




WALKING

TOGETHER

*Prayer cards for the
Royal Botanic Gardens*

Please use these cards to reflect as you tour the botanic gardens. Each of the names and numbers correspond to the official maps. They are in no particular order, so explore at your own pace



2. BEECH HEDGE

The Beech Hedge stands at an impressive 8m tall. That makes it (roughly) about the same size as the outer walls of Jericho, and there were more internal walls after that! When the Israelites saw the fortifications, the walls must have seemed impenetrable.

Are you facing something that seems insurmountable?

The Israelites prayed and marched around the city seven times, and the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. They learned what Jesus would later say *“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”*

**Walk around the full length of the hedge
(thirteen times if you want to keep it Biblical!)**

***God who makes all things possible
Give me the courage and strength to carry on***

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

Hebrews 11 v 30



4. DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

This area is used for learning and teaching. Groups come in to learn about plants, how they grow, and how we can cultivate them for food.

**Walk around the demonstration garden.
Find an unfamiliar plant and observe it closely
How does it look, feel, and smell?
Try to memorise its name.**

What part of the natural world do you want to learn more about?
What lessons does creation have to teach you?

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.*

*Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?*

Job 12 v 7



5. MEMORIAL GARDEN

The memorial garden is a place of memory and commemoration.

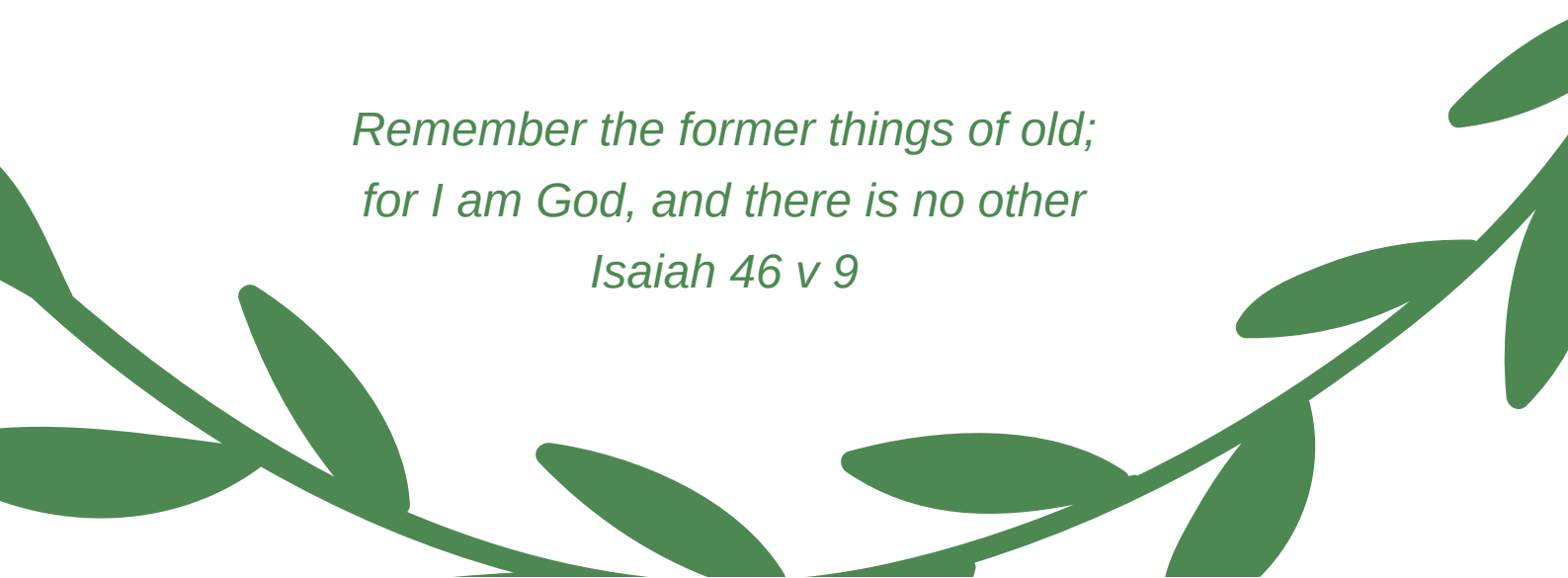
In the centre is a labyrinth. In Medieval times labyrinths were build into the floors of cathedrals. People who, by lack of ability or means, could not go on a pilgrimage, could walk around these labyrinths as an act of devotion. In a pilgrimage it doesn't matter where you go, it's how you travel.

Walk the labyrinth. With each step invite God to join you on your journey.

The Pavilion is made from materials inspired by the Queen Mother's childhood home of Glamis Castle. *What sights, sounds, and textures do you associate with your childhood?*

***Sit inside the pavilion. Who or what are you remembering today?
Share this with God in prayer.***

*Remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other
Isaiah 46 v 9*



9. NEPALESE GARDEN

Across the Himalayas you will see rows of flags flying in the wind.

They are Lung ta: prayer flags. They are hung by buddhists to bless the land around them. The colours represent *blue for sky, white for wind, red for fire, green for water, and yellow for earth.* It is believed that as they flutter in the wind they spread goodwill across the land.

