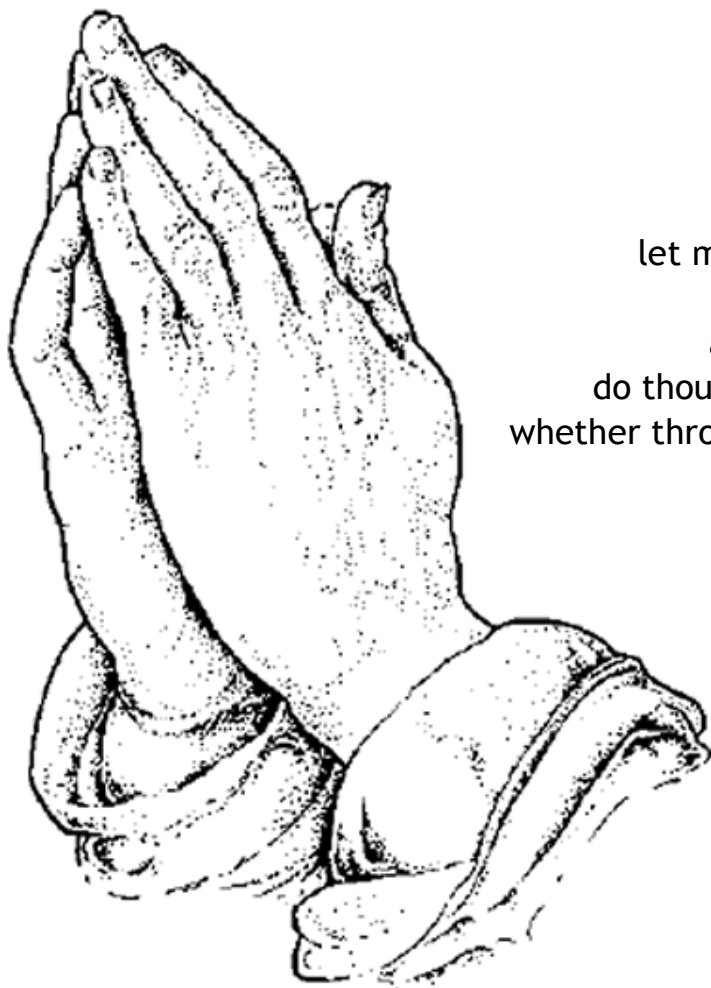


Prayer Leaflet

November 2006



All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.

Amen.

Mary Sumner (1876)

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Sustained in the Silence

Psalm 94:16-23

*Who rises up for me against the wicked?
Who stands up for me against evildoers?
If the Lord had not been my help,
my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.
When I thought, 'My foot is slipping',
your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.
When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul.
Can wicked rulers be allied with you,
those who contrive mischief by statute?
They band together against the life of the righteous,
and condemn the innocent to death.
But the Lord has become my stronghold,
and my God the rock of my refuge.
He will repay them for their iniquity
and wipe them out for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will wipe them out.*



Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was the founder of the China Inland Mission and a great servant of God. But after the ferocious Boxer Rebellion of 1900, in which hundreds of his fellow missionaries were killed, Taylor was emotionally devastated and his health began to fail. Nearing

the end of life's journey he wrote, "I am so weak that I cannot work. I cannot read my bible; I cannot even pray. I can only lie still in God's arms like a child and trust."

Have you been passing through a time when you are tired of body and sick of heart? Do you find it difficult to focus your mind on biblical promises? Has it become hard for you to pray? Don't write yourself off as a spiritual castaway. You are joining a host of God's people who have experienced the dark night of the soul.

When we endure such times, all we can do – indeed, all we *need* do – is lie like a child in the arms of our heavenly father. Words aren't necessary. A comforting father doesn't expect his child to make speeches. Neither does God. He knows we need his soothing care. In times of trouble, his mercy holds us up (Psalm 94:18). We may trust him to carry us through that dark night of the soul and on into the dawning light.

Our Prayers in November are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mothers' Union – that those attending the weekend retreat (17th) will experience a growth in faith.

Choir – as they prepare to lead the singing during advent, that they may be inspired and energised to announce our Lord's coming with joy and wonder.

Flower Guild – pray for the lonely and housebound during the long winter months.

Magazine – give thanks for the thorough proofreading done each month.

St Mary's 0-5 Group – for the safety and comfort of all as autumn turns to winter.

The Diocesan Healing Day (4th) – that those attending may find healing for themselves, and find inspiration for their ministries.

Boyan Ensemble (19th) – that everyone may be uplifted in worship.

In the Community

Community School – give thanks for the work of the PTA and pray for creativity and encouragement as they plan events to raise funds and support for the school.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Lord God, we know that you rule over the nations. We pray that you would intervene to bring peace to the Middle East torn by conflict and division. Give wisdom to those in leadership on all sides of the conflict to bring a lasting end to the violence. Bring comfort to those who have lost their homes or family members. Strengthen your people in the midst of this conflict, helping them to show your love and wisdom in difficult circumstances.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in November:
This month the Church supports **Service Charities**.

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

Week commencing Sunday 5 November:

Saxon Close; Pipers Lane; Laroc Close; Lavender Grove; Cow Lane.

Week commencing Sunday 12 November:

Porch Close; Grainger Avenue; Littlefield Close; Sears Close.

Week commencing Sunday 19 November:

Park Lane; The Avenue; Pavilion Close.

Week commencing Sunday 26 November:

Danes Croft; McCartney House; Woodley Court.

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

Some Prayers for November:

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,
touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit,
that we with all creation
may rejoice to sing your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease
and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

