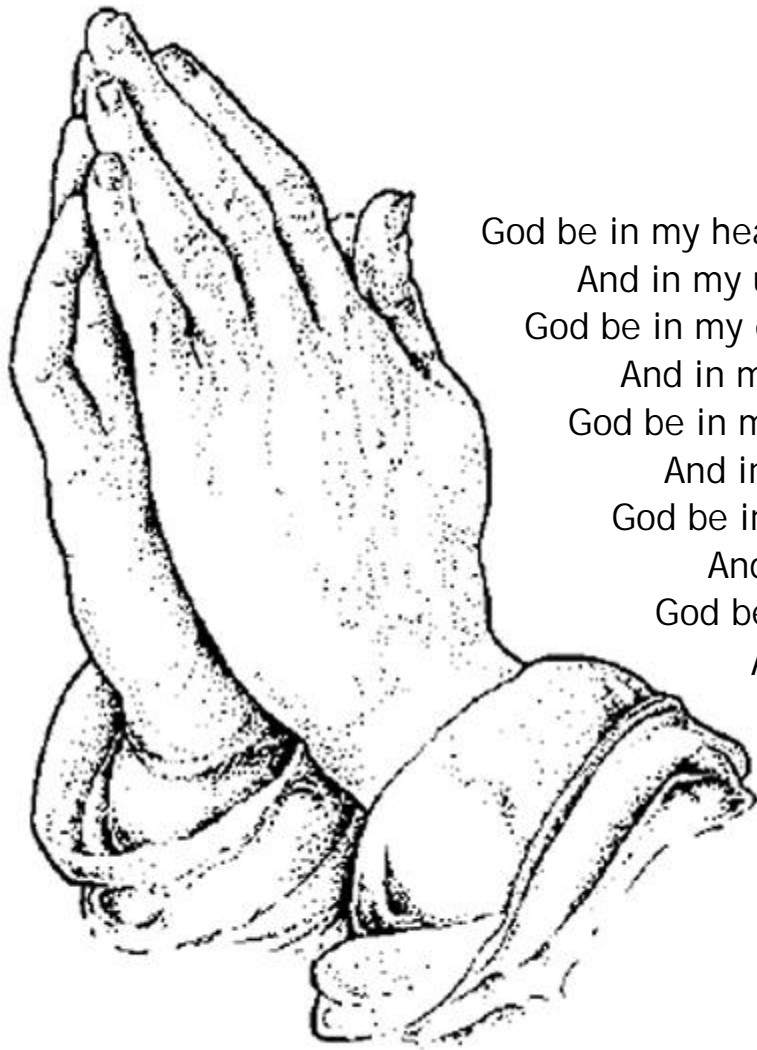




Prayer Leaflet

August 2007



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

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Listening to God

Hebrews 12:25-29

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

We are to be encouraged by these words, as they explain the promise that those who are Christians, part of the kingdom of God 'that cannot be shaken', will not be destroyed when God speaks and some refuse to listen. It assumes of course that we ourselves do not refuse to listen.



So how do we listen to God? Few of us will be able to tell a story of a voice from heaven like those recorded in the Bible. We should remember that when God did speak in that way, not everyone around always heard in a physical sense and God used the prophets and other messengers to relate his message. God can 'speak' to us through others. Some people tell me that when they pray they get words or pictures from God that speak to them about what they are seeking guidance on, and even on completely unrelated things. That does not happen to me or to some other Christians I know (which I find encouraging), so God must speak in other ways too. The Bible is frequently referred to as a source of God speaking to us for today, and often we can find the right guidance for life today. Quite often people find when they read their daily Bible reading notes, such as those produced by the Bible Reading Fellowship, that that days was just what they needed and it answered a prayer for a particular situation.

No one person has a monopoly on what God is saying, and I have always been told to seek confirmation when someone says to me "God has told me that ...". Within the community of the church as we seek God's will and try to, listen to his voice, we can listen in prayer times, talk to each other and share ideas, and observe the needs around us, to name just a few ways.

Our Prayers in August are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events – Midsummer Lunch (5th) – please pray for this event, and those who will attend it.

Mothers Union – Mary Sumner Day (9th); pray for God to help us spread the good news of Mother's Union with those we meet.

Flower Guild – for safe travel and happy holidays.

Choir – that members may enjoy rest and relaxation during the holiday and return with renewed energy in September.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – give thanks for the continuing growth of our group and the provision of new committee members. Pray that the children and parents will have a restful and safe holiday.

In the Community

The schools in the area – for the children and teachers at our schools that they may enjoy a restful holiday and return to their schools much refreshed in September.

For all those who have no chance of rest during this month that they may have the strength and courage to keep going day by day

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Sunday 5th August has been chosen as a special day when Christians around the UK will together pray for Pakistan. We ask that these prayers would form a protective layer, covering every Pakistani Christian who is vulnerable or in danger; that they would feel you very close to them, guiding and strengthening them each day. We give thanks for your children in that nation, and ask that they would know and cherish your unfailing love.

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

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is a human rights organisation specialising in religious freedom. CSW works on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promotes religious liberty for everyone.

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

Week commencing Sunday 5 August:

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

Week commencing Sunday 12 August:

Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.

Week commencing Sunday 19 August:

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

Week commencing Sunday 26 August:

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

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

Some Prayers for August:

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.

Gracious Father,
receive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

