

Developing External Places for Prayer



A Report following Study Leave exploring Quiet Gardens

by Revd Frances C Guite, May-July 2019

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Developing External Places for Prayer

Background to Study

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom (1st of Five Marks of Mission)

"Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel: 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.'" Isaiah 30:15 NKJV

I am an Associate of the religious Community of St John the Devine. At their convents (past and current) they have developed spaces for prayer and stillness, both indoor and outdoor. I spent a year with the community before I trained for the priesthood and during this time, I learned to value outdoor spaces (surrounded by trees, shrubs, and flowers) as places for prayer.

On a recent holiday to USA I saw a Quiet Garden with statues of the life of Jesus and noticed how the 'non-church' in the group were engaging positively and wanting to spend time in the garden: looking, thinking and just being.

Churches are often locked or perceived as intimidating. Although they are not always available, everyone needs places to express their spirituality. I seek to encourage the provision of external prayer spaces for those who are disadvantaged in society, for those who are on the fringe of the church, for those who simply want a place to pray.

I seek to develop an understanding of what will make a valuable external place for prayer, to provide suggestions and advice to churches that have the necessary space within their grounds. I intend to explore Quiet Gardens associated with places of habitual worship and see what makes them places for prayer and meditation. It is my hope that this will provide some suggestions about what will be needed in an external place for prayer.

It is my intention to develop a PowerPoint Presentation to encourage churches to develop a part of their grounds as an external place for prayer. It is my hope that my presentation will spark the imagination of those with responsibility for churches and give them the confidence to engage with such a project.

This is not about making church gardens pretty. This is about seeking to open the doors of faith and individual spiritual expression. This is about providing an external space for prayer for those who find churches intimidating. I believe that people on the fringe of the Church and on the edges of society are more likely to engage with an external prayer space than enter a church. By providing an external place for prayer churches can offer a safe space for people to express their spirituality, to sit and be still; a place where they might engage with God in their own way, perhaps to listen, perhaps to pray, a place to relax and step aside from the bustle of the world.

The assumption I make is that the Quiet Garden is an outdoor place for prayer that is not related to a Garden of Remembrance.

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Need for Place of Prayer

"Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us." Genesis 1:26
GNT

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

"The Church is the only society that does exist for the benefit of those who are not its members." William Temple

All people have a spiritual aspect, even if it is not acknowledged, or is given another name.

As Christians we have developed a tradition of church attendance that has varied hugely over the centuries and continues to be very varied across the different traditions. As Christians we have the confidence in knowing that we are welcomed in our churches; we attend church and engage in worship; and perhaps we have each developed a pattern of prayer that is usually carried out within our own homes. Even so, it is likely that most of us have experienced the need to pray outside the regular times for church worship. If, for whatever reason, we need a place to pray other than our homes, where do we go when the church is locked?

For people on the fringe of church and society the situation is even more difficult. People who consider themselves to be "Christians" but do not have a habit of attending church or praying at home still find occasions when they experience the need to engage with the Almighty. If they turned to the church will they find it open; will they find it conducive to private prayer; will they find a place to pray?

People who consider themselves to be "spiritual" but disdain formalised religion still need a place to commune with the "Great Spirit" or however they perceive the "Other". People need a place to express their spirituality. It is the responsibility of the Church of England to provide for the spiritual needs of the whole community, not just its own members.

The Church of England encourages us to be open and provide "a welcoming atmosphere for all including those of other faiths or none." No one should be denied a place to pray just because the church is closed or because they do not appreciate our style of worship.

We have a duty, an obligation to provide a place for prayer that is accessible to all.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/sharing-your-building>

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Churches: Open or Locked

"Go to the Lord for help, and worship him continually." *Chronicles 16:11 GNT*

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." *Matthew 25:35 NRSV*

"An open (church) door enables people to find a quiet place to pray, it offers somewhere to sit and think" as well as enabling visitors who are interested in historical treasures, church history, or who are researching family trees. Church 'Tourism' can be an avenue for mission through the ministry of welcome. Nevertheless, churches are often locked because we all know that "an open door to an empty church is an invitation to less-than-welcome visitors".

Our churches contain precious objects: some have intrinsic value and usually these can be locked away in a safe. Some of our precious objects have historic or sentimental value and whilst they remain in an open church, they are vulnerable. We do not want our precious objects to be stolen or damaged, nor do we want our buildings treated disrespectfully, so we protect what is in our care and lock the churches.

The Church of England wants churches to be "open for worship and visitors during normal working or daylight hours." Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) supports this drive and suggests that there are "positive steps to protect the church and its contents while keeping it open to the community" including securing valuables and ensuring that local residents know that the church is open.

EIG advise that someone be "on duty in the church at all times by having a rotor of church sitters, or organise cleaning, grass cutting and other routine activities so that there is someone in the church or churchyard for as much of the time as possible". EIG recognise that this may not be possible. Many churches are supported by an ageing and declining population and finding sufficient volunteers to maintain an open door to the church can be very difficult. EIG suggest a compromise "by organising set hours when volunteers are available (and the church open) which can be displayed on the door."

An external place for prayer might provide another solution for those churches that have an area in their grounds that is underused.

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/open-churches-guidance.pdf>

<https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/>

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/news-desk/news/historic-churches-as-visiting-destinations>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/sharing-your-building>

<https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/open-churches/>

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A Garden - God's Creation

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle on the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. Psalms 139:8-10 NRSV

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness." Genesis 1:26a NRSV

God made the world and all that is in it, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31). The beautiful physical world that God made is not less important than, or in some way inferior to, the spiritual realm (Valerio 2008 p33). God made the physical world and it belongs to God (Psalm 24:1) and the world that God made is amazing and incredibly beautiful.

Humanity was made in the image of God. We are an integral part of creation and we remain part of creation. Is it surprising therefore that so many people can find the spiritual through the physical, that people seek God through nature, and that people find peace in a garden?

When we create gardens, we seek to bring together aspects of God's amazing world into one setting. We choose the trees, shrubs and plants that we happen to like best and can grow well in the soil and climate conditions pertinent to our gardens. Perhaps gardeners are seeking Eden and are engaging with God. It is both a physical, and a spiritual activity.

This isn't just the attitude of Christians, people of all faiths and no faith benefit from engaging in gardens. There is growing evidence that engaging with nature boots our physical and psychological health. The government have acknowledged that engaging with nature, for example gardening, is good for the mental health. Nature-based activities is one of the many different types of 'social' prescribing: a successful alternative to medication that has reduced the demand on NHS services.

Community Gardens can provide opportunity for those who are deprived or disabled to engage in gardening, to work together with others, to engage socially and to grow in confidence. Community gardens within a town or city can provide opportunities for gardening that are not possible for many people. Community gardens may include a place for quiet reflection, a "space to heal the mind, body and spirit" - an external place for prayer.

