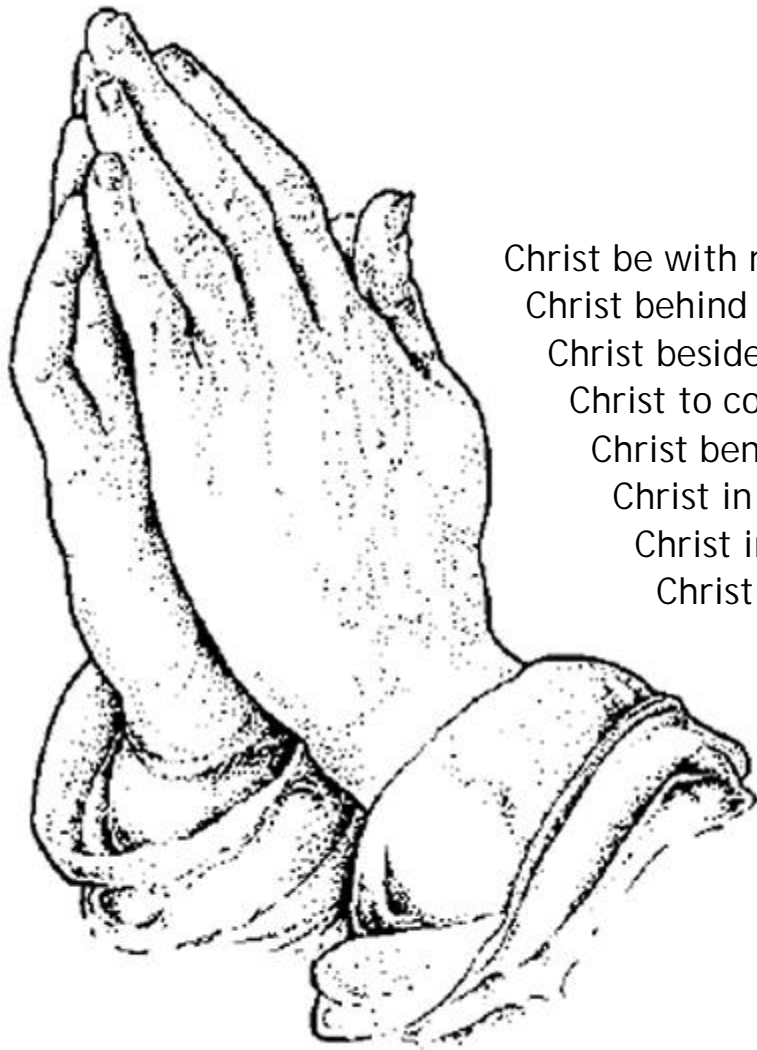




## Prayer Leaflet

March 2008



Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*from St Patrick's Breastplate*

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Godmanchester

TGIF

*Romans 5:6-11*

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*



We hear it often: "TGIF" (Thank God it's Friday!). Although many people use this phrase carelessly, without reverence for their creator, they're grateful because Friday marks the end of the workweek. It opens the door to two days when they can relax and just do their own thing.

On Good Friday, millions of Christians around the world are especially thankful because it reminds them of what God accomplished through his Son nearly two thousand years ago.

But why do we call this day good? Was not this one of the blackest days in history? God's sinless Son, who went about doing good, healing the sick, and bringing hope to sin-ruined lives, was nailed to a shameful cross by self-righteous religious leaders. That's evil at its worst. That sounds more like God's day of defeat. Where is the good in that?

Paul gave us the answer. On this day, centuries ago, God demonstrated "his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Such love is too profound for a genius to fully grasp, yet so simple that a child can accept it. And this love is experienced by all who repent of their sins and receive Christ by faith.

## Our Prayers in March are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Events – Lent Groups; Lent Concert (8<sup>th</sup>); Holy Week and Easter services – please pray for these events, and those who will attend them.

Mothering Sunday Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup>), giving thanks for all that the Children's Church are doing.

Parish Praise (16<sup>th</sup>) – that it may again be well attended and that everyone will feel welcomed.

Churches Together – for the Good Friday (21<sup>st</sup>) Walk of Witness and Easter Hymn singing at Tesco's on Easter Eve (22<sup>nd</sup>).

Mothers' Union – for mothers the world over, keeping family life together in trying circumstances.

Pastoral Care Team – give thanks for all who visit and support their family, friends and loved ones.

Choir – that the Lent Concert may bring a lot of people together to enjoy the music and worship.

Flower Guild – all the couples being married this at St Mary's this year.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – give thanks for the large number of new Mums and little ones who have started to attend the group and the addition of a new committee member.

### In the World

Church Army – 'Hope in Word, Hope in Action' – Dear Lord, may you continue to minister your love and your forgiveness to all those in prison. May you enable those who have self-hatred to begin to love themselves and to see that you love them also. May many men and women come to a living faith in the Lord Jesus.

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

**The Smile Train** – changing the world one smile at a time! Their mission is to provide free cleft surgery for millions of poor children in developing countries. In excess of 200,000 children helped to date.

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

Week commencing Sunday 2 March:

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

Week commencing Sunday 9 March:

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

Week commencing Sunday 16 March:

**The Chestnuts; Oak Tree Court; Berry Lane; Offord Hill & Road.**

Week commencing Sunday 23 March:

**Tudor Road; York Close; Fairey Avenue; The Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 30 March:

**Post Street; Church Place; Chadley Lane; The Causeway.**

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

## Some Prayers for March:

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the depths of our isolation  
we cry to you, Lord God:  
give light in our darkness  
and bring us out of the prison of our despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

