

Cyclamen

Welcome to our reflection for Church without Walls

Here are some ideas of how to use these reflections:

Pray that God will lead your thoughts.

Sit comfortably, take a few deep breaths and relax.

Let your mind wander as you read the reflection. Write down your thoughts in a notebook. If you are busy, try and pick out something to take with you in odd moments during the day.

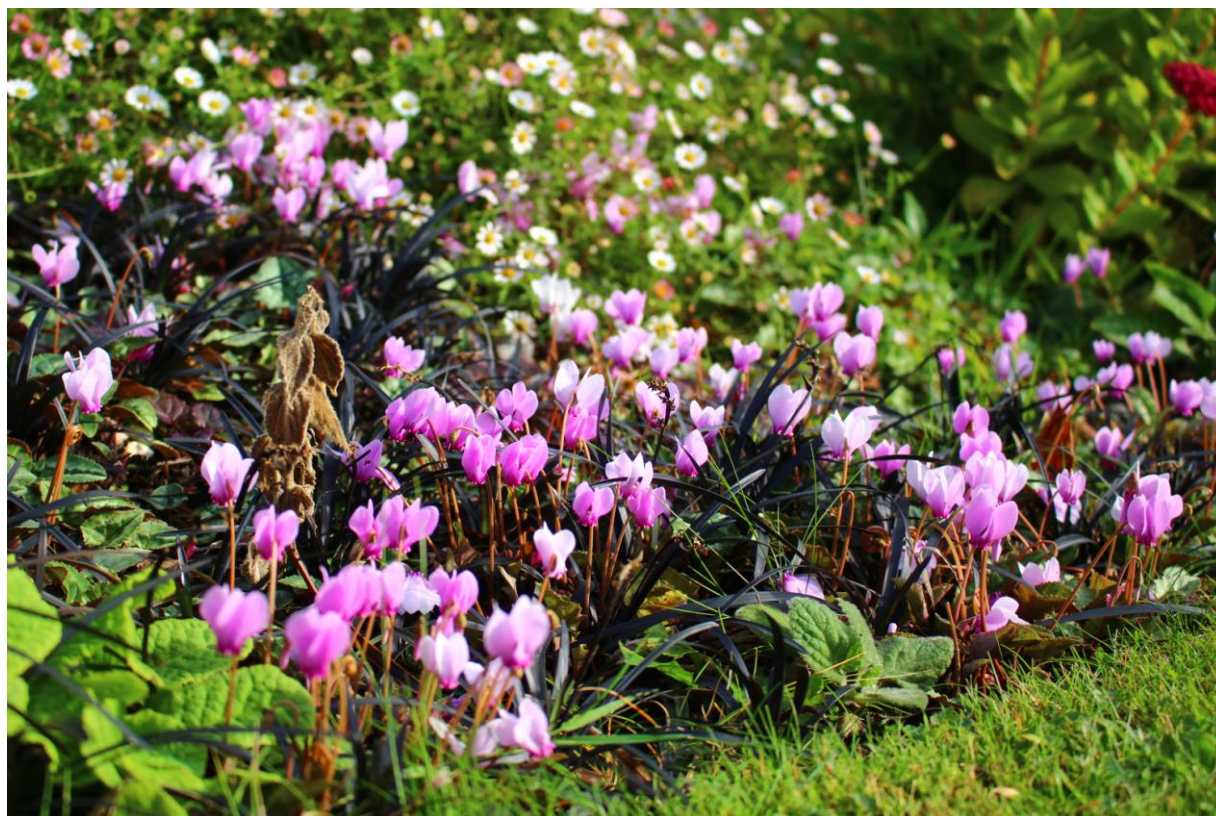
You may wish to memorise the Bible verse. Write it out and stick it up somewhere.

Bible Verse

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

(1 Peter 4:9)

Reflection



When we moved into our house we had a house warming party and a friend brought us a miniature cyclamen. I was thrilled as it brought back memories of my mother's love for them. Now, over 20 years later, that one cyclamen has spread into many. Some of them have even found themselves at the other end of the garden! I have done nothing to help them spread. They have spread because that is what they do.

Have we been able to spread the good news of Jesus? How has that happened? Is it by having our identity in Christ that we spread the good news?

This time of year they have a second flowering and it always surprises me. It makes me feel it is not autumn but spring.

What signs of new life can you see around you? Does it give you energy to keep going at this strange time?

When the flowers die down the corns (bulbs) sit on top of the soil. They look so vulnerable to me and I have a desire to cover them with soil, but that is not what is recommended.

Presumably the wet winter soil would rot them. Are we scared to be vulnerable? Do we want to cover ourselves up and pretend to be alright? I read today that to be hospitable you need to be vulnerable. That doesn't mean you don't need to set boundaries. Hospitality is difficult to practise at the moment with all the regulations. We have to accept that we are vulnerable to catching COVID-19.

However, we can use the phone and other methods as a mean of hospitality. Perhaps we need to be more aware of the people who need that contact. Perhaps we need that. Don't wait for someone to phone you, but initiate the contact. They do want to hear from you. It is your imagination that thinks they are too busy or not wanting to be in contact. Be brave and make the contact.

Are there ways of offering hospitality without breaking the regulations?

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