How do you spread blessings and goodwill?

The gate is inspired by similar gates in Nepal. They mark the beginning of a trail and it is custom for pilgrims to ring them three times. Christians also use bells, as a call to worship and in the Catholic Mass, as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is near.

**Ring the bell three times.
Invite God's Spirit to be with you
and turn this time into an act of worship**

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1 v 8



10. INVERLEITH HOUSE

Stand in front of the house and look at the view over the city.

Count the spires on the horizon, how many can you see?

Most of them belong to churches of one kind or another. Beyond the spires there are many more churches meeting across the city, each of them serving their community. Each faces challenges, but also has opportunities to share the Good News in their neighbourhood.

Take a moment to pray for the churches across the city.

What are your hopes for this city? Share them with God.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.

Colossians 1 v 9 - 10



11. CHINESE HILLSIDE

Psalms 120 - 134 are known as the 'Songs of Ascent'. They are called that because they were once the songs sung by pilgrims as they made their way up the steep road to Jerusalem.

Start at the foot of the Chinese Hillside near the pavilion and make your way up the hill. As you do take a moment to read Psalm 121. If you have your phone: look up another of the Songs of ascent.

Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.*



12 & 13. WOODLANDS

**Take a walk through the woods.
Look up at the canopy above you.**

Trees provide shelter. They shade us from the sun, shelter us from the rain, and shield us from the wind. In the same way God watches over us. As it says in Psalm 139:

*"You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me."*

As you walk, pray this ancient Celtic prayer

Christ with me, Christ before me,

Christ behind me, Christ in me,

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ on my right, Christ on my left,

Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,

Christ when I arise,

Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

Christ in every eye that sees me,

Christ in every ear that hears me.

Saint Patrick's Breastplate



14. ROCK GARDEN

Before he was King, David was a shepherd boy. He would lead his flock, by voice, into the highlands in search of pasture.

These were journeys full of risks. Wild animals, bandits, and steep drops. Each of them threatened David and his sheep.

But eventually he would reach his destination: green pastures of grass and quiet pools fed by gentle mountains streams.

Here the sheep could rest and feed in peace.

Walk up one of the winding paths into the rock garden.

*What risks have you taken recently?
Are there any risks you have been afraid to take?*

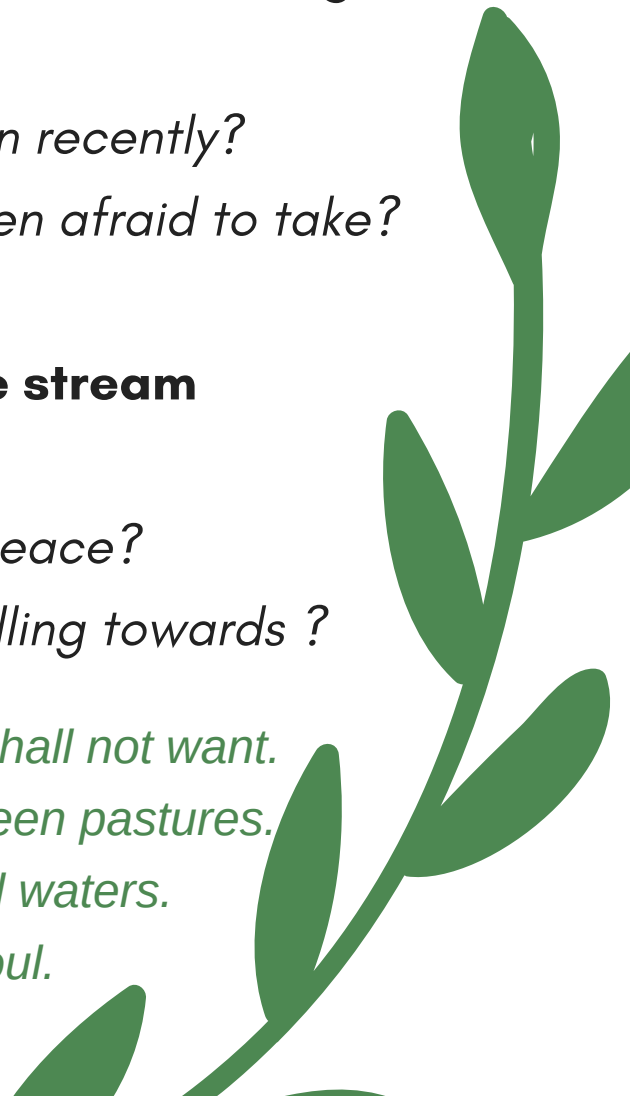
Make your way to the stream

*Where do you find peace?
What pastures are you travelling towards ?*

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.*

He restores my soul.

Psalm 23



A PRAYER FOR THE END OF THE JOURNEY

*Do two walk together,
unless they have agreed to meet?*

Amos 3 v 3

Pilgrim God,

You are our beginning and our destination.

Journey with us, we pray,

as we continue on our journey of life.

May we travel on with you in love, peace,
hope, and joy.

And follow you with faith,

Amen

