

A Guide to

# St Alban's Biblical Garden



*St Alban the Martyr Anglican Church Woden, ACT*  
*(Written August 2007, Updated January 2018)*

# Introduction

Plants play an important role in the Bible. They are an integral part of many Bible stories, and over one hundred and ten are mentioned in the Bible.

In using a number of these plants in the St Alban's Garden I have endeavoured to create a space of beauty and a constant reminder that the Bible is full of life and colour.

As described in this booklet, there are several quite individual gardens, each with its own theme and planted according to the purpose it fulfils. Not all the plants have biblical associations; but all have been selected both for their appropriateness in the garden and for their ability to withstand the dry and somewhat harsh conditions that Canberra gardens currently face.

My hope is that this garden will provide a peaceful retreat and a source of pleasure and inspiration for parishioners and visitors over a number of years.

*Beverley Leafy*

Planner and Coordinator  
St Alban's Biblical Garden  
August 2007

*Life began in a garden.  
Christ was buried in a garden.  
Some of Christ's greatest  
moments took place in a garden.*



*The project of establishing St Alban's Biblical Garden at 34 Chappell St Lyons, ACT 2606, was approved by Parish Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and work commenced two weeks later. The garden was completed in July 2007 and was blessed on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2007. The total cost of establishing the garden was \$9,570.00.*

*Photos in updated 2018 edition taken by Rev'd Jenny Willsher*

## The Vision

This garden has been established to provide the Church community, and the wider community, with a place for contemplation, education, recreation and fellowship. It will be used as a teaching garden, making the words of the Bible tangible through the demonstration of plants and their uses through the ages.

There are four main components:

- Mary's Garden (at the Rectory entrance)
- A Children's Garden (in front of the Parish Room)
- A Rector's Walk (bordering the public pathway) and
- A Peace and Meditation Garden (at the rear of the Church)

The most valuable aspect of the new gardens is that, as they grow, they will give privacy to the site and will provide parishioners, local flat dwellers and Woden workers with a place of retreat, contemplation, and, we hope, healing.

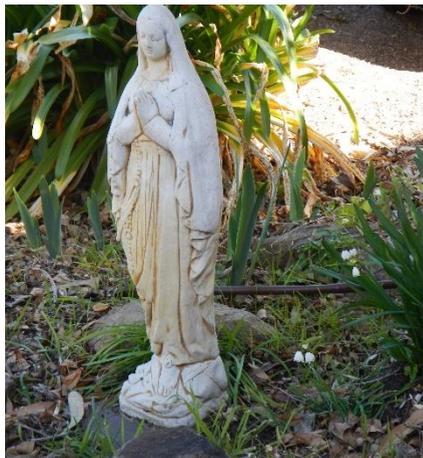
Parishioners who have been involved in the development of the Biblical Garden value the increased sense of ownership they now have in our beautiful church and its surroundings and have benefited from the fellowship of mutual hard labour to achieve our vision.



# Mary's Garden

## Roses

*(one of the names associated with Mary the mother of Jesus is 'Mystical Rose')*



The white rose *Wedding Day*, climbing up the tree represents purity. It celebrates Samuel Dyne's baptism. The other white rose is *Iceberg*.

The two red roses *Samantha*, have been given in memory of Barbara Jill Christensen and Benjamin Arthur Smith. The red carpet roses are given in memory of Alice Kenyon and Abraham Lincoln Kenyon. These red roses symbolise the shedding of Christ's blood.

A pale lilac *Blue Moon* rose was planted to celebrate the baptism of Brittany May Stevens, great great grand-daughter of Eleanor May Burnett. It has since died and is to be replaced.

*Olive trees (Olea ) Matthew 26:36* were given in memory of Peter Lazlo Nemes and the late Daphne and Ray Grant.

A rose planted in memory of Louise Fell has since died and is to be replaced.

A *Thank You Rose* was planted in 2017 to recognise the ministry of Rev'd Bronwyn Suptup as Rector from 2010 - 2016.

*Mary's Rose* was planted in 2017 and was donated by Mary McCabe to honour all the "Mary's" who have been part of the Parish.



### ***Other flowers in Mary's Garden include:***



*Agapanthus (Nile River Lily)*

*Anemone* – a colourful wildflower in the Holy Land. Possibly the “flowers of the field” referred to in *Matthew 6:28-29* and *Luke 12:27-28*.

*Anthemis (Chamomile)* another of the biblical “flowers of the field”.

*Daffodils (Narcissus) Song of Solomon 2: 1-2.*

*Liliums (Madonna Lily) Hosea 14:5.*

*Love-in-the-mist (Nigella)* a close relative of the black cumin *Isaiah 28:27*

*Snow drops* – emblems of the Virgin Mary.

*Star of Bethlehem (Ornithogalum) 2 Kings 6:25.*

*Solomon's Seal* – sometimes known as *Holy Mary's Tears*.

The Hedge is *Buxus (English Box)*. *Isaiah 41:19.*

The statue of Mary was given in memory of Kevin Potts.

