



Remembering a loved one

A prayerful tour of the
church garden



1

Enter the garden through the **archway**.
Take a few moments to appreciate the
peace and tranquility.
What beauty do you see?

“For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise”
John Rutter (1980)

2

“When I feel the
touch of your
hand upon my
life, it causes
me to sing a
song that I love
you, Lord”
*Keri Jones & David
Matthews (1978)*

Continue down the path as far as the **sensory garden** (on your right). Rub the thyme leaves between your fingers and smell the fragrance of the herbs. Touch the smooth stone of the cherub statuette. A woman once touched the hem of Jesus’ robe, trusting in his healing power. Jesus responded, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well” (Matthew 9:22).

3

Follow the path past the **woodland garden** with its fairy dell. In early spring, this area is carpeted by snowdrops. These are the flowers that signal the end of winter, and herald the new life of spring.

“As the days lengthen, and the earth spends longer in the light of day, may we spend longer in the light of your presence, O Lord. May the seeds of your Word, which have been long buried within us, grow like everything around us, into love for you and love for other people”
Mothers Union prayer

4

“You, Lord, are in this place.
Your presence fills it;
your presence is peace...
You, Lord, are in my life.
Your presence fills it;
your presence is peace.”
David Adam (2006)

The path now turns right into the **gazebo**. Stand in the centre. In the summer time, smell the scents of the honeysuckle, roses, lavender and sweet peas. Pause and appreciate this moment.

5

Now head for the far corner and Easter garden. There are two routes to choose from: either retrace your steps into the centre of the garden, or alternatively take the more difficult pathway **through the trees**. Whether our path in life seems easy or difficult (and there will be times when we move between the two) God promises to always be with us - to the end of time.

“Your word is a lamp
to my feet, and a
light for my path”
Psalms 119:105

6

The three wooden crosses, and the tomb of woven willow, make up the **Easter garden**.

“Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with Jesus. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified – one on his right and one on his left”

Luke 23:32-33

7

Turn now to the **empty tomb**. Imagine the joy of Mary Magdalene when she realised, through her tears, the true identity of the gardener.

“There is a lovely tradition from the Hebrides that the sun dances on Easter morning. Behind this is the belief that the whole of creation is changed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not only the human race but every tree, plant, flower and every creature of the earth, the air, the sea is raised with Christ. We are invited to join the dance of creation and to rejoice in the risen Lord”
David Adam (2006)

8

Make your way back to the church, past the **flower bed** next to the willow tomb. Notice how the various shrubs and flowers thrive side by side, and complement one another, to make one glorious picture. Pray for the peace and harmony of our world.

“Spirit of God, breathing life into all, we ask for your guidance in building right relationships that start in each family, and reach out to the people next door; that start in our community, and reach over the barriers of custom and prejudice”

Mothers Union prayer



9

Return to the garden through the **archway of vines**. The vines are pruned back hard each winter but they grow and fruit more prolifically every year.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me”

Jesus (John 15:1-4)

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever”

Psalms 23

10

Take a final look at the garden before leaving through the **hornbeam tunnel**.

Thank you for walking and praying with us today. May the peace of this garden stay with you as you go.



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We gather for church each Sunday at 10:15am, and everyone is welcome.