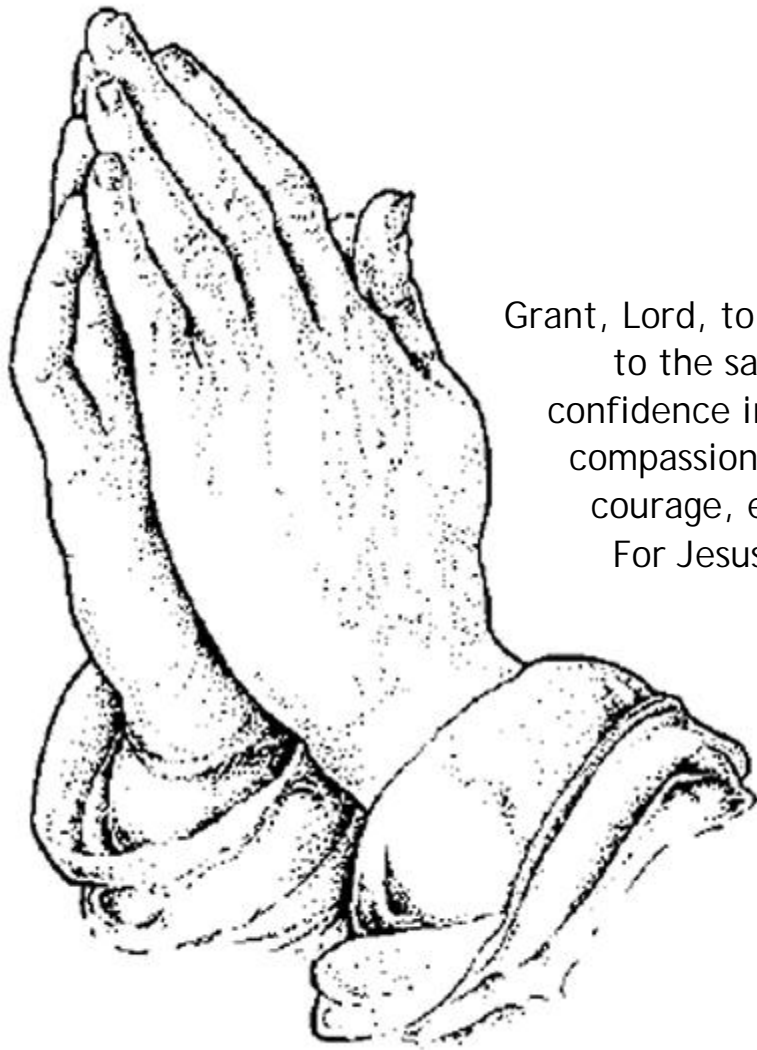




Prayer Leaflet

June 2008



Grant, Lord, to those now called
to the sacred ministry
confidence in the gospel and the Word of life,
compassion for the lost and needy,
courage, endurance, and unfailing love.
For Jesus Christ's sake.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester

The Fellowship of the Cross

2 Corinthians 1:3-11



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many.

In J.R.R. Tolkien's fictional *The Lord of the Rings*, a simple, good-hearted hobbit by the name of Frodo Baggins is entrusted with a dangerous mission. Together with a group called the Fellowship of the Ring, he must defeat the forces of evil by returning a magic gold ring to the fires of Mount Doom from which it was forged.

Along the way, evil stalks Frodo. Battles are lost. Friends die. Reflecting on such tragedies, Frodo confides in his wise friend Gandalf, "I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish that this had never happened." Gandalf replies, "So do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All you must do is decide how to use the time that is given to you."

In the "fellowship of the cross", a servant of Christ is also tested. Like Paul, we may feel crushed under the weight of circumstances (*2 Corinthians 1:3-11*). The path seems too steep to climb. We wonder if there is a dawn beyond the darkness.

Though we may not choose our circumstances, we do choose whether to trust God (*2 Corinthians 1:9*). Through the fellowship of the Son and the enablement of the Spirit, we can carry out our mission for God (*1 Corinthians 1:9; John 16:13*).

Trust him to guide you along the way. He offers wise counsel.

Our Prayers in June are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mary Jepp – please pray for Mary as she prepares for her ordination on June 28th and first Sunday in the parish as Deacon on June 29th.

Remember too: husband Mike, and sons Robin and Toby.

Linda Watson – please pray for Linda as she commences her training to become a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) this month.

Events – Shalom (healing) Service (1st); Carers' Service (8th); Church Summer Fete (21st); Teaching Eucharist, and Children in Communion workshop (22nd) – please pray for these events and all those who will attend them.

Retired Clergy – give thanks for their ministry, and pray they find the right balance, for them, between continuing ministry and deserved rest.

Mothers' Union – for the success of the M U Roadshow Countrywide Tour taking place throughout June.

Choir – that they keep their energy for the summer months.

Flower Guild – for Helen and Paul, Jennifer and Mark, who are to be married in our church in June and to remember all the other couples preparing for their weddings later in the year.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – give thanks for continued growth in numbers and for the hard work put in by the committee members and tea ladies. And pray for the group as we plan and organise summer term events such as Gala day; and for all our little ones in the summer months.

In the Community

St Anne's School – pray for families and children who are grieving at this time – particularly those known to us within the school.

The Community School – pray for Y5 pupils and staff going on a residential trip in Derbyshire; to have fun and be safe.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in June:
Committee for Social Welfare, an independent social work service for anyone in the diocese, especially supporting distressed families.

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

Week commencing Sunday 1 June:

Porch Close; Grainger Avenue; Littlefield Close; Sears Close.

Week commencing Sunday 8 June:

Park Lane; The Avenue; Pavillion Close.

Week commencing Sunday 15 June:

Danes Croft; McCartney House; Woodley Court.

Week commencing Sunday 22 June:

Prayers for those living outside the Parish.

Week commencing Sunday 29 June:

Bayliss; Bluegate; Hudpool; Pinder Close; Malcoff.

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

Continuing Prayer for Burma and China

God of goodness and love, in whom we trust in every hour of need:
have mercy on all who are in distress
following the cyclone in Burma and earthquake in China.
Heal the sick and injured, give peace to the dying,
comfort those living with loss,
and to those trying to bring relief and order
give wisdom, courage and strength;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Some Prayers for June:

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold fast to your promise of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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.

