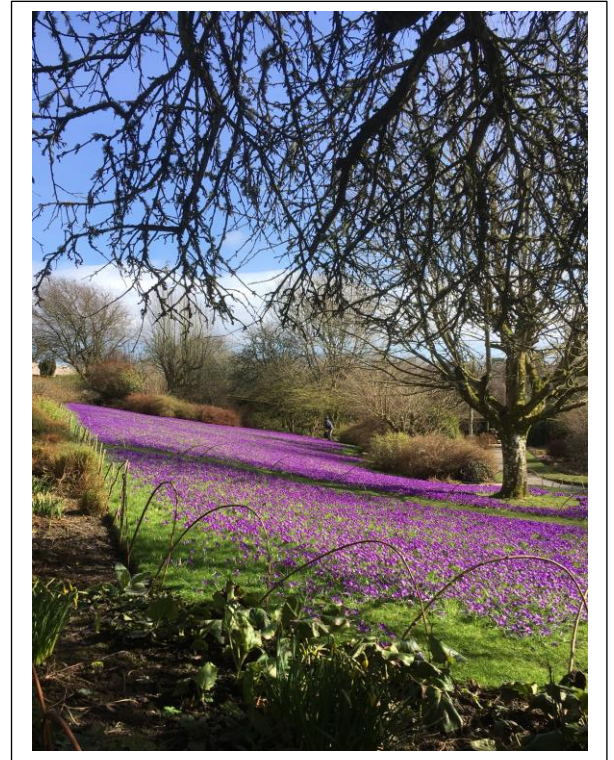


Seven GARDEN Reflections

for Transformation – Now!

Gardens transform the landscape – they can reconnect us with God's created order. Eden was his Garden of Life. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus wept and prayed. It was in a garden where Jesus was found on the first Easter morning. Jesus spoke of vines, of seeds and wheat, of olives and mustard plants, of sparrows and sheep, and he rode a donkey. Each act and each story of his was about 'transformation'.

We live in a time when the environment is under threat – when the ecological balance is upset – when we are called to value and befriend the natural world around us on which we all depend. It is a time to be gardeners of the world God gave us.



*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15.1,5.)*

These Seven Garden Reflections are inspired by a book of paintings and prayers by Eddie Askew, 'There was a Garden'. Eddie was chaplain to the Leprosy Mission in India for most of his ministry. He was an accomplished water colour artist and had an eye for the natural world and the place of people in it. His illustrated books have brought pleasure and help to many over the years. Before he died, he had set down some ideas and paintings for a book on Bible Gardens. His daughter, Jenny Hawke, completed and published his work. Some words from their book are included in the Seven Gardens and help us to focus our own prayers on global transformative action in the environment.

Garden of Intention

Garden of Wilderness

Garden of Hope

Garden of Renewal

Garden of Tears

Garden of New Life

The Garden of Joy

Lord of Life,
help me to live this day well
and when the edges of my understanding
get a little frayed,
strengthen my faith.
Amen

Prayer by Eddie Askew – printed with permission.

Photograph by AEM at Wallington NT - crocus time 2020