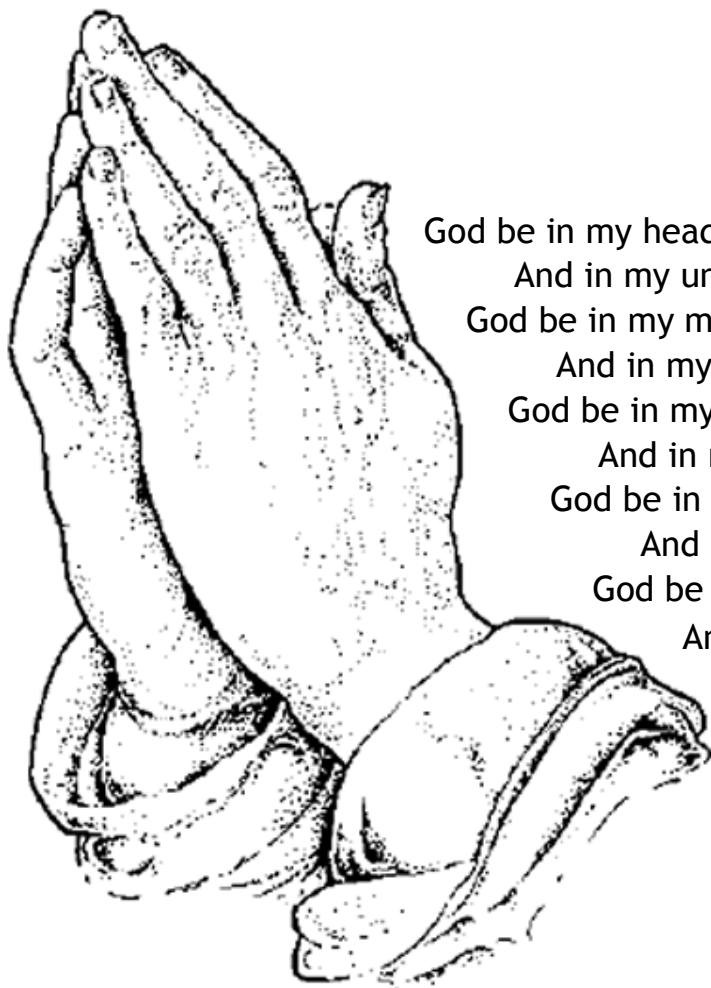


Prayer Leaflet

February 2007



God be in my head
And in my understanding.
God be in my mine 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 mine end
And at my departing.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Undeserved Blessings

Habakkuk 3:17-19

*Though the fig tree does not blossom,
and no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails
and the fields yield no food;
though the flock is cut off from the fold
and there is no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will exult in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
and makes me tread upon the heights.*



Tennis superstar Arthur Ashe died of AIDS, which he contracted from a blood transfusion during heart surgery. More than a great athlete, Ashe was a gentleman who inspired and encouraged many with his exemplary behaviour on and off court.

Ashe could have become embittered and self-pitying in the face of his disease, but he maintained a grateful attitude. He received many letters from his fans, one of which asked: "Why does God have to select you for such a bad disease?"

To this Ashe replied: "The world over – 50,000,000 children start playing tennis, 5,000,000 learn to play tennis, 500,000 learn professional tennis, 50,000 come to the circuit, 5,000 reach the grand slam, 50 reach Wimbledon, 4 to the semi-finals, 2 to the finals, When I was holding a cup I never asked God "Why me?" And today in pain I should not be asking God, "Why me?""

Ashe's attitude rebukes those of us who often grumble, "Why me? Why is God allowing this to happen?" Even if we're suffering acutely, we must not forget the mercies God pours into our lives – such things as food, shelter, and friends – blessings that many are deprived of.

And what about spiritual blessings? We can hold the very Word of God in our hands and read it. We have the knowledge of his saving grace, the comfort of his Spirit, and the joyful assurance of life everlasting with Jesus.

Think about God's blessings and ask, "Why me?" Then your grumbling will give way to praise.

Our Prayers in February are especially requested for:

In the Church

Lent Activities and Events – for the Evensong sermon series; the Lent Study and Fellowship groups; and the Choir concert – that we may be helped to a deeper appreciation of the saving love of God in Jesus Christ.

Mothers' Union – for Rosemary Kempzell our new worldwide President (2007-2009), and the new Trustees who are being commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Southwark Cathedral on February 1st.

Choir – that they keep well and energised to lead our singing with purpose and enthusiasm as we move towards Lent and Easter.

Magazine – Give thanks for all those who contribute regularly to the magazine.

Flower Guild – for those less fortunate than ourselves.

In the Community

The Community School – for wisdom for those making important decisions about Children Centres and their location & development.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – We pray for all those people in the world who are unable to know God due to the strictures of excessively repressive regimes. We pray that God's love would shine into the darkness, that they would know His unfailing devotion, bringing hope and faith to all those who suffer.

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

Corrymeela is people of all ages and Christian traditions, who, individually and together are committed to the healing of social, religious and political divisions that exist in Northern Ireland.

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

Week commencing Sunday 4 February:

Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.

Week commencing Sunday 11 February:

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

Week commencing Sunday 18 February:

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

Week commencing Sunday 25 February:

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

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

Some Prayers for February:

God of our salvation,
help us to turn away from those habits which harm our bodies
and poison our minds
and to choose again your gift of life,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