"L' is for Lifestyle" Ruth Valerio, Inter-Varsity Press, 2008

More information can be found at: <https://www.edenproject.com/eden-story/our-ethos/eden-on-prescription>
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5134438692814848> & <https://quietgarden.org/2019/pause-pentecost-2019/>
& <https://quietgarden.org/2018/green-health-awards/>

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Quiet Gardens

"I planted the seed, Apollos water to the plant, but it was God who made the plant grow."

1 Corinthians 3:6 GNT

"Very early the next morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and left the house. He went out of town to a lonely place where he prayed." Mark 1:35 GNT

"The Quiet Garden Movement flows from the example of Jesus' withdrawal to natural places to pray and his invitation to, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (St Mark's Gospel 6:31). If Jesus regularly and consistently needed such space to just 'be', then so do we."

The Quiet Garden Movement was established in 1992 and was based on a vision, developed by Revd Philip Roderick, of hospitality and prayer. The movement nurtures access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection in a variety of settings. These include: private homes, churches, retreat centres, schools and hospitals. Quiet Gardens can offer opportunities for people to experience silence, restfulness and contemplative practices; they may also offer regular quiet days and retreats. The Quiet Garden Movement supports core values of Hospitality, Contemplation, Nature Connection and Creativity.

In a sense, any seat that allows a view of the natural world could be used as an external place for prayer, but space that is set aside for stillness and prayer should have an extra quality that may not be found on a park bench.

Church grounds appeal to people interested in local history and the natural world: burial grounds encapsulate the history of communities whilst offering refuge for our native wildlife. For some they are an accessible green space but they are also places that have a quality of being set aside, of being a little separate from the world and perhaps its worries.

What makes a valuable external place for prayer? This study seeks to develop an answer to that question by using the resources of the Quiet Garden Movement. There are over 300 Quiet Gardens worldwide and this is a short study ecumenical of 36 Quiet Gardens related to assorted places of Christian worship in England and Wales. The original plan was to see 40 Quiet Gardens but three were closed on the pre-planned day of the visit, and one was not a place of habitual worship. The latter was the Old Rectory at Epworth, the birthplace of Methodism, and well worth visiting. It includes an interesting tour of the house and a fascinating herb garden.

A list of the Quiet Gardens visited can be found in the Appendix.

More information can be found at: <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/> & <https://quietgarden.org/>

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Study of the 36 Quiet Gardens visited:

Setting

Our setting is given and cannot be changed. It is the locality and place of worship. 13 of the Quiet Gardens visited were in rural or village settings. It is not surprising to note that they were quiet and peaceful. 22 were in market towns or city setting and yet they were also both quiet and peaceful. Where there was traffic noise it became part of the background and it didn't intrude on the peacefulness.

Size

The size of a space for prayer does not determine its validity as a Quiet Garden, what matters is that the space is intentionally set aside for prayer, silence and refreshment.

My assessment of the size of Quiet Gardens differs from those described on the Quiet Garden website. My assessment is based on the number of seekers who can use the facilities without their presence impinging on the privacy and prayers of others. Of the Quiet Gardens visited: 15 were large with more than 3 seating areas; 10 had 2-3 seating areas; and 11 had only 1 seating area. 6 of the Quiet Gardens with only 1 seating area could accommodate a lot of people.

I found peaceful places to pray in both large and small Quiet Gardens.

The amount of land attached to the church is fixed and this will be an important factor in determining the size of the space that can be used. Some churches may have the luxury of choice. An advantage of having a large Quiet Garden is the capacity to organise sessions of group meditation: useful for the church community. An advantage for the individual seeking a place to engage with God is a choice of where to sit. The advantage of a small Quiet Garden is that it is less costly and easier to maintain: useful for the gardeners. Churches that have their grounds that are full of graves, might struggle to find even a corner that could be used differently. Even so, only a small space is needed to develop an external place of prayer.

Focus

Quiet Gardens generally provided assorted plants or objects for visitors to focus their attention on whilst seeking the peace of the garden. Those Quiet Gardens that spanned the full extent of the church grounds generally provided less in terms of foci than Quiet Gardens that had specific (perhaps many specific) areas for meditation.

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Focus - Planting

32 of the Quiet Gardens employed judicious use of flowers, shrubs and trees. Some areas were left to grow wild either purposefully or for lack of people to maintain the garden. Three Quiet Gardens did not appear to have any thought given to specific planting and at one church the specific planting was not near the benches. Of these four gardens, one offered other features as a focus, and the other three are in the context of a historic church building and most of the benches faced the church. Two of these also have benches facing outwards, towards the beautiful countryside beyond.

A few gardens were formally designed, not just in structural layout, but also in planting and in one garden the colour of blooms expected from that planting. It was fascinating to see how the original design was realised in the garden. Engaging a garden designer can result in an exquisite garden that successfully achieves the aim of a calm, peaceful and meditative garden. I was amazed at the range of blooms and shades that are connected to the colour blue. Sadly this can also be an expensive approach to developing a Quiet Garden.

Most gardens were less designed: although many gardens had a basic plan that established where the flower bed would be. Some gardens focused on green foliage and firs which provided gardens that required less maintenance. Other gardens engaged flowering shrubs and perennials with the addition of seasonal annuals. This approach provides a space that is full of colour: wonderfully disorganised. In some gardens members of the church and community brought plants and a suitable place was found for the offerings. This approach allowed the church community to feel and express a level of ownership for the Quiet Garden, and was generally less expensive financially, but required a much greater input from gardeners.

One well established garden clearly had a level of design originally. Since then plants have been allowed to overflow the original bounds (plants grew up between flagstones to poke their blooms though the benches). This provides a wonderful feel of nature escaping human control - a point for deep meditation in itself.

Focus - Cross and other Christian symbols

19 Quiet Gardens used a cross as a focus: usually a single upright cross. One garden provided a set of three crosses and another garden had a central feature of a semi prone cross (resting on one arm and the base) amidst a flower bed. Whether semi-prone or upright, thought was given to the safety and security of the feature. At one Quiet Garden the cross was seasonally placed and not a permanent fixture: a permanent base for the cross to slot into was provided.

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Other Christian symbols that were used include a Celtic stone cross and Ichthus. 4 Quiet Gardens used statues as a focus including St Francis, the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus with the Woman at the Well. This latter is a water feature in Chester Cathedral Cloister Garden.

