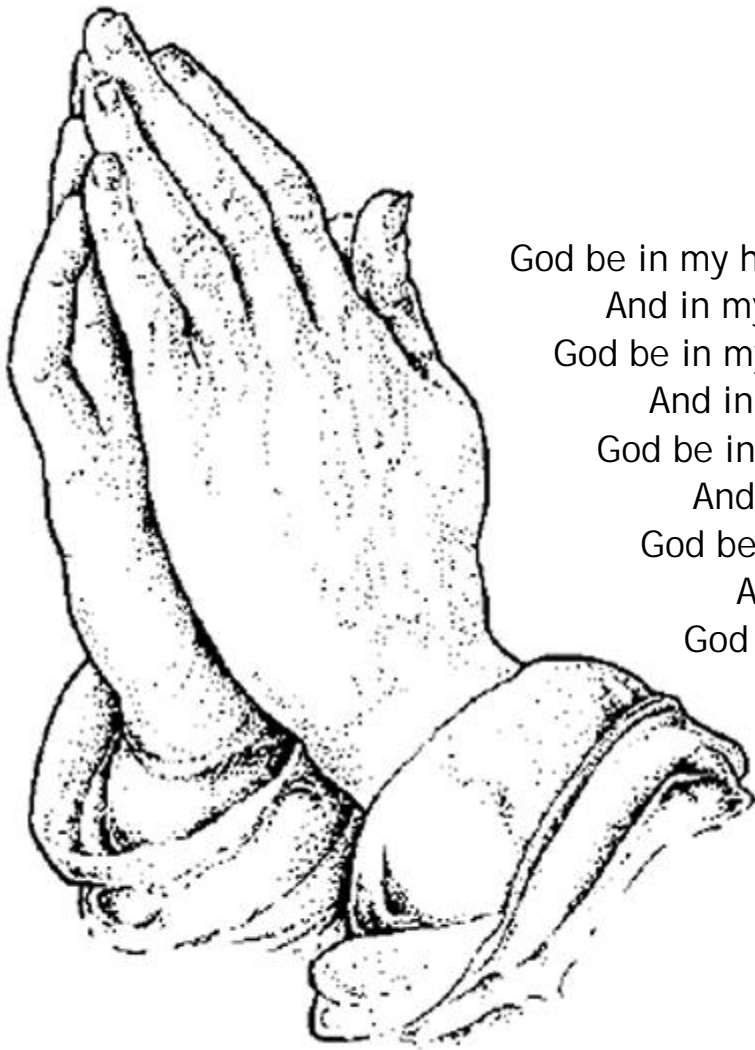




Prayer Leaflet

February 2008



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

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'



Whenever God assigns us a difficult task, he gives us what we need to carry it out. John Wesley wrote, "Among the many difficulties of our early ministry, my brother Charles often said, 'If the Lord would give me wings, I'd fly.' I used to answer, 'If God bids me fly, I will trust him for the wings.'"

Our Bible reading tells us that Joshua was thrust into a position of great responsibility. No doubt the enormity of the challenge before him made him tremble with fear.

How could he ever follow such a great leader as Moses? In his own strength it would be impossible to lead the people into the Promised Land. But along with the marching orders, God gave him an assuring promise: "I will not fail you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5). Then he said, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Such reassurances were the backing Joshua needed.

If God has given you some special work to do that frightens you, it's your responsibility to jump at it. It's up to God to see you through. As you faithfully do your part, he will do his part.

Our Prayers in February are especially requested for:

In the Church

Lent Groups – following the USPG Lent Course with a focus on the theme, 'love your neighbour' in Matthew's Gospel and the work of the USPG in Bangladesh.

Events – Meal with a Movie(9th); Rikkyo University Choral Evensong and Concert (26th) – please pray for these events, and those who will attend them.

Evening Bible Group – for understanding as they work towards an overview of the New Testament.

Choir – that the New Year may bring some more people to join us.

Flower Guild – for the elderly and the housebound members of our Church family.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – give thanks for the provision of 3 new tea ladies. And pray for the health and safety of our little ones during the winter months.

In the Community

For all those people who take us places by road, rail, sea or air. Give thanks for their responsible care and pray for their well-being.

For all those in positions of power, that they may use it for the promotion of justice and peace.

The Community School – give thanks for members of the PTA and the valuable support they give the school.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Father, we praise and thank you that you are sovereign over all people and all things on this earth. We take every instance of the persecution of your children and place them firmly in your hands. We ask that you protect all those suffering in your name.

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 3 February:

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

Week commencing Sunday 10 February:

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

Week commencing Sunday 17 February:

Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.

Week commencing Sunday 24 February:

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

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

Some Prayers for February:

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

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.

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

