



Registered Charity No 251394

BIBLE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

Family Faith Fun

June 2023

Do you know that many of the herbs and flowers that we grow in our gardens, or use today, have connections with the Bible. Some have special associations with events or characters in the Bible.

Do you have any Candlemas Bells in your gardens? Candlemas is Feb 3rd and what flowers are around at that time? The wonderful snowdrops. They are one of the many flowers associated with Mary and Candlemas was when Mary & Joseph took Jesus to the temple 40 days after his birth.

Our ancestors imagined the everyday life of Mary with the help of flowers:-

Cow Parsley is Our Lady's lace, Harebell is her thimble and Thrift her pincushion, Clematis is her bower (garden seat) and Cowslips her keys.

Cowslips are also sometimes called St Peter's Keys because he is said to hold the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Aquilegia (Columbine) is also called "doves round the fountain". Columbine means dove flower and there are a number of doves in the Bible – the one who found the dry land for Noah, the offering of Jesus' parents at the temple. At the Baptism of Jesus it was recorded that the spirit of God descended on him like a dove.

The Madonna Lily is particularly associated with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as are Daisies, both symbols of purity. Daisies are also symbols of the innocence of children.

Many of us have a bit of mint growing in the garden, and Jesus ridiculed the Pharisees for making a law to tax mint. Mint and other herbs that were tithed were too common and plentiful to be worth much. Jesus accused the Pharisees of hypocrisy for insisting on tithing something so cheap but neglecting justice and the love of God.

St Patrick used a three leafed clover to teach about the Trinity. Old fashioned Pansies were called Trinity violets because they are 3 coloured, yellow, white and purple.

The Passion flower tells the whole story of the passion of Christ. The leaf is shaped like the spear, used to pierce the side of Christ when on the cross, the tendrils are the whip and the ovary the whipping post. The filaments are the crown of thorns, the 3 styles the nails and the stamens the hammers. The corona is a purple crown.



Cow Parsley



Cowslip

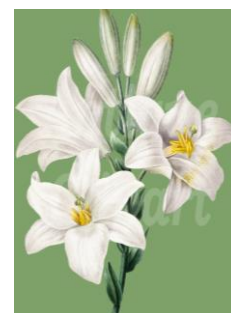


Aquilegia

Looked at from above, the spikes on the top look like the heads of doves.



Clover leaf

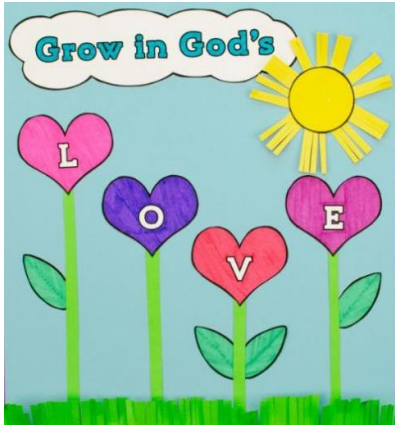


Madonna Lily



Flower gardens, as we know them, didn't exist in Biblical times. Most flowers were wildflowers that grew near homes, groves of trees, or in fields. As in most climates, the spring rains brought an abundance of flowers. Sometimes the flowers are mentioned as illustrations to help us understand the message or ideas that were being presented. They can also represent His people- just as flowers bloom and grow with His care, so do we.

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. Matthew 6:28-29 NIV.



Craft Activity. Make a poster like the one pictured to remind you that we, like the flowers, grow in God's love. Cut out a yellow sun, different coloured heart shapes for the flowers, and green stalks and leaves. Stick them onto a blue background for the sky.



Or you could make a reminder of the teachings of Jesus with a Kindness Matters Flower. Cut a circle out of yellow paper, petals from any colour you like, stem and leaves from green. Write on each petal the sort of things that show kindness to others.

This word scramble is based on Luke 15:11-31, the story of the Prodigal Son. Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes to find the message at the end.

GRENUH



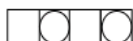
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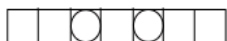
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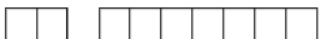
EHOM



HOOLISF



Jesus teaches us



The words are home, travel, father, foolish, forgive

Lead the son back to his loving Father,

