Hanging Gardens of Babylon**?
11. **True or false.** Tulips were once so valuable in Holland that their bulbs were worth more than gold?
12. Which **female saint** whose name begins with D is the patron of gardeners, horticulture, florists, brides and brewers?!
13. What fruit comes in varieties **Oro Bianco, Ruby Red, Thompson** and **Pink**?

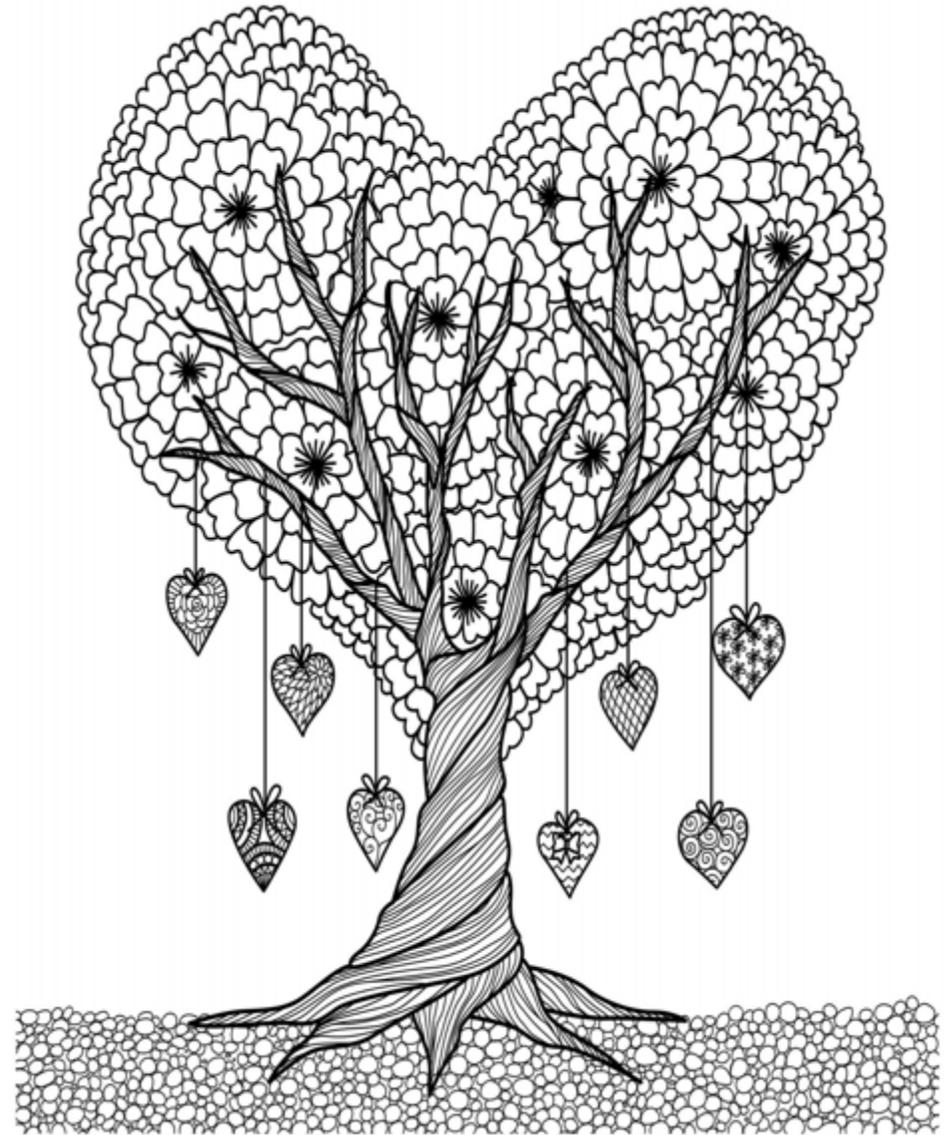
14. What is the **national fruit** of India, Pakistan, and the Philippines?
15. The TV presenter Monty Don's garden in Herefordshire is called **Longacres? Longmeadow? Or Longfields?**
16. What **garden ornaments** were brought to Britain from Germany by Sir Charles Isham in 1847?
17. **Daffodil bulbs** can be used in place of onions in recipes? True or false?
18. *Helianthus* is another name for which very **tall bright yellow flower**?
19. Which flowers were once known as **gillyflowers**?
20. Garden gnomes are forbidden in the **Chelsea Flower Show. True or false?**
21. Often used in **salads**, what has the botanical name *nasturtium officinale*?
22. What is the **name of the TV series** of rapid garden makeovers involving Alan Titchmarsh, Charlie Dimmock and Tommy Walsh? (Two words)
23. What would you be buying if you choose varieties **beefsteak, plum and cherry**?
24. Which **tree**, associated with eternity, was traditionally planted in graveyards?
25. What type of flower is a **Michaelmas Daisy**? (The same as no 2!)
26. What was **the slogan** for the campaign to encourage the British population to use gardens, parks and sports pitches to grow vegetables during WW2?
27. What colour is a **Welsh Poppy**? Red, yellow or orange?
28. The Chelsea Flower Show is Britain's largest flower show. **True or false?**