### ***The Church Poreh***

The pots at the entrance to the church are given by John Taylor in remembrance of his wife and by Jim Fraser and Dorothy Collings.

They are planted with *Bay Trees (Laurus)* the laurel used in ancient times as crowns for athletes and Roman Emperors *1 Corinthians 9:25.*

The underplanting is *Crocus*. *Isaiah 35:1* reads “The desert shall rejoice and blossom, like the crocus it will blossom abundantly”.



## The Children's Garden



Located outside the entry to the Parish Room, the Children's Garden features a *Tamarisk Tree* (*Tamarix*) given in memory of the Rev'd John Collings. The *Palm* tree was planted on the occasion of Bishop George Browning's visit to celebrate the completion of payment for the Church building. The *Maples* (donated by Joyce and Donat Barker)

are part of the original garden. There is also a *Pomegranate* (*Punica*) mentioned in Exodus 28:33-34. The *Cyprus* was given in memory of Maureen Worsley.

### **Herbs**

*Allium* (Garlic) Numbers 11:5-6

*Anethum* (Dill) Matthew 23:23

*Marjoram* (*Hyssop*) used to sprinkle blood on the door lintels and posts at the time of Passover. The marjoram in the Biblical Garden is however "sweet" marjoram. Exodus 12:22.

*Wormwood*, Lamentations 3:15 and Revelation 8:11

### **Flowers in the Children's Garden**

*Anemone* – a colourful wildflower in the Holy Land. Matthew 6:28-29 and Luke 12: 27-28

*Love-in-the-mist* (*Nigella*) a close relative of the black cumin in Isaiah 28:27

*Poppy* (*Papaver*) Red field poppies feature in the Mediterranean Spring and are Isaiah's 'flower of the grass'. Opium poppy or Hemlock, may have provided the anodyne gall in the vinegar offered to Jesus on the cross John 19:29-30.



## The Rector's Walk

Running Parallel to the public footpath at the eastern side of the Church is the Rectors' Walk commemorating:

The Rev'd Robert Tate (1966-68)

The Rev'd Dalba Primmer (1968-71)

Father Douglas Brown SSM (1971-76)

Father Thomas Brown SSM (1976-83)

The Rev'd Andrew Constance (1983-93)

The Rev'd Peter Guy (1993-99)

The Rev'd John Hunter (2000-2005)

It is planted with *Conifers* (one for each of the Rectors in the Parish before the building of the new Church, *Oleanders* (*Nerium*), and *Daffodils* (*Narcissus*) are mentioned in the *Song of Solomon 2:1-2*.

The roses on the arch are *Crepuscule* given in memory of Mabel Olive Glossop and Edward Vernon Glossop. The *Red Carpet Roses* by the church



sign are in memory of Lila May Glossip and Graeme Vincent Glossop, and Ida May Jane Harris and Alice Lavinia May Wilson.

Two *Cyprus* trees represent wood said to be used to build Noah's Ark.

## Carpark Entrance

Liquidamber (Styrax Tree) Exodus 30:34; Genesis 37:25. The resin was one of the ingredients of the holy anointing oil. This tree was planted by members of the Society of the Sacred Mission (SSM) when they were establishing the first garden at the new Rectory.

## The Peace and Meditation Garden



Planned as a place of Quiet reflection, the garden incorporates white flowers representing ‘purity’, red flowers for ‘sacrifice’ and green foliage for ‘life’. There is a paved circle in the centre of the garden as a symbol of unbroken love.

Features of the garden are the white *Iceberg* standard roses, the red *Centenary of Federation* roses (given in memory of Terry Leahy), the border of *Sasanqua Camellias*, *Rosemary (Rosemarinus)* and the green of the *Mondo Grass* and the *Buxus* hedges.

A *Water Jar* symbolises both the refreshment of water in a parched place and the turning of water into wine (*John 2:7-9*) and is given in memory of all the women in the Parish.

The benches are a gift in memory of Walter William Rautenbach.

The Crepe Myrtle acknowledges the Rev’d Morton Johnston’s role in the Parish from 2003 and as Rector in 2005-2006.

The Maypole Apple (Ballerina) is in recognition of Rev’d Rebecca Newland’s ministry as Rector 2007-2009.

### Donations

The following people contributed to the purchase of garden plants and materials for the Biblical Garden and the labour to put it all in place: *Jean Baker, Brian & Jill Christensen, Dorothy Collings, Jim & Bev Fraser, Daphne & Ray Grant, Mary Green, Jill Harris, Rhondda & Malcolm Hazell, The Rev’d Morton Johnston, Nola Lamb, Bev Leahy, Florence & Michael Loader, Mary & Peter McCabe, Beryl McKellar, Barbara Mercer, Di Mercier, Mildred & Les Nemes, Di & Pat Pattacca, Phyllis Potter, Julie Potts, The SSM, St Alban’s Ladies Fellowship, Hideki & Emiko Sawada & their children, Joan & Norman Sheppard, Joan Smith, George Szakiel, Nina & John Walsh, Brian Williams, Lyndal Wilson.* And many anonymous friends and parishioners. We thank you all for the wonderful support you have given this project.