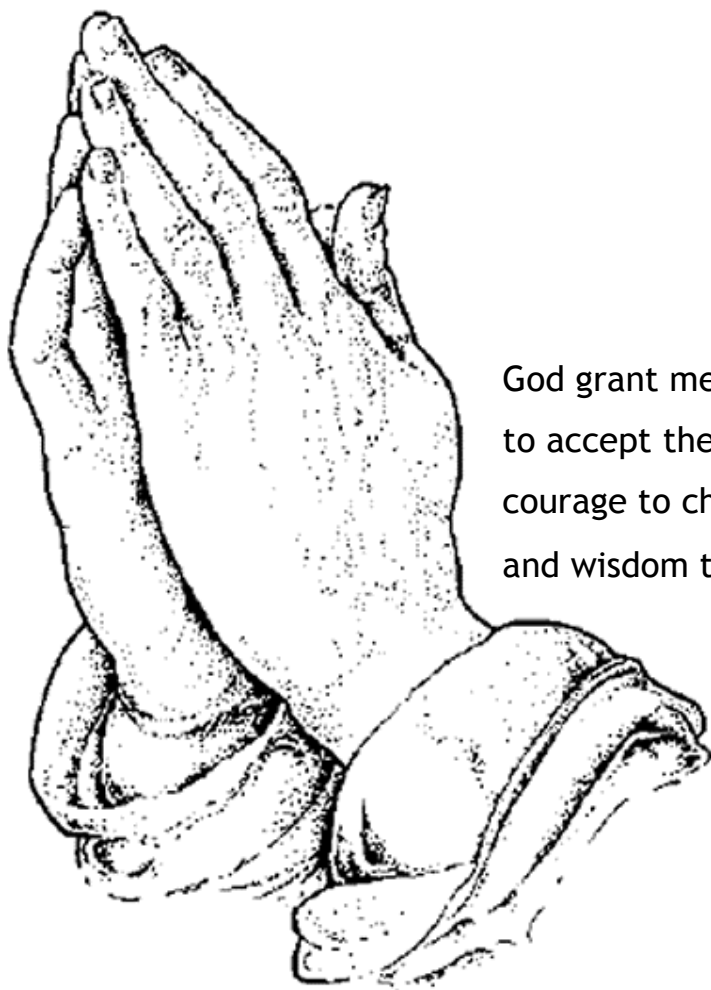


Prayer Leaflet

March 2006



God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Some thoughts for March

Matthew 7:7-11

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

I'm sure most, if not all, of us have a friend or family member who we can talk to when we're feeling discouraged or anxious, or when something good has happened which we want to share. Most of us will have someone who we can confide in when we need to. And when we do speak to our friend, I'm sure we discuss specific information about our worries, needs, and the victories in our lives.

It isn't scary or difficult to hold a serious conversation with such a friend, is it? No, of course it isn't. Many people, however, will approach conversation with God with apprehension, unnecessary apprehension.

When we pray to God, we don't need to use fancy language, or worry that our sentences aren't put together correctly. No, God just wants to communicate with us. Our prayers should be an expression of the feelings, thoughts and emotions we experience throughout our day, in our natural way of speaking.

If we really want to develop or improve our prayer life, the place to start is by talking to him in the same way as we'd talk to our trusted friend. He loves to hear from us. He's pleased when we reach out to him.

Praise him, and listen for his response. Talk to him about our concerns and worries, and ask for his advice. Let's lift up our inquiries before God today, and seek his wisdom.

Our Prayers in March are especially requested for:

In the Church

the new Lent groups.
the process of appointing a new parish priest.
the churchwardens and the ministry team as they guide the
Church through the interregnum.
Mothers' Union - for all diocesan members attending the Lady Day
service in Ely Cathedral on the 25th.

In the Community

children and young people, and the work of the schools.
those who are housebound.

In the Nation

a greater understanding and improving relationships between
different religious groups.
a peaceful resolution to the ID card debate.

In the World

trade justice and the campaign to end world poverty.
Fairtrade fortnight (6 - 19 March)
refugees and those who have lost their homes and livelihoods
through natural disaster or human sin

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in March:
Mashambanzou - caring for the many orphans left behind as a result
of the AIDS crisis in Zimbabwe.

In March the streets we'll be praying for in the Church's Street Prayer
Mission are:

Week commencing Sunday 5 March:

Post Street; Church Place; Chadley Lane; The Causeway.

Week commencing Sunday 12 March:

Lancaster Way; Fox Grove; Rectory Gardens; Grove Court.

Week commencing Sunday 19 March:

**West Street; Pinfold Lane; Granary Close; The Maltings;
Oakleigh Crescent.**

Week commencing Sunday 26 March:

Crow Hill; Thickwillow; Bergamont Close.

Please remember the residents of the above streets, those known to us, and
especially those unknown to us at this time.

Some Prayers for March:

Holy God,
Our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
may we come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.