

Building an Easter Garden

During these weeks of Lent, we're not sure when we can come together again, so during this time we're going to think about each of us putting together an Easter Garden, an activity that over the weeks will become something that we can share at Easter, either by bringing them into Church, or sharing pictures if we're still not going into Church.

Here are some ideas



Building an Easter Garden

As we journey through Lent in this most difficult year, unsure of when we can meet again we wanted to do something that would encourage us to journey together, doing something practical that will encourage us to reflect on this time as we journey to the Cross, and beyond to Easter morning and the resurrection.

Week	Element	Thoughts
21 st -27 th Feb	The container	Where boundaries are.
28 th Feb- 6 th Mar	The foundations	What supports us, and allows us to grow
14 th - 20 th Mar	The grave	Preparing our eternal home
7 th - 13 th Mar	Green -Foliage	Nature: God's Creation
21 st – 27 th Mar	The crosses	Forgiveness – the redemption of the cross
28 th Mar - 4 th April – Easter	The stone rolled away	Love conquers all

Week 1 Sunday 21st Feb – 27th Feb

The Container

Find something that you can use to build your garden in. A box, some sort of plant pot, nothing too big, in the hope that we're able to bring the completed gardens into church over the Easter weekend.



Matthew 5:15

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

We live in a big world with many issues and problems and sometimes we can be overwhelmed by it all.

But we all have our own areas in life, our homes, our families, neighbours, work colleagues, the community we live in, our connections, network. Those are the people we connect with, engage with, these are the people who see the light we reflect.

Pray for them, think about their needs and how you can reflect the light of God's love to them.

Week 2 Sunday 28th Feb – Saturday 6th Mar

Foundations - Soil



Next find some stones and soil to fill the container, the stones will help break up the soil and provide some drainage.

Remember the more you put in, the heavier it is going to be.

Ephesians 3:17

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

Jesus told stories, parables about the importance of foundations, of being rooted. The wise man who built his house on the rock, the story of the sower planting the seed.

Being rooted in Christ's love, putting Jesus front and centre of our lives gives us strength and stability to stand firm when we're buffeted about by the disruptions of the world around us. As we put the soil and rocks into our garden, let's pray for good ground and foundations for us.

Week 3 Sunday 7th Mar – Saturday 13th Mar

The Grave



What will make this an Easter garden will be the presence of the Cross and the empty grave.

You need something that can resemble a cave which you can pack soil around like this plant pot.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Death is always a sad and difficult time, and in this time of Pandemic it seems even more difficult.

For those grieving, peace can seem a long way away, so to hear that even as we struggle through our sadness without someone we are still loved by God can be a real help.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not the Pandemic, not our worries and anxieties, not the world around us.

When things get difficult, seek out God's love knowing it will always be there.

Week 4 Sunday 14th Mar-Saturday 20th Mar

Green, foliage, plants



Choose the plants you want in your garden, grass, moss, small plants, think of variety and colours.

You may need to think about everything surviving for a few weeks, with watering.

Genesis 1:12

The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

Spring is well and truly in the air, and the wonders of nature are visible all around us. Each autumn and winter as things die and stop growing, nothing happens. And a few months later things return to life, growing so we can see the richness of creation.

Look at the sheer variety of plants near us, and multiply that by millions as we think of that variety in every different climate. This is the evidence of God's love and provision for us through his creation. Give thanks.

Week 5 Sunday 21st Mar-Saturday 27th Mar

The Crosses



There were three crosses on the hill at Golgotha, so you may like to do all three, or just do the one that Jesus was on.

The crosses were made out of trees, so you could use twigs held together with string, or if you have a cross that is special to you, you could use that.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

No day in the Christian Calendar is sadder than Good Friday. Jesus on the cross, suffering, killed not because he did anything wrong but because we did.

That whole idea of him dying for us seems so extreme, but it happened so that we can look forward in hope and expectation. Because of the Cross, we are forgiven. Because of the Cross, we are saved.

So yes, reflect on the sadness, the injustice of the cross, but do it hopefully, thankful of God's love for us.

Week 6 Sunday 28th Mar- Sunday 4th Apr

The Stone rolled away



In front of the grave, place a stone or something that can look like a stone. Many images show circular stones that can actually be rolled away from the front of the tomb

Matthew 28:6

He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

After the sadness of Good Friday, comes the incredible joy of Easter morning, the understanding of how God's plan had worked out. As Christ died a few days ago, that promise of everlasting life seemed to fade.

But, that astonishing hope that we cling to in the sadness of the Cross is now made real. Not even death can hold back God, love conquers all.

Give thanks for God's love for us, as real today as it was 2,000 years ago. In the midst of the pain, the disruption, the sadness there is hope, there is faith that it will be made good with Christ in the centre.