

St John's Lent Reflections 2020

Life in the Garden

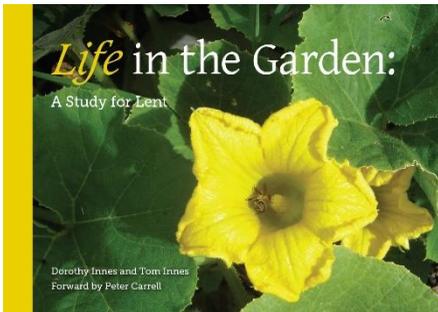
Our Lent Reflection Groups will take place twice, once during the day (11.00) and then repeated in the evening (19.00). We hope this will give the maximum opportunity for people to attend.

Dates: 4th March, 11th March, 25th March, 1st April

When: 11.00 and 19.00

Where: in church

**This something for everyone -
please do join us for relaxed discussion**



We will survey the place of the garden and gardening in Scripture using a resource written by Tom Innes and Dorothy Innes. Their reflections come out of many years of experience in the garden and of life on the land. They offer a practical theology of the garden for

our times which will encourage us in this sacred activity and in joining with God in the renewal of the earth and its people.

Tom says in his introduction to the accompanying booklet: "It has been said that if every household brewed its own beer there would be world peace, because then there would be nothing worth fighting about. It has also been said that every leader of government or industry should have to spend an hour a day gardening, because it is hard to destroy someone else's back yard when you have loved your own."

"We have always been gardeners, but in recent years we have become more intentional about it, and we have discovered for ourselves that what the Bible says about gardens is true. We believe it needs to be cultivated in our lives."

"Speaking of metaphors, it is obvious that the Bible uses the garden, gardening and growth as a metaphor for many important spiritual truths. We want to say that what the Bible says about the garden, gardening and growth is not just a metaphor. It is true and it is spiritual in itself. Gardening gives us direct experience of what the metaphors are saying. It opens our eyes and hearts to the spiritual truths they point to. These are 'twice true' metaphors. What they point to is true, and they are true in themselves."

"Dorothy and I are deeply concerned about our world, and about the problems it is facing. We believe that *Life in the Garden* gets underneath these problems... More than that, we believe gardening is a deeply spiritual activity, and that by gardening we join God in the regeneration and renewal of the whole earth, which God loves."

"This study is about gardens and gardening. It is not about how to garden... It does not address critical scholarly questions about the biblical texts we discuss, such as when they were written and what sources were used by the authors. It does not presume or require a particular view on whether the creation accounts in Genesis are to be read literally or not. Nor does it matter for these studies whether you believe in human induced climate change or not. These studies 'work' whatever you think about these things, and we trust you will be inspired by them, whether you are a gardener or not."

**If you would like to know more please speak to
the Vicar or The Rev'd Sue Genner.**

We will provide stand-alone resources for the group but you will get more from the discussions if you have a copy of the booklet yourself. They cost \$8.50 plus p&p each and can be ordered via the Theology House website <https://www.theologyhouse.ac.nz/theology-house-publications/life-in-the-garden-a-study-for-lent/>

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.