



## Prayer Leaflet

April 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 April

### 2 Chronicles 7:12-18

*Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: 'I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that my name may be there for ever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. As for you, if you walk before me, as your father David walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne, as I made covenant with your father David saying, "You shall never lack a successor to rule over Israel."*

It was one of those split-second exchanges between a 16-year-old girl and her father, but it spoke volumes. While he was out of town, she had broken her curfew and stayed out too late with her boyfriend. Now she had to talk to Dad about it. Embarrassed and afraid, she sat quietly looking at her hands in her lap while the discussion went on. She apologised and they decided on a suitable discipline.



"Look at me," Dad said. She didn't want to, but she did. Instead of a hard look of displeasure, she saw tears and a look of deep love. She threw her arms around him, and they both knew that everything would be all right between them.

To keep everything right between us and our heavenly Father, we have to seek His face (Psalm 27:8). We may feel guilt, disappointment, anger, or hurt toward God. But that is when we must respond to his invitation to look to Him - especially if fellowship has been broken.

Our greatest concern should be the fear of losing a close relationship with Him. Our greatest delight should be seeing His face in the Word and through the wonderful privilege of prayer. That way we will have the assurance that everything is all right between us.

## **Our Prayers in April are especially requested for:**

### **In the Church**

the churchwardens and the ministry team as they guide the Church through the interregnum.

Holy Week and Easter; that we may draw closer to Christ in this Holy season.

the Children's Workshops on Good Friday.

the Annual Parochial Church Meeting; and especially those offering for election as Churchwardens and PCC members.

Mothers' Union - for our links with local Women's Refuges.

### **In the Community**

the Good Friday Walk of Witness; that it may truly witness to the people of Huntingdon and Godmanchester.

the local Scouts and Guides, and all in uniformed organisations; remembering especially the Parade Service on 23 April.

### **In the World**

the people of the Middle East, that they may finally know peace.

all countries experiencing outbreaks of bird-flu.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in April:

**The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG)**

enables people to grow spiritually, to thrive physically and to have a voice in an unjust world.

This month, in our Street Prayer Mission, we'll be praying for:

Week commencing Sunday 2 April:

**St Ann's Lane; The Stiles; New Street; St Ann's Court.**

Week commencing Sunday 9 April:

**Bascraft Way; Mowlands; Lions Cross; Dovehouse Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 16 April:

**Croftfield Close; Peate Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 23 April:

**White Hart Lane; Hilsden Drive; Anderson Crescent;**

**Kisby Avenue.**

Week commencing Sunday 30 April:

**Saxon Close; Pipers Lane; Laroc Close; Lavender Grove;**

**Cow Lane.**

Please remember the residents of the above streets, those known to us, and especially those, as yet, unknown to us.

## Some Prayers for April:

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of Glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