Focus -Labyrinth

A Labyrinth provides a useful tool for prayer and mindfulness; it offers a meandering but purposeful path from the outer edge of (often) a circle to the centre, and back out again. 6 Quiet Gardens had a Labyrinth of different sizes and complexity. Some were designed and commissioned by an external company whilst others were developed by the gardeners themselves. The latter were developed at very little cost. I walked and prayed most of the labyrinths I saw. The less complex ones in small spaces were as much of a joy to walk as the more complex ones in larger spaces. It is difficult to walk a labyrinth that doesn't offer much more than the width of a foot for the path.

Focus -Mosaic

6 Quiet Gardens had Mosaics which were designed and executed by members of the church community and often used recycled tiles and broken china. 4 churches had more than one mosaic, but within each garden all the mosaics followed the same theme and involving a theological perspective: Seasons; Tree of life; Fruits of the Spirit; and New Jerusalem. Every mosaic I saw was very different; each one was beautiful, exquisitely designed and carefully crafted. Mosaics add colour, texture and focus to gardens that can be a little bare in winter months.

Focus -Water Feature

5 Quiet Gardens had water features. At one Quiet Garden the visitor had access to the switch to put the water feature on or off. The sound of the water trickling down the feature was beautiful and entrancing. It was in a rural hamlet setting. At another garden the Water Feature was covered by wire mesh to ensure there was no danger to children. Water Features with recycling water need electricity, adding cost and complexity to the design of the garden. All water features would have to be carefully assessed for safety.

Focus – Notices, Leaflets, Texts etc

Included in this section are permanent texts/notices and notice boards. One Quiet Garden had a beautiful large stone with text etched onto it. A few gardens had texts etched onto wood. More gardens had texts or meditation aides printed on paper, often laminated, and fixed to posts or tied to benches or trees. I saw some very helpful notice boards with information about garden, church and community. 2 gardens had waterproof boxes containing leaflets to aid mediation: I found these to be very interesting and containing some valuable aides to prayer and meditation.

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Focus - Other Features

I saw an amazing range of different features in the Quiet Gardens that I visited and many were exclusive to that garden. These including: stone obelisk; chapel; boat with anchor; cairn. An understanding of the range of different objects used to focus prayerful attention on God can best be understood by describing three very different Quiet Gardens.

19 St James Tong - an open garden

There are 8 stations for prayer that circle the church. Each station is a circle of prayer: involving a circle of stone into which has been etched a 'circle' prayer and a plaque with a relevant title and a related Biblical text. For example: Station 1 is situated by the Garden of Remembrance and entitled "All Souls" with the text is "I am the resurrection and I am the Life" John 11:28. The 'circle' prayer is "Circle me Lord: keep hope within, keep despair without". Each station includes a bench and may have additional objects. Station 2 includes a crossroads signpost with 'Love' and the route to go towards the next station. Station 4 includes a Gate; Station 5 includes a font, representing the waters of Baptism; and Station 7 includes a cross.

A leaflet describing the spiritual journey, the circle of circles, is available in church.

27 Totley Rise Methodist - an open garden

There are many places to sit and many different objects to focus attention on. The general theme flowing through the stations is the life of Jesus Christ. The garden is on the bank of a river and that set the scene for some of the objects including a fishing boat marked with "follow me" and a dove over the river, both speak to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Looking towards his later ministry are a picnic table with pottery bread and wine, 3 crosses, and a tomb. In addition there is a mosaic house hidden within the planting; a labyrinth; a willow woven arbour; a bug hotel; a children's play area; and a comprehensive notice board with leaflets.

29 Our Lady's Garden @ St Peter in Chains, Doncaster - a locked garden

This Quiet Garden has been professionally designed and much of what it contains has been donated in loving memory. It is on a grand scale and is therefore suggestive of a cathedral. The main theme is Stations of the Cross: fifteen tall (over 10ft) strong metal structures draw attention to each station. At the top of each structure is a piece of masonry from many different monasteries and abbeys throughout the country, including Fountains and Rievaulx. A notice by at the base of each station provides the information of the station (ie 'Jesus falls for the third time') and identifies the source of the piece of masonry. The Garden includes stations representing parts of the Rosary, a Shrine, a Well, and Stars: all items associated with Our Lady, the middle ages or significance in the source of the material. Everything within the garden is precious or deeply significant to the parishioners.

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Seating

All Quiet Gardens visited offered benches to its visitors. Some benches were set within arbours or under trees which provided a level of shelter if it was raining. One Quiet Garden provides a prayer shed with comfortable upholstered seating - this is locked when the Quiet Garden is closed to protect it from misuse. One Quiet Garden provides a wooden shelter which is open to the elements on one side and provides excellent shelter from the rain. This was in a rural village setting and was not used for any other purpose apart from prayer.

Most of the benches were placed strategically in beautiful surroundings, but not all had a beautiful view in front of the seating. This means that the person sitting on the bench had beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers behind them, but looking forward did not always have something interesting to look at. One beautifully secluded single seat had the gardens work shed to look at, another faced the storage location of the church's wheelie bins.

The type of seating provided does not determine how the Quiet Garden will be used. One city Quiet Garden did not provide a table/bench picnic set but reported that people came for a peaceful setting and to eat their lunch in the garden. Another Quiet Garden turned the picnic bench into a focus of the last supper with pottery bread and chalice. Nevertheless, the provision of a picnic set might indicate that the area is designed for more social occasions than simply for private prayer.

Access

Many Quiet Gardens visited were easily accessible and open to the public. A few were locked but open at regular times, whilst others were open on an ad hoc or pre arrangement basis. Some Quiet Gardens visited were locked because they were being 'misused'.

It is important to understand from the beginning who the external place of prayer is being designed for. People on the fringe of church and society may use an external place of prayer for assorted nefarious acts, and not respect it as a place of worship and a place in which to encounter God. The moment a Quiet Garden is gated and locked, it is not accessible to misuse. Neither is it accessible to seekers.

There is an argument that the external place of prayer should be visible so to discourage misuse. Whilst being visible in a prayer space may be suitable to some, other people may want privacy for prayer. Providing privacy and seclusion also means that any less desirable activities also remain unseen.

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Use of Quiet Gardens

Quiet Gardens are used by both the members of the church/chapel/meeting house and by visitors/seekers. Many churches provide organised Quiet Days that make use of their Quiet Gardens. Quaker Meeting Houses, encourage their members to use the area as part of their preparation for Meeting for Worship.

I could discern no evidence that the size of a Quiet Garden, nor any particular style of planting, nor any particular focus, nor any specific type of seating had a significant effect on who (apart from church members) used the space provided. Nevertheless, the thoughtful provision of seating, planting and focus etc can encourage an atmosphere of peace and reflection that can be used prayerfully.

