

A Garden of Renewal A Garden in Northumberland

'He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul.' Psalm 23

In the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year (2022) an Indian Chestnut Tree was planted near a still pond in Howick Hall Gardens by MU Diocesan President Margy Tasker-Brown, on behalf of Newcastle Diocesan Mothers Union. The tree is a symbol of Mothers' Union intent to help safeguard the natural environment for future generations: the fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion. In the life-time of our grandchildren and their grandchildren this sapling will probably grow to be 10M high and 12M wide and will outlive them all.



Gardens like Howick have offered rest and renewal for countless visitors in times of need. A garden is a microcosm of God's creation – where plants and animals co-exist, offering the shade and shelter, the peace and hope that God unwrapped in Eden. Such gardens have the gift-ability to restore our sense of calm and perspective and renew our spirit.

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. They are like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

Tree by quiet waters

Lord,
remind me from time to time,
that my relationship with you
is dynamic,
a living thing.
It needs to grow,
to develop,
to push its roots down deeper
into the quietness and depth
of your love for me.
To stretch its branches towards the sun,
to yield its fruit in season,
to withstand the heat of the day.
"Planted by streams of water"
you say.
Your living water,
that never fails,
always refreshing,
a cooling balm
to my sometimes weary spirit.

Remind me, Lord,
and nourish me
with your love,
again,
today.

Eddie Askew 'There was a Garden' with permission