

It's a Gardener's World!

Tall and stately foxglove plants have long been included in garden areas where vertical interest and lovely flowers are desired. Easily recognisable, this wildflower has tall spikes which can bear up to eighty bell-shaped blooms. There is a glorious display on the river bank along Levenside.



The mottled markings on foxglove flowers were once thought to be the hand-prints of fairies. In fact, in Gaelic, it was called 'lus nam ban-sith' - 'the fairy woman's plant'. Folklore suggests that the foxglove was originally called folk's glove, folk being the little people, the fairies from the forest, who distributed the bell shaped flowers to foxes to wear as gloves so that they could approach in silence when raiding chicken coops!

Genesis 1:12

"And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." This part of the Creation Story is all about the marvel of plants. And the Foxglove is just one example of the genius of nature. Did you know? A powerful heart medication is made from this beautiful wildflower. The medication has saved people's lives. It also has an amazing pollination mechanism. The foxglove is often, though not exclusively, pollinated by large bumble bees. Bees fly into the bowl-shaped flowers, and extract the nectar, before flying off, coated in pollen, to another flower. To stop the bee visiting every flower on the one plant before flying off to pollinate another, of the cascade of flowers the lower flowers open first. Flower opening proceeds step-wise upwards & as the upper flowers mature the lower flowers wilt. How clever! The foxglove is definitely worthy to be a part of God's creation.

Today let's talk about the word "worthy." The dictionary tells us that "worthy" refers to something that has great value.

In the Bible the apostle, Paul says this: "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." You have been called to spread God's love in the world. You have great value. As you use your talents to share God's love with others you "lead a life worthy" of that calling. You have an opportunity to share God's love through the useful and helpful things you do. Remember, "I cannot do all the good that the world needs, but the world needs all the good that I can do." And "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone"!