The use of the Quiet Gardens by the local community and those on the fringe of the church, might be determined by how well the community are informed about the availability of the Quiet Garden and how welcomed they feel by the church. Gardens, usually those in towns and cities, can be used by people who work nearby, who are looking for peace and quiet, perhaps during their lunch break, and eat their lunch within the garden.

From the conversations I have had with the Quiet Garden organisers, it is clear that people on the fringe of the church/society do use the gardens: IF THEY ARE OPEN.

Some Quiet Gardens are normally locked. The decision to gate and lock those Quiet Gardens was not taken lightly. It was done to protect the objects within the garden or to prevent them from being misused. Nevertheless, a locked garden is no longer available for community use. Leaving a Quiet Garden open does mean that the area is available to those who want a private space to prayer, but it also means that is available for those who want a private space for less holy activities. Benches may be used by the homeless. Whilst this, in itself, may not be a problem, the lack of open toilet facilities may create a problem.

Quiet Gardens are also used as a place for quiet and reflection and providing aids to meditation might encourage and enable prayer. Useful resources could be laminated or placed in boxes. Resources used by Quiet Gardens visited include:

Centre for Action and Contemplation

<https://cac.org/richard-rohr/richard-rohr-ofm/>

A drop-down box from Richard Rohr shows that Daily Mediations are available

God of Green Hope

<https://godofgreenhope.wordpress.com/>

Look for Meditations on Plants under Archives - June 2016, July 2016, August 2016, September 2016, October 2016.

There are a lot of other resources available.

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Eco Church & Quiet Gardens

*To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
(5th of Five Marks of Mission)*

Developing an External Place for Prayer can be part of a church's engagement with Anglican and Diocesan initiatives.

Manchester diocese is seeking accreditation as an Eco-Diocese. This is to encourage the churches to participate in the scheme and think about living out the 5th Mark of Mission through care of God's creation. <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/2018/04/16/eco-diocese-explained/>

Engaging with Eco-Church is through the Eco-Survey which covers 6 areas: Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Community and Global, Lifestyle and Additional Information. The third section refers to any land over which the church has influence. Largely it explores how the land is managed in relation to wildlife, both flora and fauna. The survey also addresses how the land is used by people both church members and the community and refers to two types of use: recreation and/or contemplation.

The information and advice on Eco-church regarding Land discourages the 'mow everything' and 'prune everything' attitude and suggests how the land can be used in wildlife-friendly ways. It advises doing a survey done of the wildflower and grassland before sowing wildflowers and changing mowing patterns. Churches are encouraged to provide bat boxes, bird boxes, bug hotels and wildlife feeding stations.

There is no additional information or advice related to how the land the church could encourage the land to be better used by its members and/or the community.

I contend that the provision an External Place for Prayer (benches to sit on, plants and faith related objects to look at) will encourage the church grounds to be used by both church members and the community for recreation and/or contemplation.

The provision of an External Place for Prayer will therefore satisfy this requirement for Eco-Church.

It is worth noting that a faculty may not be required. Look carefully at what items are now possible under List A&B permissions.

A copy of the questionnaire and the downloadable PDF advisory document can be found at <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/eco-survey-non-saving-example/> and <https://3ak4be4522es3y5i4l2cwfkx-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Land-How-to-Look-After-Your-Land-in-Wildlife-Friendly-Ways.pdf>

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Developing a Quiet Garden

If we cannot open our churches, I believe we have a duty to provide a place for quiet reflection if the space exists in our church grounds. Not a lot of space is needed to establish an external space for prayer but thought and planning are essential.

It is important to engage the interest of the PCC and church members at an early stage, as well as to identify the person or team that have the inspiration and, vision to lead the project. It is clear that it should be done as a 'whole church' project but the community should be involved at an early stage. Gardeners and funding have been found/located by this expediency.

Consider the land and how it is used and what space can be given over to the Space for Reflection. It is important that the church develop a clear idea of the aims and objectives of having an External Place for Prayer / Quiet Garden / Space for Reflection (title isn't important). What is important is that the space is not locked and made inaccessible.

Consider what type of seating can be provided and if/how it can be fixed to the ground. Consider what the visitor can look at whilst in the garden, what objects will promote peace and reflection of God and his creation. Costs for planting could be met by contributions from parishioners, or by engaging outside agencies: township '...in Bloom' or the local school might be interested in the project.

Consider the British weather: can shelter can be provided and if so, of what sort.

When designing the plot allocated, consider seating, trellises, flower beds and other items to focus the attention. Consider also how to advertise and welcome community and strangers to the external space for prayer. Consider how the needs of the disadvantaged can be accommodated. Perhaps provide wide paths for those with walking aids; perfumed plants for the visually impaired; or lighter coloured paths for those with dementia.

Discuss plans with the Archdeacon and the Diocese at an early stage. A Faculty may be required for the bench/seating but explore the List A&B options. A Faculty will be required for any other object that is expected to be a permanent feature - except planting.

And finally, consider maintenance - not just the ongoing gardening but also keeping the seating in sufficient good condition that people will want to sit there and take time to consider God.

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My thanks go to all those who have encouraged me in developing this project and assisted me in its development especially my administrator, Mark Thompson.

Biblical quotes taken from: The Good News Translation (GNT)
New King James Version (NKJV)
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

A PowerPoint Presentation is available.

It includes many of the hundreds of photographs that were taken during the visits to the 36 Quiet Gardens.

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List of Quiet Gardens visited by order of visit (2019)

