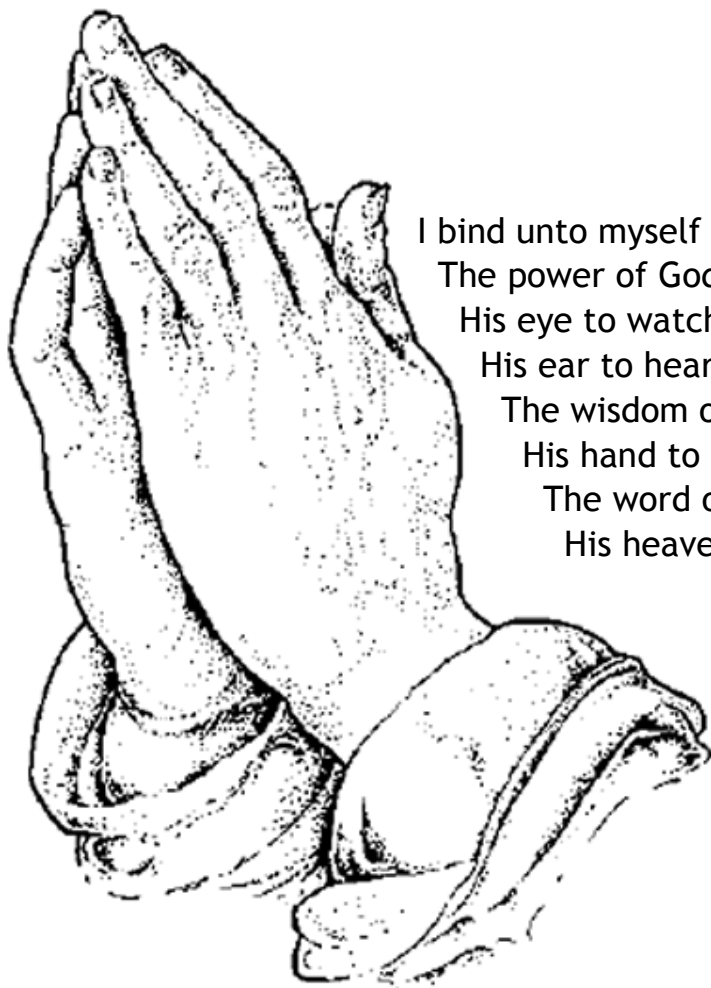


Prayer Leaflet

October 2006



I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Confidence to Face the Future

Matthew 6:25-34

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.



The morning sun peers into your window signaling the start of a new day. As you gingerly emerge from restful sleep, a sinking feeling overpowers your desire to move from your bed.

Your mind churns with frightening possibilities. "What if something terrible happens today? What will the latest newscast reveal? What if I lose my job?" Though the current state of our world makes these questions uncomfortably relevant, those of us who know Christ have reason to hope. We serve a risen Saviour who has already overcome the world. (John 16:33) The confidence we need in order to face the future is available through him.

Our Bible passage describes the attentive love of our heavenly Father: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, . . . Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matt. 6:25-26). When we know that God consistently meets the needs of the smallest creatures, we realize that we can place our confidence in his providence.

Worry cannot add a single hour to our lives. (Matt. 6:27) Surrender your worries to God and move forward with confidence. He knows your needs. Trust him.

Our Prayers in October are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mothers' Union – For all those attending the Council Meeting at Milton on 7th October.

Michaelmas Network Bible Study – pray for the group as it restarts after a long break because of illness.

Flower Guild – to give thanks for the skills and hard work of all the members.

Magazine – Give thanks for those who photocopy and assemble the magazine.

St Mary's 0-5 Group – Give thanks for the good health of the new babies who have recently joined the group.

In the Community

The school's in the town – for the good health and well-being of all involved in the school communities, and for the vision and strength to continue supporting each other.

In the World

Father God, we know that with you all things are possible. We pray for your people in Somalia, that you would intercede on behalf of that nation to restore just government committed to religious liberty and human rights. We pray for all those affected by the violence, that they would know your favour and your love. We pray for the perpetrators of the violence, that you would turn their hearts, causing them to seek peace in that nation.

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

Jimmy's Night Shelter was opened in 1995 to provide a bed, hot food, clothing (if needed), care, a listening ear and help with the endless form filling for those who had no home for whatever reason.

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

Week commencing Sunday 1 October:

Crow Hill; Thick Willow; Bergamont Close.

Week commencing Sunday 8 October:

St Annes Lane; The Stiles; New Street; St Annes Court.

Week commencing Sunday 15 October:

Bascraft Way; Mowlands; Lions Cross; Dovehouse Close.

Week commencing Sunday 22 October:

Croftfield Close; Peate Close.

Week commencing Sunday 29 October:

White Hart Lane; Hilsden Drive; Anderson Crescent; Kisby Avenue.

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

Some Prayers for October:

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithful Lord,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies never come to an end:
grant us the grace to trust you
and to receive the gifts of your love,
new every morning,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