29. Which long running BBC TV programme has been presented by Percy Thrower, Alan Titchmarsh and Toby Buckland? Two words.
30. In which forest, associated with Robin Hood, would you find the Major Oak, one of the most famous trees in England?

Answers

1. Blue
2. Aster
3. True
4. Percy Thrower
5. Giant hogweed
6. Weeping Willow
7. Australia
8. Iris
9. Hidcote
10. Nebuchadnezzar II
11. True
12. Saint Dorothy
13. Grapefruit
14. Mango
15. Longmeadow
16. Garden gnomes
17. False. It is tulip bulbs.
18. Sunflower

19. Carnations
20. True
21. Watercress
22. Ground Force
23. Tomatoes
24. Yew
25. Aster
26. Dig for Victory
27. Yellow
28. False. It's The Hampton Court Flower Show
29. Gardeners' World
30. Sherwood Forest



SUMMER PUDDING

Summer Pudding was also known as “hydropathic pudding” and was all the rage in the health spas in the ninetieth century. Its light bread casing replaced pastry or suet crust which made it the perfect treat for the health conscious ladies.



Recipe

1½ - 2pt pudding basin
2lbs of mixed summer berries
(I used blackberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries)
Sugar to taste (approx 1¾ oz)
little water
Stale white bread (remove crusts)

Method

1. Slightly grease basin and line with cling film. Leave enough overhanging over the edges to cover the pudding top.
2. Heat the berries, sugar and water until the juices run-2-3 mins
3. Cut a round out of the bread to fit the bottom of the basin.
4. Cut the rest of the bread to fit the basin sides, make sure there are no gaps.
5. Spoon the fruit into the bowl ensuring as much juice as possible is used.
6. Cover pudding with another slice of bread.
7. Pour over remaining juice.
8. Cover the pudding with the overhanging cling film.
9. Place a heavy weight on top, for example a bag of sugar.
10. Refrigerate overnight.
11. Open the cling film and turn out the pudding onto a plate.
12. Serve with fresh berries and ice-cream.

ENJOY

How to build your garden

To make your garden scene.....

Cut along the wavy white line in each half to make 5 pieces as below.



Trim a little more to cut off all the white.

Lay out the pieces as they go together (shown below) then cut slits indicated by the short white lines. Assemble by slotting the taller pieces into the lower side pieces, ensuring that each piece is pressed right down the slit. The side pictures should face inwards. If your garden is a little unsteady it may help to make a small fold along the foot of each piece, but this is not essential. Imagine yourself inside the garden and exploring it or sitting on the seat just enjoying it !