- 01 07/05 St Francis' Quiet Garden, Fairwater, **Cardiff**, Clamorgan, Wales
- 02 08/05 St Nicholas Wayfarers' Church, **Bridgewater**, Somerset
- 03 08/05 Quaker Peace Garden, **Bridport**, Dorset
- 04 09/05 All Saints Quiet Garden, **Lymington**, Hampshire
- 05 09/05 **Salisbury** Quaker Meeting House Garden, Wiltshire
- 06 10/05 St Luke's Church Quiet Garden, **Crosby**, Merseyside
- 07 10/05 St Peter's Quiet Garden, **Southport**, Merseyside
- 08 11/05 St Mark's **Haydock** Quiet Garden, Merseyside
- 09 13/05 Poole Methodist Chapel Quiet Garden, **Nantwich**, Cheshire
- 10 13/05 All Saints Church, **Leigh**, Staffordshire
- 11 14/05 St Joseph's **Derby**
- 12 14/05 Sherwood Methodist Church, **Nottingham**
- 13 15/05 St Andrew's Church, Stewton, **Louth**, Lincolnshire
- 14 16/05 Upwell Methodist Quiet Garden, **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire
- 15 17/05 St Andrews Church Quiet Garden, **Milton Keynes**, Buckinghamshire
- 16 17/05 **Northampton** Quaker Meeting House
- 17 18/05 St Mark's Quiet Garden Churchyard, **Rugby**, Warwickshire
- 18 02/07 The Cloister Garden at Holy Trinity Church, North Ormesby, **Middlesbrough**
- 19 03/07 Saint John's Quiet Garden, **Shildon**, Durham
- 20 04/07 **Hawkshead** Hill Baptist Chapel, Cumbria
- 21 04/07 **Ulverston** Churchyard, Cumbria
- 22 08/07 Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 23 08/07 St Peter and St Oswald's Quiet Garden, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 24 09/07 Gleadless Church, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 25 09/07 Totley Rise Methodist Quiet Garden, Sheffield, Yorkshire *see report p10
- 26 10/07 The Cross at Yew Lane, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 27 11/07 Our Lady's Garden @ St Peter in Chains, **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire * see report p10
- 28 12/07 St Oswald's, Methley, **Leeds**, Yorkshire
- 29 13/07 **Beverley** Quaker Meeting House, Yorkshire
- 30 13/07 The Quiet Garden, **Beverley** Minster, Yorkshire
- 31 15/07 **Chester** Cathedral Cloister Garth
- 32 15/07 The Quiet Garden, **Heswall** United Reformed, Wirral, Merseyside
- 33 16/07 St Michael's, **Flixton**, Manchester
- 34 16/07 Schoenstatt & St John Fisher, **Bolton**, Lancashire
- 35 19/07 Bolton St James, **Bradford**, Yorkshire
- 36 19/07 St James Spiritual Garden, Tong Village, **Bradford**, Yorkshire *see report p10

Developing External Places for Prayer

Appendix - List of quiet Gardens Visited

01 St Francis' Quiet Garden, Fairwater

St Fagan's Road, Fairwater, Cardiff, Wales: CF5 3DW

Garden Description: (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

A Small quiet garden alongside the Church and opening into St Peter's one-acre Community Garden. The garden can be accessed from the Church or the Community Garden. It has flower beds, standing stones, a water feature and a statue of St Francis of Assisi. Two paved areas with teak benches. It can be used for Quiet Days or just as a peaceful place to sit and reflect. Refreshments available from the nearby Community Hall. Toilet facilities available both in the Church and the Hall.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-francis-quiet-garden-fairwater>

Date Visited: Tuesday May 7th 2019

Observations:

Setting: Town
Size: Small (one seating area)
Focus: Planting; Statue (St Francis); Water Feature; other features
Seating: One bench at access from St Peters Community Garden; more planned
Access: OPEN - Through St Peter's Community Garden or through St Peter's church

02 St Nicholas Wayfarers' Church

Kilton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1ST

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-nicholas-wayfarers-church/>

Date Visited: Wednesday May 7th 2019

Observations:

Setting: Rural (very)
Size: Large (more than four seating areas)
Focus: Church building
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - The grounds of the church

Developing External Places for Prayer

03 Quaker Peace Garden

Bridport Quaker Meeting House, 95 South Street, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 3NZ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Our Peace Garden is always open and people are welcome to sit in a quiet corner. Views to the hills beyond provide a backdrop to the shrubs and flowers in our garden and burial ground.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/quaker-peace-garden/>

Date Visited: Wednesday May 7th 2019

Observations:

Setting: Market Town
Size: Small (one seating area)
Focus: Planting
Seating: Benches with pergola
Access: OPEN - Through the alley to the back of the buildings

04 All Saints Quiet Garden

All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Woodside Lymington, Hampshire SO41 8FD

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

A small, intimate, quiet space with trees and shrubs in this beautiful part of Lymington.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/all-saints-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Thursday May 9th

Observations:

Setting: Village
Size: Medium (benches at different part of the Quiet Garden which allows a few individual people to use the area at the same time without disturbing others)
Focus: Planting (there was a fascinating tree growing on top of a tree stump)
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - Through gates from driveway

05 Salisbury Quaker Meeting House Garden

51 Wilton Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 7EF, England

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Courtyard garden at Salisbury Quaker Meeting House. It is a contemplative courtyard garden with several benches and full planting. It is a haven from the busy main road in front of the meeting house. It is available every day. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/salisbury-quaker-meeting-house-garden/>

Date Visited: Thursday May 9th

Observations:

Setting: City
Size: Small (several benches in the one seating area)
Focus: Planting; Notices
Seating: Benches (in a Quaker circle)
Access: OPEN - Through a gate at the side of the building, and from the car park

Developing External Places for Prayer

06 St Luke's Church Quiet Garden

71 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool Merseyside L23 5SE

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Graveyard with different areas within grounds; for example; Garden of Reflection, Community Garden, Wildflower meadow, Butterfly garden. Open every day.

The Grounds have been developed over a number of years, demonstrating our care for God's creation, through the use of recycling and re-using of materials, and choosing plants attractive to wildlife.

Each of the gardens appeals to our five senses, providing various focal points and places to sit. A variety of materials have been used for the paths & ground surfaces. There are information panels around the grounds giving further details about the different areas. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-lukes-church-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Friday May 10th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Large (4 or more seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross, Mosaics, other features
Seating: Benches, some sheltered, some with trellising
Access: OPEN - Wide driveway with parking space near graveyard

07 St Peter's Quiet Garden

St Peter's Vicarage, 2 St Peter's Rd, Birkdale Southport Merseyside PR8 4DF

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

St Peter's Quiet Garden is a community garden open to everyone. The Quiet Garden was inspired by The Rev. Sue Calveley and her husband Alex, and work began to create the garden on Easter Monday 2006.

The garden is fully enclosed with many areas to sit, a labyrinth to walk if you wish, a comfortable, welcoming but private Prayer Hut, a living willow/rose arch, a fallen cross at the heart of the garden, a sensory area and many other beautiful features. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-peters-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Friday May 10th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross, Labyrinth, Water Feature, Notices, other features
Seating: Benches, including picnic table, and others that are sheltered or covered
Access: LOCKED - Opened and at prearranged times when people are on duty

Developing External Places for Prayer

08 St Mark's Haydock Quiet Garden

St Mark's Church, West End Road, Haydock St Helen's Merseyside WA11 0AX

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Open all year round. Garden around Church linked / signposted by self-guided 'Spiritual Walk' guide through hedge enclosed Centenary Community Garden (with series of 'rooms', some formal cultivated / part semi-wild) intentionally leading to extensive Graveyard. Central Labyrinth with signage and meditation spaces on 8 key words from Philippians Ch.4 v8: 'Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy - think about these things....!'

Clothes shop / Furniture Warehouse (open daytime Tuesday - Friday).

