

# Welcome to



# THE EMMAUS GARDEN!

In 2015, Companions of Christ, an emerging religious community, moved in at 65 Maidstone Road, Chatham. Immediately we felt that we wanted to turn the garden into a prayer garden.

From the name of our community a vision to create a garden around the Emmaus story (Luke 24:1-35) started to develop: the companions of Christ beginning their journey in confusion and along the way experiencing more and more about who they are and who Jesus is.

The garden has five prayer stations following the Emmaus story. However, the stations can all be used individually and without relating them to the particular story.

The garden is yours! The garden is God's! You are God's! May all be used to the greater glory of God!

Chatham June 2017,

*Madeleine Dahl & Susanne Carlsson,*

Companions of Christ

The Emmaus garden is affiliated to the Quiet Garden movement, which is an is a non-profit organisation which encourages the provision of Quiet Gardens all over the world where people can set aside time for contemplation, prayer and renewal. for gardens used for prayer and silence. [www.quietgarden.org](http://www.quietgarden.org)



**Quiet Garden Movement**



## Prayer station 1: BEING CONFUSED - *the patio*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem... (Luke 24:13-14)

Imagine the confusion in Jerusalem on that day. No one really knew what had happened to Jesus and why. Was he dead? Was it true that he was risen?

*What are the burning issues in your life at the moment? Which thoughts are occupying your head? Walk the labyrinth and let your inner movements be visible to you.*

In this prayer station you will find The Seven Species (Hebrew: שבע המינים, *Shiv'at HaMinim*) or agricultural products which are mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:6-8: *Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey*". Their first fruits were the only acceptable offerings in the Temple.

**Please open the jar and enjoy some dates!**





## Prayer station 2: BEING ACCOMPANIED – *the vegetable garden*

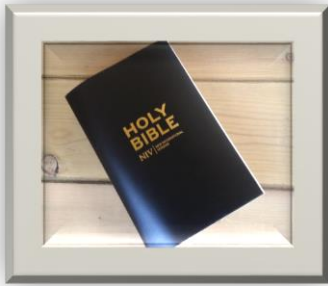
While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” (Luke 24:15-17)

Imagine how the disciples must have reacted when suddenly a stranger came and joined them and just asked them what they were talking about and basically how they were doing.

*How are you feeling? Which emotions are strong within you at the moment? If you like, taste some of the herbs in the vegetable garden to emphasise how you are feeling: are you feeling bitter as sage, sour as lemon balm...? Talk to Jesus about your feelings.*







## Prayer station 3: BEING READ – *the flower bed*

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

Imagine how the disciples must have felt when things became clearer to them and when they suddenly could link what they were experiencing in their lives with what was written in the Scriptures.

*Can you recall any Bible passage that touches upon where you are in your life now? If you want to, open the lid of the prayer seat and take a Bible, read a passage and let it read you. Notice the words that stand out for you and how Jesus might talk to you through the text. If you can't recall a certain passage, here are some suggested readings: Psalm 139, Mark 10:46-52, John 1:35-39.*

The flowers in the bed are in red, blue and purple colours (the colours of Lent) mirroring that the disciples at that time hadn't grasped the resurrection of Christ.





## Prayer station 4: BEING TRANSFORMED – *The Emmaus house*

“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:29-31)

Imagine being at the table with Jesus, see how he breaks the bread and gives it and how it suddenly becomes clear who he is.

*Through which experiences have you got glimpses of who Jesus is? If you want to, sit down in the Emmaus house, and talk to Jesus, about these experiences and about what is on your heart at the moment.*

Feel free to light the fire and the oil lamp. There is more kindling and logs under the seat facing the woodland area. If you would like to make a cup of tea or coffee on the stove you will find everything you need under the seat facing the house. You can take water from the tap outside the house.





## Prayer station 5: BEING SENT - *The Woodland area*

They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem... (Luke 24:32-33)

Imagine the reactions of the disciples after Jesus has broken the bread. What brought them in to action?

*When has your heart been burning along the journey? What do you sense that God is saying to you through those burning moments? Where is God leading you now? Is God sending you to the hammock to rest with him? Is God sending you to the compost to transform things in my life? Is God sending you to the pond to surrender and maybe making a decision towards something beyond, something that is out of your control, but in God’s hands. Or is God sending you somewhere else?*





Feel free to use the hammock. You can adjust it to your length and weight by changing the place of the hooks in the different knots of the rope.

You will find pen and paper in the seat at the pond if you want to write down things you would like to be transformed and then put the piece of paper on the compost.

If you want emphasize your movement of surrender at the pond, please feel free to cut a leaf from one of the branches and put it in the pond.

The flowers in the woodland area are mostly yellow and white mirroring that the eyes were opened and the disciples now lived in the Resurrection of Christ.

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our wonderful gardeners, who have given so much of their time and knowledge to put this vision in to practise. Thank you **Brian Magee, Katy & Graham Hill and Bill Bruce**.

Thanks to **Bridget Langstaff** and **Glenn Trower**, who inspired us to start the project and made us believe that it was possible.

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