

NO-DIG GARDEN WITNESSES TO THE CREATOR

Wed 6 February 2013



We first met Max when thanks to our local Anglicare service he began coming to our Community lunch on Tuesdays in the parish hall. Max has had a rough time and some of his interior scars were visible.

Some months on, he is now our 'chief gardener'. The no-dig community kitchen garden alongside the hall, established with our Shire Council 'Live Life' program has always been extremely fruitful. Now along with caring for that garden, Max has built another and is potting various herbs and vegetables as well. The compost scraps from our kitchen are now forming the basis of the new garden and the seeds from the first harvest of lettuce and basil will be planted for our next crop. Coffee grounds from our 'local' (cafe) down the road protect the seedlings from snails.

Looking at the abundance of the garden, its health and vitality, is a source of real joy. Eating from it is even better!

The relationship between the garden, the earth, and the human being is an essential one. In the beginning the Lord placed us in a garden to till it and keep it. This suggests that our primary vocation as human being has something to do with caring for the creation gifted by the Creator. We are meant to live in good relationship with the creation. Indeed we are made of the same stuff.

Scripture says. *"Then the Lord God formed man from dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being."*

In Hebrew, the word *adam* (human) and *adamah* (earth or dust of the ground) remind us very clearly of our integral connection with the earth (and is not gender specific.) We are fashioned of the same stuff of the earth by the Creator. Our response to this gift of life, far from that of our rapacious exploitation of the earth, ought to be one of gratitude and humility. We are in fact part of the whole earth community; human and non-human life are interdependent.

In our parish kitchen, garden and compost heaps we see the cycle of life at work. The garden tended by Max and others, the meals cooked by Debbi and Roly and served by Colby and Pauline, the folk who come to eat and share friendship, the compost broken down into humus by worms, the sunlight and the rain co-exist in intimate and necessary relationship. We are meant to be in conscious and loving relationship with all creation. We are not meant to merely exist at the expense of others.

The God who calls us into being; who animates the whole of the cosmos; who became incarnate in Jesus the Christ for us, is surely calling us now into a new creation. I wonder, will we respond to that call.

By Reverend Linda Chapman