Brochure available in dispensers or by post on request. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-lukes-church-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Saturday May 11th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Notices, other features
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - accessed by side of church

09 Poole Methodist Chapel Quiet Garden

Poole Methodist Chapel, Wattenhall Road, Poole, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6AL

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

We have created a community Quiet Garden at the back of the small rural chapel which will be open all year round. It is advertised on the tourist trail in Nantwich as a place to visit.

The quiet space and Labyrinth can be used by individuals and groups, and also local school children.

The garden has different areas within it for plants, including sensory and healing plants; there is a water feature, sun-dial and Christian symbols as well as seating. There are also benches in memory of various donors. The site has frontage to Wattenhall Road and on street parking is available.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/poole-methodist-chapel-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Monday May 13th

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Small (one seating area)
Focus: Planting, Cross, Labyrinth, Water feature, other features
Seating: Benches, two with arbours
Access: OPEN - Entrance through gate at side of chapel

Developing External Places for Prayer

10 All Saints Church, Leigh

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The churchyard at All Saints spreads out around the church and overlooks the low valley to the south. It has a sensory garden which is being rejuvenated, and seating and grass on which you can soak up the peace and calm of a place that has been used for worship for many centuries, surrounded by the beauty of God's Creation. The church will be open on some days during the summer for tea and other refreshments.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/all-saints-church-leigh/>

Date Visited: Monday May 13th

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Small (one area with specific focus but benches around the graveyard)
Focus: Planting, Mosaic
Seating: Benches, including sheltered by tree
Access: OPEN - Church grounds, specific garden is behind the church

11 St Joseph's Derby

St Joseph's Church, Burton Road Derby Derbyshire DE1 1TJ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

St Joseph's garden in Derby is an oasis of peace and beauty in a busy city environment. Alongside the parish church, it is used by parishioners and others for private prayer and short retreats. Making use of contemplative prayer, particularly in the Catholic tradition. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-josephs-derby/>

Date Visited: Tuesday May 14th

Observations:

Setting: City
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Statue (Virgin Mary), Water Feature
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - Ground include steep slopes but hand rails in place to aid visitors

12 Sherwood Methodist Church

Sherwood Methodist Church, Devon Drive, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG5 2EN

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The garden is a small urban, landscaped area just off the main Mansfield Road that runs through Sherwood. It is accessible to the public and suitable for wheelchair users. It has natural and seasonal plantings, a paved labyrinth, mosaics and seating. It is a calm place in a busy environment.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/sherwood-methodist-church/>

Date Visited: Tuesday May 14th

Observations:

Setting: City
Size: Medium (different seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross, Labyrinth, Mosaic, Notices, other features
Seating: Benches (one will be sheltered when willow weaving develops)
Access: OPEN - Side of building, well sign posted with a mosaic

Developing External Places for Prayer

13 St Andrew's Church, Stewton

St Andrew's Church, Stewton, Lincolnshire, LN11 8SF

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website) no URL

Date Visited: Wednesday 15th May

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Church building
Seating: Benches
Access: Open - Church grounds

14 Upwell Methodist Quiet Garden

Town Street, Upwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE14 9DQ

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/upwell-methodist-quiet-garden-3/>

Date Visited: Thursday May 16th

Observations:

Setting: Village
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross, other features
Seating: Benches including some sheltered and one well covered
Access: OPEN - through the car park to the grounds behind

15 St Andrews Church Quiet Garden

St Andrews Church, Parklands, Great Linford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK14 5DZ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The Quiet Garden beside the church is always open and people are welcome at any time.

The Church of St Andrews and its Quiet Garden lies within the Manor Park area of Great Linford, North Milton Keynes. The Grand Union Canal passes 100 metres from the northern boundary of the churchyard and the National Cycle Network Route 6 also passes the churchyard. Canal travellers and cyclists are welcome at any time to pause on their journeys.

There are no specific events planned for the rest of 2016 but all are welcome to visit the Quiet Garden at any time and to join us at the following times: Sunday morning services are at 10.00am. There is also a Communion on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00am followed by refreshments, when the church remains open until 1.00pm. On Sunday afternoons throughout August, the church is open from 2.00pm to 5.00pm for tea, coffee and cakes. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-andrews-church-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Friday May 17th

Observations:

Setting: Rural appearance
Size: Small (one seating area)
Focus: Planting, Cross (seasonal)
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - on the path to the church

Developing External Places for Prayer

16 Northampton Quaker Meeting House

Wellington Street Northampton Northamptonshire NN1 3AS

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Burial ground and garden with four wooden garden seats, gravel paths, shrubs and trees.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/northampton-quaker-meeting-house/>

Date Visited: Friday May 17th

Observations:

Setting: City
Size: Medium (every bench can be seen by others although they are well spaced)
Focus: Planting
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - by the side of the Meeting House

17 St Mark's Quiet Garden Churchyard

St Mark's Church, Church Walk, Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7LX

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Welcome to this peaceful place where people have gathered for over six hundred years.

St Mark's Church is surrounded by a beautiful, peaceful churchyard, which includes a Garden of Remembrance. It is nestled within Bilton Parish, in Rugby. The churchyard is a special space which dates back to at least the 1700's.

If you have some time, take a walk around the beautiful churchyard and appreciate the real "oasis of peace" that can be experienced. The churchyard is accessible to visitors all year round; for rest, reflection and prayer any day, any time. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-marks-quiet-garden-churchyard/>

Date Visited: Saturday May 18th

Observations:

Setting: Village
Size: Large (several seating areas)
Focus: Planting
Seating: Benches (some sheltered by trees or shrubs)
Access: OPEN - Into church grounds

Developing External Places for Prayer

18 Bolton St James

Bolton St James church, Bolton Rd Bradford West Yorkshire BD2 4LH

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Front garden always open. Rear garden: currently open every Weds from 08.30 – 4.30 with free tea and cakes in the church between 3 and 4.30 (but accessible at other times by arrangement).

