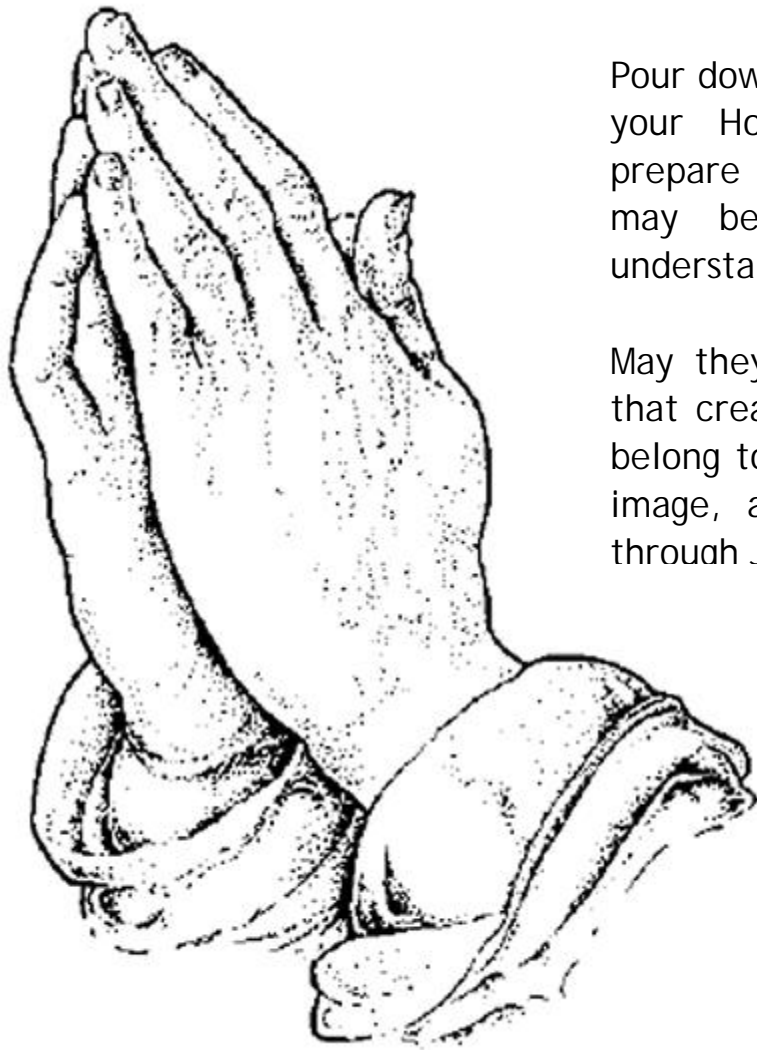




Prayer Leaflet

July 2008



Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the **Lambeth Conference** may be filled with wisdom and understanding.

May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image, and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester

Soul Satisfaction

John 4:1-14

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

Nineteenth-century preacher Frederick W Robertson led a church in Brighton. Although he was a great preacher, he was troubled by fear of failure. He suffered from painful physical ailments and died at 37.



In his loneliest times Robertson often found some consolation in the works of Shakespeare, Wordsworth, and Coleridge. Yet even these great writers left him increasingly unsatisfied, prompting him to write, "I go into the country to *feel* God; dabble in chemistry to feel awe of him; read the life of Christ, to understand, love, and adore him". Robertson concluded with these words: "I turn with disgust from everything to Christ".

God may spare us from Robertson's emotional and bodily suffering. He may give us many fulfilling years so that we can say, "My cup runs over" (Psalm 23:5). But no matter what, we should increasingly identify with those beautiful words of Bernard of Clairvaux who wrote in the 12th century:

*Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn unfilled to Thee again.*

Yes, Christ alone is the Water that revives our parched spirit. He alone is the Bread that nourishes our hungry heart. He alone is the Truth that answers our mind's deepest questionings.

Real soul satisfaction is found only in Christ.

Our Prayers in July are especially requested for:

In the Church

Lambeth Conference – for the success of this decennial event, as Bishops from throughout the Anglican Communion come together to pray and read the Bible together, and to help one another to be Bishops.

Events – Gala Weekend (5th & 6th); Worship in the Park (6th); Parish Praise (27th) – please pray for these events and all those who will attend them.

Worship in the Park – for the open air, ecumenical, service on 6th of July, that it may reach lots of people.

Pastoral Care Team – give thanks for all those who visit and care for others, and for all who give of their time to walk alongside those who are lonely or in need.

Mothers' Union – for the Mothers' Union in Zimbabwe and Baghdad who continue to work in the face of great personal danger.

Flower Guild – for safe travel and happy holidays for everyone.

St Mary's Os-5s Group – give thanks for our continued growth in numbers, and please pray for the committee as we seek new members to replace those who are stepping down at the end of term.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Please pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world. In particular we pray for Muslim background Christians who are in danger of violence, often at the hands of their own families. We ask that the Lord would strengthen local churches in these regions so they might provide support and assistance to those who have converted to Christianity and are in danger.

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

The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). Please pray for their work in helping local churches around the world to run schools and hospitals, build houses and dig wells, and provide agricultural training for subsistence farmers. They also support church outreach, theological training and youth work programmes.

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

Week commencing Sunday 6 July:

Pettit Road; Windsor Road; Stuart Close; Ravenshoe.

Week commencing Sunday 13 July:

Buttermel; Brickkiln; Ferndown; Golden Rod.

Week commencing Sunday 20 July:

**London Street; Betts Close; Barringer Court; Earning Street;
Sylton Close**

Week commencing Sunday 27 July:

Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.

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

Some Prayers for July:

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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,
revive 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.

