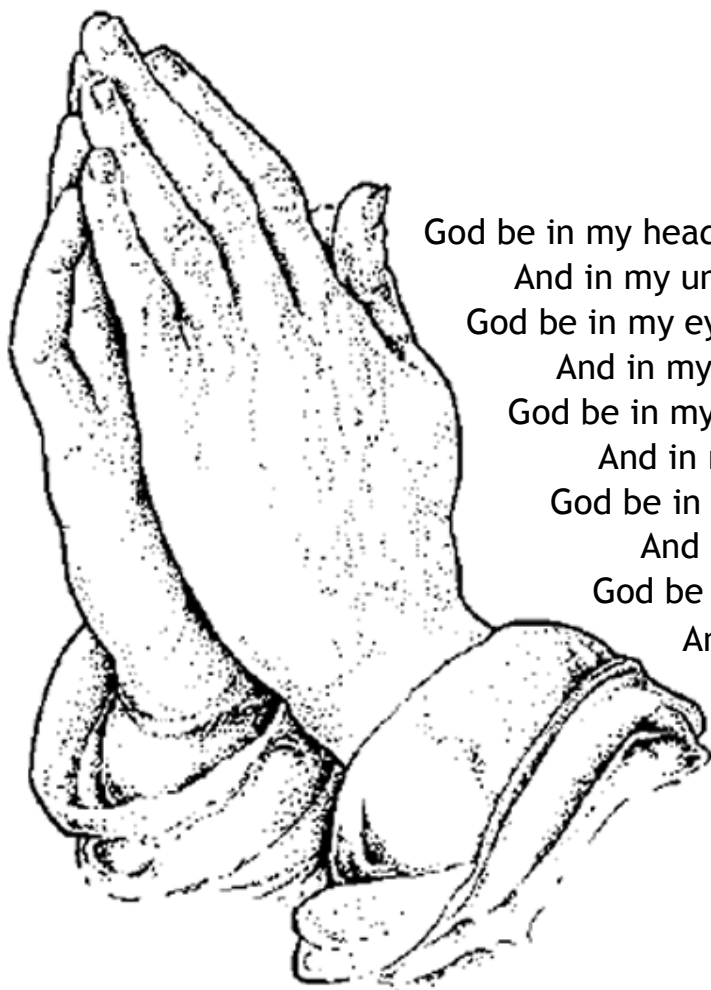


Prayer Leaflet

August 2006



God be in my head,
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking.
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Why Me?

Romans 5:6-11

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



Dr Joseph Parker, founder and first minister of the City Temple at Holborn Viaduct, towards the end of the nineteenth century, was asked, “Why did Jesus choose Judas to be one of his disciples?” He thought deeply about the question for a while but could not come up with an answer. He said that he kept running into an even more baffling question: “Why did he choose *me*?”

That’s a question that has been asked throughout the centuries. When people become painfully aware of their sin and are overcome with guilt, they cry out to Jesus for mercy. In joyous wonder they experience the truth that God loves them, that Jesus died for them, and that they are forgiven of all their sins. It’s incomprehensible!

I too have asked, “Why me?” I know that the dark and sinful deeds of my life were motivated by a heart even darker, and yet God loved me! (Romans 5:8) I was undeserving, wretched, and helpless, yet he opened his arms and his heart to me. I could almost hear him whisper, “I love you even more than you loved your sin.”

It’s true! I cherished my sin, I protected it. I denied its wrongdoing. Yet God loved me enough to forgive me and set me free.

“Why me?” It’s beyond my understanding. Yet I know he loves me – and he loves you too!

Our Prayers in August are especially requested for:

In the Church

the Revd David Busk and his family as they prepare to minister amongst us here in Godmanchester.

Mothers' Union – for fun and fellowship at the Garden Party on 1st August.

Magazine – for Mary Fawcett & the team of magazine distributors.

Flower Guild – for safe travels and happy and restful holidays and to return refreshed and ready to welcome our new Priest -in-charge in September.

In the Community

The school's in the town – Giving thanks for a very busy & successful school year. Pray for an enjoyable, safe and healthy summer break for all children and staff. And pray for the building work taking place during the holiday at the Community School.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Father, we ask for You to protect and guide the people of northern Nigeria whose families and property are under threat from attack. We pray that You will strengthen the hearts of those whose churches have been destroyed and are now forced to meet in the open air. Please give them peace and joy, knowing that Your love for them endures all things.

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

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is a human rights organisation specialising in religious freedom. CSW works on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promotes religious liberty for all.

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

Week commencing Sunday 6 August:

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

Week commencing Sunday 13 August:

Cambridge Road; Cambridge Villas; Meadow Way; Harcourt; Almond Close.

Week commencing Sunday 20 August:

Carnaby Close; Rushes Walk; Field Walk; Merton Walk.

Week commencing Sunday 27 August:

The Chestnuts; Oak Tree Court; Berry Lane; Offord Hill & Road.

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

Some Prayers for August:

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