Front garden is wheelchair accessible lawns, flower beds and a bench with a beautiful rock inscribed with “Cast all your anxiety on Him, for He cares for you”. The rear garden has flower beds, benches + wheelchair accessible raised beds for community use (fruit, vegs, flowers) in a previously derelict area.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/bolton-st-james-community-garden/>

Date Visited: Monday July 1st

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Medium (two distinct seating areas, two in the locked area)
Focus: Planting, Notices
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN + LOCKED - first area is open and is clearly visible from the road; the main area is locked but readily opened; via disabled access to church grounds - signposted

19 St James Spiritual Garden, Tong

***see report p10**

St James Church, Tong Village, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD4 0RR

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-james-spiritual-garden-tong/>

Date Visited: Monday July 1st

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Large (Eight distinct seating areas)
Focus: Planting; Cross; Water Feature (font); other features
Seating: Benches, some sheltered by trees/shrubs
Access: OPEN - Church grounds - first station by Garden of Remembrance

20 The Cloister Garden at Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Church, James Street, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough TS3 6LD

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/the-cloister-garden-at-holy-trinity-church/>

Date Visited: Tuesday July 2nd

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Medium (Plenty of seats including room with vista over cloister)
Focus: Planting, Labyrinth, Mosaics, other features
Seating: Chairs and Bench, undercover (only the centre of the cloister is fully exposed)
Access: Entrance via church or community centre therefore OPEN during the day

Developing External Places for Prayer

21 Saint John's Quiet Garden

Church Street, Shildon, County Durham, DL4 1ND

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/saint-johns-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Wednesday July 3rd

Observations:

Setting: Town
Size: Medium (2 distinct seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Statue (Black Madonna)
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN - into grounds, through sign posted gate to the left of church

22 Hawkshead Hill Baptist Chapel

Hawkshead Hill, Ambleside Cumbria LA22 0PW

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Very varied, including graveyard, small apple orchard, poustinia (prayer place), sensory garden, open grassy areas, outdoor baptistery and summerhouse. A number of seats are to be found around the grounds.

Open all year and at all times (unless reserved for a special group visit/quiet day). Hawkshead Hill Baptist Church is on the B5285, 1 mile from Hawkshead.

There are toilet facilities, and self-serve drinks are available in the adjoining chapel. There are also toilet facilities, and some access, for those with disabilities. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/hawkshead-hill-baptist-chapel/>

Date Visited: Thursday July 4th

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Large (several distinct seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross (within Poustinia); Notices
Seating: Chairs & Benches (sheltered & covered within poustinia and summer house)
Access: Usually OPEN unless pre-booked for a group - entrance via church & car park

Developing External Places for Prayer

23 Ulverston Churchyard

Ulverston Parish Church, Church Walk Ulverston Cumbria LA12 7EN

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The Parish Church, founded in Norman times, is five minutes from the centre of the old market town of Ulverston. Trees surround the churchyard, where old gravestones mingle comfortably with wild areas and mixed borders. In 2017 and 2018 respectively, the churchyard was the winner and runner-up of Cumbria in Bloom Churchyards Category. God has been worshipped on this site for 900 years; it is a peaceful place in which to wander quietly or sit and rest from life's busyness. Gardening takes place on Wednesday afternoons. Refreshments within five minutes' walk at Hospice, Ford Park or Town Centre.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/ulverston-churchyard/>

Date Visited: Thursday July 4th

Observations:

Setting: Town
Size: Medium (Grounds are extensive but few distinct seating areas)
Focus: Church building, Notices
Seating: Benches (some shelter from trees)
Access: OPEN - though church grounds to the back of the building

24 Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Whirlow Spirituality Centre, Whirlow Grange Drive, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S11 9RX

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is a day retreat centre with place of worship. The garden surrounds it. There is a private lawn surrounded by trees and bushes in front of the chapel, a cairn and 6 garden benches; a small patio garden leading from glass doors to side of the building with bird table and 2 garden benches; substantial planted borders along the drive and around the car park. Our vision is to offer the garden as an intimate area of peace and tranquillity, open at all times. Open most weekdays and on Sundays. Times vary so please contact us if you wish to visit.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/whirlow-spirituality-centre-at-the-chapel-of-the-holy-spirit/>

Date Visited: Monday July 8th

Observations:

Setting: Rural
Size: Large (Several different areas for prayers)
Focus: Planting, other features
Seating: Arbour. (Poustina planned)
Access: OPEN all around the centre/chapel

Developing External Places for Prayer

25 St Peter and St Oswald's Quiet Garden

2 Bannerdale Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S7 2DL

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-peter-and-st-oswalds-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Monday July 8th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Small (One seating area)
Focus: Cross, Labyrinth, Notices
Seating: Bench
Access: OPEN; up steps to main entrance, right before Church building

26 Gleadless Church

Gleadless Parish Centre, 245 Hollinsend Road Sheffield South Yorkshire S12 2EE

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/gleadless-church/>

Date Visited: Tuesday July 9th

Observations:

Setting: City
Size: Small (currently one seating area, more are planned)
Focus: Planting
Seating: Bench & Chairs
Access: OPEN; behind parish centre, through gate

27 Totley Rise Methodist Quiet Garden

***see report p10**

Grove Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S17 4DJ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Area behind the church. Basically, a garden, changing with seasons, alongside a stream. Displays change according to the Christian calendar but the three crosses are permanent.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/totley-rise-methodist-quiet-garden/>

Date Visited: Tuesday July 9th

Observations:

Setting: Village
Size: Large (Several seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Cross, Labyrinth, Mosaic, Water Feature, Notices, other features
Seating: Assorted benches, including one under willow woven arbour.
Access: OPEN; side of church, accessible from car park.

Developing External Places for Prayer

28 The Cross at Yew Lane

Creswick Greave Methodist Church, Yew Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S5 9AG

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The Quiet Garden is situated on the edge of a large mixed housing area in North Sheffield.

It houses three outdoor garden spaces, and indoor space for activities. These include programmed activities such as: Space to Grow - Through Gardening (Wednesday mornings); Through Art (Wednesday mornings); Through Food (Wednesday Lunchtime); Through Creative writing (Friday mornings); Space to Play - Outdoor Toddler Group (Seasonal - Monday mornings); Quiet Days / Mornings / Evenings - various times throughout the month (see Facebook page for updates).

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/the-cross-at-yew-lane/>

Date Visited: Wednesday July 10th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Small (One seating area)
Focus: Planting, Cross.
Seating: Bench between raised planters.
Access: OPEN; in front of church.

29 Our Lady's Garden (Doncaster)

* see report p10

St Peter-in-Chains church, Chequer Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN1 2AA

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website) <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/our-ladys-garden/>

Date Visited: Friday July 12th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Small – temporarily only one seating area.
Focus: Planting, Cross, Water Feature, Notices, other features
Seating: Benches
Access: LOCKED; Access on ad-hoc basis by arrangement.

30 St Oswald's, Methley

St Oswald's Church, Methley, Leeds West Yorkshire LS26 9BJ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

The garden is in the churchyard. It is on the left-hand side of the main path into church. The space is quite new and has been developed over the last couple of years. Shortly we will have seating in the garden. It is open all year round. <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/st-oswalds-methley/>

Date Visited: Friday July 12th

Observations:

Setting: Village
Size: Medium; 2 -3 seating areas
Focus: Planting, Notice
Seating: Benches, stone seat & patio set
Access: OPEN; within church grounds

Developing External Places for Prayer

31 Beverley Quaker Meeting House

Quaker Lane, Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 8BY

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

A domestic-sized garden that reflects the traditional Quaker values of peace and simplicity. One end is a social space with plenty of summer colour; the other end is planted in quiet colours with a contemplative woodland feel. There are benches to sit on and ethnic artefacts provided by the And Albert Foundation.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/beverley-quaker-meeting-house/>

Date Visited: Saturday July 13th

Observations:

Setting: City

Size: Medium; 2 -3 seating areas

Focus: Planting, other features

Seating: Benches

Access: OPEN; through gate before meeting house. Garden is at rear of building.

