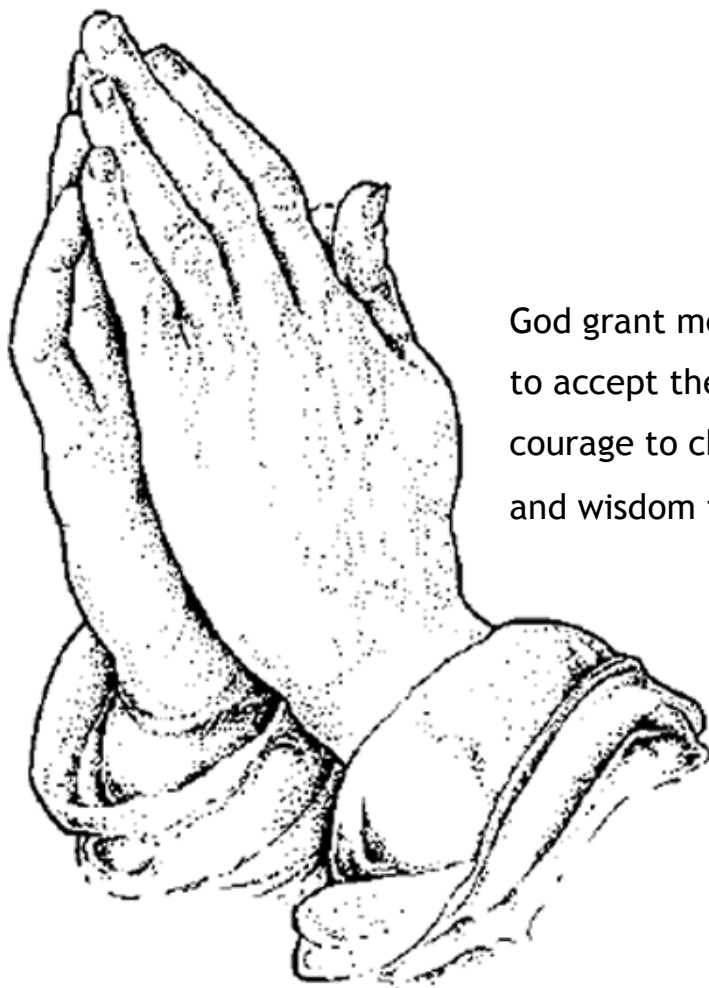


Prayer Leaflet

January 2007



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

Trusting God

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.



So much is written about faith these days. We think and talk about trusting God, and try, even though we stumble at times, to walk by faith. Many times, it is our trying that trips us up.

God wants us to learn to live by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7) This means living with the idea that he is able to do what we cannot do for ourselves. What a victorious thought! It is also a marvellous invitation to experience freedom from doubt, worry, and disbelief.

Before we can trust God fully, we must come to a point of helpless dependence. It is here that we realize we simply cannot do it all, be all that is needed, and have all the answers. If we could, there would be no need for God. We would be in total control and very proud of it.

While God gives us the ability to solve many of the problems we face, his greater desire is for us to live our lives dependent on him. Godly dependence is not a sign of weakness but one of immeasurable strength and confidence.

There are problems in life that only God can solve, tasks only he can perform, and solutions that can only be discovered through the wisdom he gives.

The basic foundation to faith is this: trust God more than you trust yourself. When you do this, you gain wisdom and hope for every area of life.

Our Prayers in January are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mothers' Union – for Megan MacDiarmind as she is commissioned as Branch Leader, and her continuing work in that role.

Flower Guild – give thanks for the various teams of people who made our church such a welcoming place over the Christmas period.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th) – **Open our ears and loosen our tongues.** (*Mark 7:31-37*) is the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. These days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (*John 17:21*).

In the Community

The school's in the town – give thanks for the Christmas break and time spent with families; and pray for staff and pupils as they settle back in school.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – give thanks for the UN and for the opportunity it provides for co-operation between nations. Pray for wisdom to all whose decisions concern issues of life and death for people all over the world; and that the UN would be swift and effective at bringing humanitarian relief and the new Human Rights Council would be increasingly effective in upholding human rights standards across the world, leading to greater freedom for all.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in January: **Church Army**, whose mission is to reach the least, the last and the lost with the life changing transforming love of Jesus Christ.

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

Week commencing Sunday 7 January:

Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.

Week commencing Sunday 14 January:

**Cambridge Street; Orchard Way; Linden Grove; Clyde Yard;
East Chadley Lane.**

Week commencing Sunday 21 January:

**Old Court Hall; Corpus Christie; Silver Street; Wigmore Close;
Duck End; Allen Farm Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 28 January:

**Sweetings Road; Devana Close; Parcell Walk; Middlemiss;
Miller Close.**

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

Some Prayers for January:

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

God of heaven,
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth
and your messengers to every nation:
send your Holy Spirit to transform us
by the good news of everlasting life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

