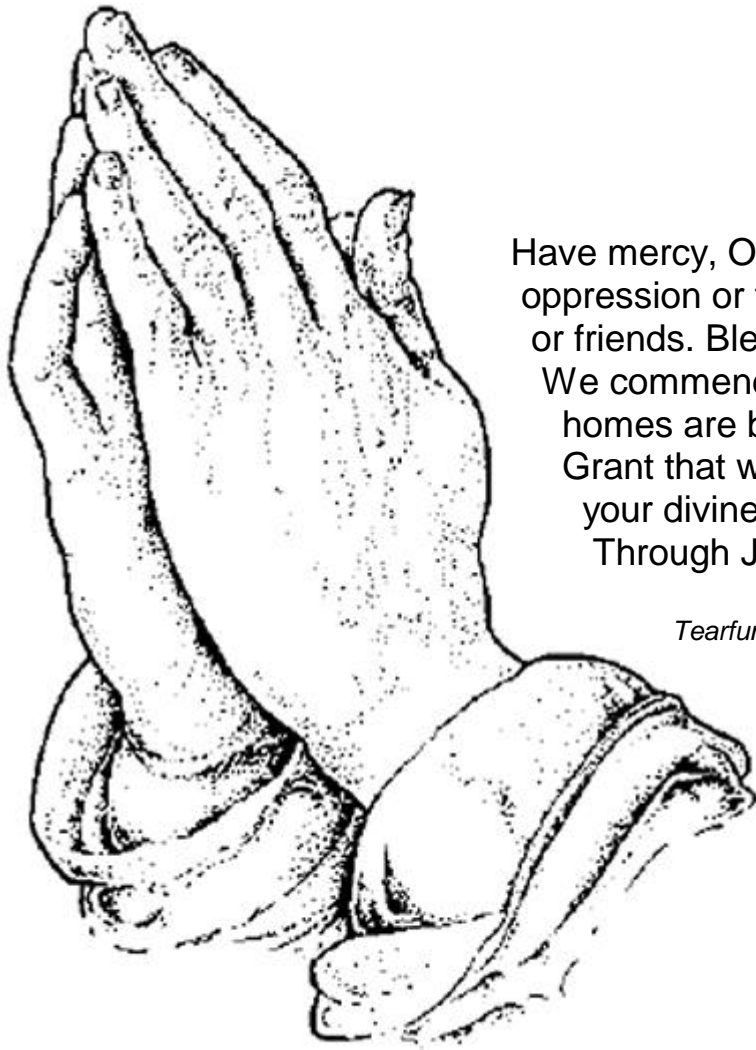




## Prayer Leaflet

May 2008



Have mercy, O Lord, all those whom war, oppression or famine have robbed of homes or friends. Bless those who try to help them. We commend into your care all those whose homes are broken by conflict and lack of love. Grant that where the love of man has failed your divine compassion will succeed. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

*Tearfund's Global Day of Prayer is Sunday 11 May*

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Godmanchester

Our Prayers in May are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Salvation Army - and the Tuesday morning coffee mornings in Silver Street.

Young people - remembering especially the St Anne's School Eucharist on Ascension Day and the YFriday Christian rock concert at Wood Green on 27 May

Churches Together — praying for the Men's Breakfast on 3 May, anticipating that the speaker will leave us with a deeper understanding of the problems created by global warming.

Choir — thanking God for his great gift of music, and remembering our own choir members as they prepare and take part in the Ely Choir Festival on Saturday 17 May

Social activities - thanking God for opportunities to play hard as well as pray hard, and looking forward to the MU Coffee Morning (13 May), Quizaid Evening (15 May), the Parish Photograph and Spring BBQ(18 May) and the Plant Sale(25 May)

### In the World

Christian Aid. — we pray for the continued success of this worldwide organisation, particularly during Christian Aid Week, as it strives to root out poverty, fund long-term development work, and challenge governments on climate change and international trade.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in May: Tearfund – the Christian organisation working in seventy countries around the world supporting the material and spiritual needs of communities suffering from poverty, HIV/AIDS, poor sanitation and malnutrition.

### In the Community

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

Week commencing Sunday 4 May:

**Bascraft Way; Mowlands; Lions Cross; Dovehouse Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 11 May:

**Croftfield Road; Peate Close.**

Week commencing Sunday 18 May:

**White Hart Lane; Hilsden Drive; Anderson Crescent; Kisby Avenue.**

Week commencing Sunday 25 May:

**Saxon Close; Pipers Lane/Laroc close; Lavender Grove; Cow Lane**

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

## Zimbabwe

Dear World,

I am a sixteen year old person living in Zimbabwe. I think the time has come for a more direct appeal, and so I am writing to you, the world. Maybe, just maybe, there is someone out there who can help us...it's tough here now. The inflation rate is so high that if you don't change money within six hours you could get half the amount of foreign currency that you would have originally received.. We're starving now; people die around us. In the last year alone at least ten people associated personally with my family have died despite the fact that they were only middle aged. Other people don't make it to middle age. They don't even make it past childhood. Our once proud nation is on its knees. We flee or die. This beautiful, bountiful once rich land has become a living hell. We have dealt with it until now; we have made a plan. That was the Zimbabwean motto: 'Make a plan'. But now we can't make a plan. we are too tired, too broken, too bankrupt. We can't afford life, and life does not cost much, not really; we cannot afford to eat, we cannot afford to drink, and we cannot afford to make mistakes because if we do we die.

We're waiting desperately for a great hand to pick us up out of the dirt because at the moment we are outnumbered by Fate herself. So we close our eyes and pray. We have fought for too long, and have been brought to breaking point. We simply stand, heads down, and bear it. Our spirit has gone; we are defeated. After a valiant struggle over fifteen years, we have been broken. There is no will left, no spirit.

This is my plea...The thought of picking ourselves up again is sickening; one can only take so many blows before oblivion is reached, and we are teetering on the rim of a bottomless void. One more push will be the end of us all. There must be someone out there who cares. We are a destroyed nation, and the world sits back and watches, pretending they cannot hear our cries.

Help us!

*Letter from a sixteen year old Zimbabwean girl*

What can we do? The worldwide prayer group WATCH has launched a One Minute Prayer Time for the people of Zimbabwe, inviting all of us to stop whatever we're doing for one minute a day, and using these sixty seconds to pray that God he will intervene in the affairs of the country. The suggested prayer times are 8am, 1pm or 8pm. We are reminded that we must never underestimate the power of prayer - it is the most powerful asset we have.

We can also make donations to Tearfund's Zimbabwe Appeal (for contact details see the end of Gillian Taylor's article elsewhere in this month's magazine); and we can write to our local MP expressing our concerns. Mr Jonathan Djanogly MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

## Some Prayers for May:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who after your resurrection from the dead did gloriously ascend into heaven, grant us the aid of your loving kindness, that according to your promise you may ever dwell with us on earth, and we with you in heaven where with the Father, and the holy ghost, you live and reign one God for ever and ever

*Ascension Day is 1 May*

We pray for those who serve as councillors. May they be thoughtful and wise in their decisions and open in their approach to changing conditions. We remember the services to people for which local government is responsible, and pray that the most vulnerable members of the community be supported in their quest for a full and useful life.

*Local government elections take place on 1 May*

O God,  
you have graciously brought us to this hour,  
the time when you poured out your Holy Spirit  
in tongues of fire upon your apostles,  
filling them with the gift of your grace;  
so may we too receive this blessing;  
and as we seek to praise you  
in psalms and hymns,  
may we share in your eternal kingdom.

*Whit Sunday is 11 May*

Lord of the years,  
we ask your blessing on the year to come.  
Give us the resilience to bear its disappointments,  
energy to seize its opportunities,  
and openness to accept the more abundant life  
which you have promised to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*The new PCC takes up its duties on 20 May*