32 The Quiet Garden, Beverley Minster

Parish Centre, 38 Highgate, Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU1 0DN

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

A small, tranquil walled garden tucked away to the side of the Parish Centre at Beverley Minster.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/the-quiet-garden-beverley-minster/>

Date Visited: Saturday July 13th

Observations:

Setting: City

Size: Large (More than 3 seating areas)

Focus: Planting

Seating: Benches

Access: OPEN; through gate by parish building. (Potential to lock gate.)

33 Chester Cathedral Cloister Garth

12 Abbey Square, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2HU

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website)

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/chester-cathedral-cloister-garth/>

Date Visited: Monday July 15th

Observations:

Setting: City

Size: Large (Several seating areas)

Focus: Planting, Statue in Water Feature (Jesus & Woman at the Well)

Seating: Benches

Access: OPEN - when cathedral is open.

Developing External Places for Prayer

34 The Quiet Garden, Heswall United Reformed

Heswall United Reformed Church, 199 Telegraph Road, Heswall, Merseyside, CH60 7SE

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Quiet secluded garden behind our church (in middle of a small busy town); benches and arbours for seating; waterfall and pond; grassy area; lots of birds, trees, shrubs and flowers; disabled access. Permanent seating approx. 20, but can bring out chairs from Church - grassy area will seat up to 100.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/the-quiet-garden-heswall-united-reformed-heswall/>

Date Visited: Monday July 15th

Observations:

Setting: Urban
Size: Medium (A few seating areas)
Focus: Planting, Water Feature
Seating: Arbours
Access: OPEN; behind building

35 St Michael's, Flixton

348 Church Road, Flixton, Manchester, M41 6HR

Garden Description (None on Quiet Garden Movement Website) no URL (membership withdrawn)

Date Visited: Tuesday July 16th

Observations:

Setting: Suburban
Size: Small; one seating area
Focus: Planting, Notices
Seating: Stone bench
Access: OPEN; within church grounds

Developing External Places for Prayer

36 Schoenstatt & St John Fisher

Manchester Rd, Kearsley, Bolton, Lancashire, BL4 8QQ

Garden Description (From Quiet Garden Movement Website)

Parish Church and Retreat Centre with Cottage incorporated.

Extensive grounds surrounding the buildings. Behind the church/hall you will find the Mosaic Peace Garden. The terraced bank below it has been laid out as the Stations of the Cross. Down the bank there is a small, rather hidden patio, but it can only be reached at present by people who are good on their feet.

At present our garden is a work in progress. More benches are planned and areas for group meetings are also planned. The Cottage can be used in the meantime. It has a conservatory attached and kitchen facilities if the weather is bad. We are in the process of building a disabled access toilet onto the Cottage. The church hall has a disabled access toilet and full toilet facilities, as well as a kitchen. So, if the weather is bad, visitors are able to use whatever is available.

The garden is completely open. The local Methodist and Anglican Churches use our grounds, and we are talking to other bodies to make them aware of what we can offer particularly the elderly, lonely and disabled.

Accommodation: We have three twin bed rooms for visitors in the Cottage on a self-catering basis, but booking is required to make sure they are available.

Booking also required for day groups. A donation to cover expenses is gratefully received.

<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/schoenstatt-st-john-fisher/>

Date Visited: Tuesday July 16th

Observations:

Setting: Suburban
Size: Large; several seating areas
Focus: Planting, Mosaics, other features
Seating: Benches
Access: OPEN; rural garden behind church

Developing External Places for Prayer

Alphabetical List of Towns of Quiet Gardens Visited

- 31 **Beverley** Quaker Meeting House, Yorkshire
- 32 The Quiet Garden, **Beverley** Minster, Yorkshire
- 36 Schoenstatt & St John Fisher, **Bolton**, Lancashire
- 18 **Bolton** St James, **Bradford**, Yorkshire
- 19 St James Spiritual Garden, Tong Village, **Bradford**, Yorkshire *see report p10
- 02 St Nicholas Wayfarers' Church, **Bridgewater**, Somerset
- 03 Quaker Peace Garden, **Bridport**, Dorset
- 01 St Francis' Quiet Garden, Fairwater, **Cardiff**, Clamorgan, Wales
- 33 **Chester** Cathedral Cloister Garth
- 06 St Luke's Church Quiet Garden, **Crosby**, Merseyside
- 11 St Joseph's **Derby**
- 29 Our Lady's Garden @ ST Peter in Chains, **Doncaster**, South Yorkshire * see report p10
- 35 St Michael's, **Flixton**, Manchester
- 08 St Mark's **Haydock** Quiet Garden, Merseyside
- 22 **Hawkshead** Hill Baptist Chapel, Cumbria
- 34 The Quiet Garden, **Heswall** United Reformed, Wirral, Merseyside
- 10 All Saints Church, **Leigh**, Staffordshire
- 30 St Oswald's, Methley, **Leeds**, Yorkshire
- 13 St Andrew's Church, Stewton, **Louth**, Lincolnshire
- 04 All Saints Quiet Garden, **Lymington**, Hampshire
- 20 The Cloister Garden at Holy Trinity Church, North Ormesby, **Middlesbrough**
- 15 St Andrews Church Quiet Garden, **Milton Keynes**, Buckinghamshire
- 09 Poole Methodist Chapel Quiet Garden, **Nantwich**, Cheshire
- 16 **Northampton** Quaker Meeting House
- 12 Sherwood Methodist Church, **Nottingham**
- 17 St Mark's Quiet Garden Churchyard, **Rugby**, Warwickshire
- 05 **Salisbury** Quaker Meeting House Garden, Wiltshire
- 24 Whirlow Spirituality Centre at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 25 St Peter and St Oswald's Quiet Garden, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 26 Gleadless Church, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 27 Totley Rise Methodist Quiet Garden, Sheffield, Yorkshire *see report p10
- 28 The Cross at Yew Lane, **Sheffield**, Yorkshire
- 21 Saint John's Quiet Garden, **Sildon**, Durham
- 07 St Peter's Quiet Garden, **Southport**, Merseyside
- 23 **Ulverston** Churchyard, Cumbria
- 14 Upwell Methodist Quiet Garden, **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire