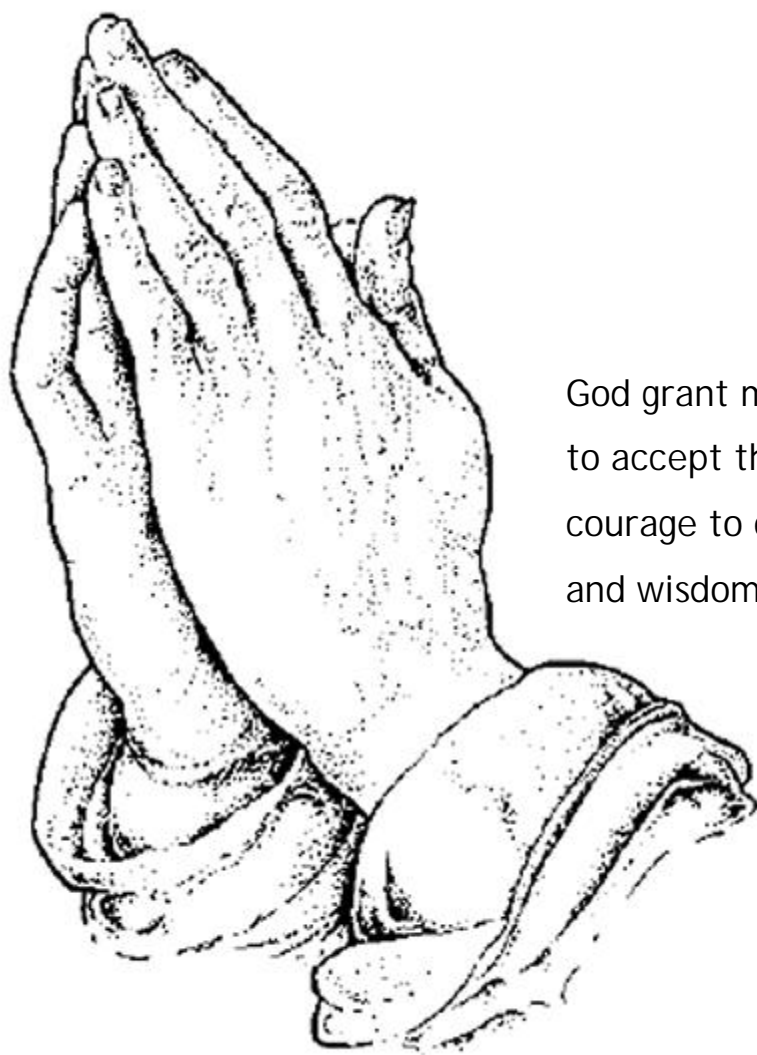


## Prayer Leaflet

July 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

## How is your prayer life?

*Psalm 86:1-4*

*A Prayer of David.*

*Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.*

*Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.*

*You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all day long.*

*Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

## How is your prayer life?

For some of us the honest answer to that question will be that often it consists largely of a list of requests. We ask God to intervene in our lives, and in the lives of

those we love. And to help us through difficult situations, to bring healing, to act in the problems we find at home, at college, at work, in the world.

And why not, after all that's how it works isn't it? We're Christians, so we pray and God answers. Our attitude to prayer might even sometimes be similar to David's in the start of this Psalm, "Lord, do this, because I worship you", "Give me happiness because I give my life to you", in other words, answer my prayers Lord, because I deserve it!

But prayer isn't about us, we can never earn the right to have God hear and answer our prayers. He hears and answers our prayers out of his great love, mercy and forgiveness. And I believe he wants our prayer life to be one of a growing relationship with him, not simply a list of requests. As we spend more time with him, we will more naturally share things with him, our concerns and fears, our hopes and dreams.

Think about how you pray, and if it tends to be a list of requests, try changing the emphasis, imagine him sitting with you, and talk to him as to a close friend. Chat about how great he is and how you value his friendship and that he's always there for you, about your day and about the things worrying you. And remember to leave some gaps; conversations with a close friend are usually two-way!



Our Prayers in July are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Events – Godmanchester Gala Day (7<sup>th</sup>); Concerts: Hunts Phil (7<sup>th</sup>); Cambridge Brass Band (21<sup>st</sup>); Valentine Singers (29<sup>th</sup>) – please pray for these events, and those who will attend them.

Flower Guild – for all visitors to our town this summer.

Choir – give thanks for everyone who is helping during the holidays and pray that everyone who goes away returns refreshed.

### In the Community

For all nurses, doctors and carers who work in our hospitals, care homes and hospices.

The schools in the area – for all those moving on to new schools, classes and experiences; may they enjoy, settle in quickly, and be successful. And for protection and safety over the summer holiday for all those who work and learn in our schools; for those who are travelling and those who will be staying around home.

### In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – We give thanks to God that South Korea has proclaimed 2007 an international year of prayer for North Korea. We ask that these prayers would rain down on the secret state, bringing God's light and life back into that nation.

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

**The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG)**

enables people to grow spiritually, to thrive physically and to have a voice in an unjust world.

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

Week commencing Sunday 1 July:

**Buttermel; Brick Kiln; Ferndown; Golden Rod.**

Week commencing Sunday 8 July:

**London Street; Betts Close; Barringer Court; Earning Street; Sylton Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 15 July:

**Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.**

Week commencing Sunday 22 July:

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

Week commencing Sunday 29 July:

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

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

## Some Prayers for July:

Gracious Father,  
by the obedience of Jesus  
you brought salvation to our wayward world:  
draw us into harmony with your will,  
that we may find all things restored in him,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God,  
your Son left the riches of heaven  
and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,  
when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust in you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

