

The symbol of the Tree of Life is an old one, predating Christianity. It was a symbol of life going on. It is an appropriate representation of the crucifixion as we believe that death was not the end for Jesus.

From the tree of death came the tree of life and the resurrection of Jesus, bringing hope and the chance of restored forgiven relationship with God.

Jesus says in the Book of Revelation:

*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the **tree** of life, which is in the paradise of God. Rev 2.7*

So, at the end of the Bible the vision of heaven coming to earth has the tree of Life restored to the New Jerusalem – where God lives with humanity:

*Down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the **tree** of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the **tree** are for the healing of the nations. Rev 22.2*

Trees have important biblical symbolism and imagery!

174 Bible results for “trees” from Good News Translation

315 Bible results for “tree” from Good News Translation

Here are some:

[1 Chronicles 16:33](#): The trees in the woods will shout for joy when the Lord comes to rule the earth.

[Psalm 92:12](#) & [Psalm 92:13](#): The righteous will flourish like palm trees; they will grow like the cedars of Lebanon.

They are like trees planted in the house of the Lord, that flourish in the Temple of our God,

[Psalm 96:12](#): be glad, fields, and everything in you! The trees in the woods will shout for joy

[Luke 3:9](#): The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire.”

[John 12:13](#): So, they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!”

Enjoy your Tree experience.

Green Church:

The Trees of the Field Shall Clap their Hands!

25th October 2020



This time of year, the colours in the trees are great and the leaves are falling. So, today's Green church encourages you to go and experience the woods and kick some leaves!

Turn right at the bottom of the road at the roundabout. Go past the Library and right up the hill past the Old Spot Inn to the top of Hill Road before it turns to the left. You will see a path into the woods with a chain across. Go straight on. The path diverges either up Stinchcombe Hill or carries on reasonably level. Go on the level path which will take you on a path around the bottom of the hill for about a half a mile. Contour round. Eventually you will come across the backs of houses and fences and eventually there will be a path down by the side of Westfield coming out in front of Rednock School.

As you walk, try and see how many colours you can see in the trees. How many shades of green and orange and brown and red are there?

Pick up different shaped leaves. Look at them close up and notice their features. Try and name the tree (you could use the Woodland Trust app: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-to-identify-trees/>) or the grid overleaf:



The Tree of Life

The Bible starts with the story of a tree and ends with the story of a Tree and in the middle Jesus is hung on a tree, giving his life for the world. In the Book of Genesis, the Tree of Life is first described in chapter 2, verse 9 as being "in the midst of the Garden of Eden" with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Hebrew: עֵץ הַדַּעַת). After the fall of man, "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever", cherubim are placed at the east end of the Garden to guard the way to the tree of life.

The story of the Bible could be read as humanity's return to the presence of God and paradise. Jesus came to show how God so loved the world that he gave his only Son John 3.16)

Acts 5.30 says 'The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a **tree**.'

When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the **tree** and laid him in a tomb. Acts 13.29.



The African carver Tidjani Agona created this carving entitled *Christ on the Cross: The Tree of Life in Benin*. Tidjani is a Muslim and made the carving for local nuns for their Stations of the Cross. The head is disproportionately large reflecting the

local view that the head is the centre of a person's being, the source of power and intelligence.