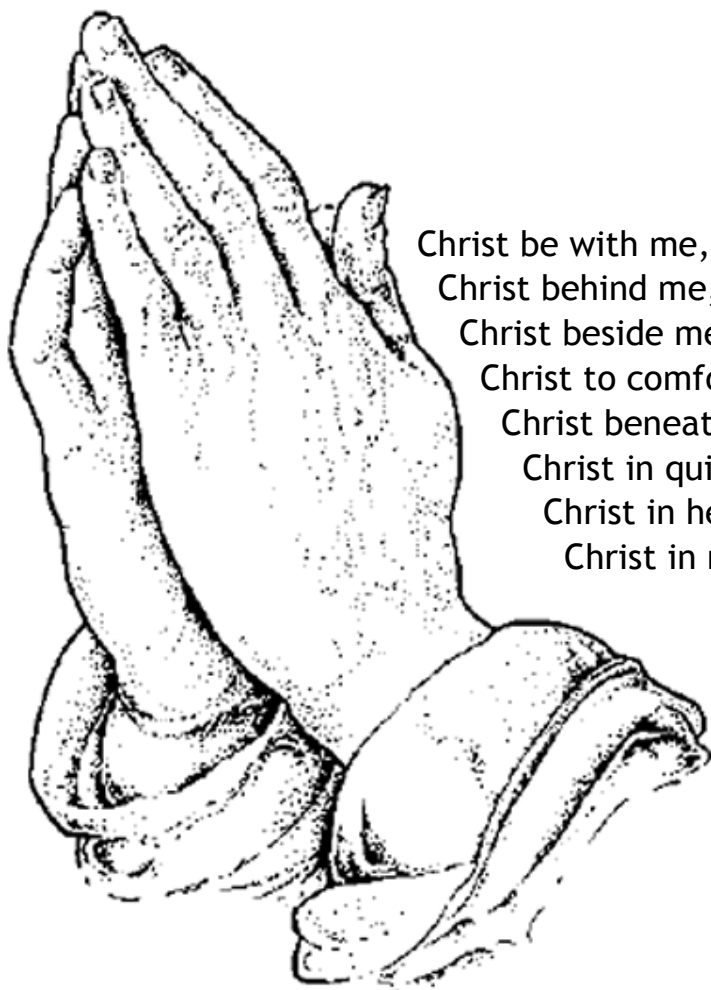


Prayer Leaflet

September 2006



Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Gratitude or Grumbling

Colossians 2:1-10

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

Imagine being given a bowl of sand containing tiny particles of iron, and you are told to remove the iron from the sand. You have two choices. You can pull your fingers through the sand, searching for specks of iron but finding very few. Or you can pull a magnet through the sand and watch it attract countless bits of iron.



Like the fingers in the sand, the grumbling heart finds very few mercies. But as the grateful heart moves through life, it finds countless blessings, just as the magnet finds iron.

Of all the choices we make in life, few affect us more powerfully than our choice between gratitude and grumbling. An honest look at our lives will reveal which choice we have made. If it's grumbling, we probably see few blessings. If it's gratitude, we not only find innumerable blessings – they seem to find us!

Paul taught that a heart overflowing with thankfulness comes from being grounded in faith (Colossians 2:7). In Philippians, he pleaded with the believers, even repeating himself: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." (Philippians 4:4).

Which choice have you made? Grumbling or gratitude? Grumbling overlooks blessings, but gratitude finds blessings everywhere – even in dry, sandy places!

Our Prayers in September are especially requested for:

In the Church

give thanks for, and prayers for, the Revd David Busk and his family as they settle into their new role; and for David's Licensing Service on 10th September.

give thanks for what's been good during the interregnum, especially: Revd Ally Barratt, and all she has done for us.

the work of the Churchwardens, Penny, David, and Trevor.

so very many other people, too numerous to list.

the Festival of Thanksgiving on 30th September and 1st October.

the annual Readers Licensing Service and Quiet Day (30th September).

Emmaus Groups – for the members as they meet again after the summer break.

Mothers' Union – for all our Speakers, that they might inspire us.

Magazine – For Newsletter compilers and all who keep us up to date with Parish news.

Flower Guild – for a fruitful harvest remembering countries where there will be none.

St Mary's 0-5's – for all those children coming back after the summer holidays, and for new faces joining the group this term, and that the group goes from strength to strength over the coming year.

In the Community

The school's in the town – for our children, young people and teachers as they start a new school year

for those who are leaving Godmanchester to go to university etc.

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

The Cog-wheel Trust provides counselling for individuals, couples and families who are struggling with all kinds of personal, emotional and relationship issues.

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

Week commencing Sunday 3 September:

Tudor Road; York Close; Fairy Avenue; The Close.

Week commencing Sunday 10 September:

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

Week commencing Sunday 17 September:

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

Week commencing Sunday 24 September:

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

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

Some Prayers for September:

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

