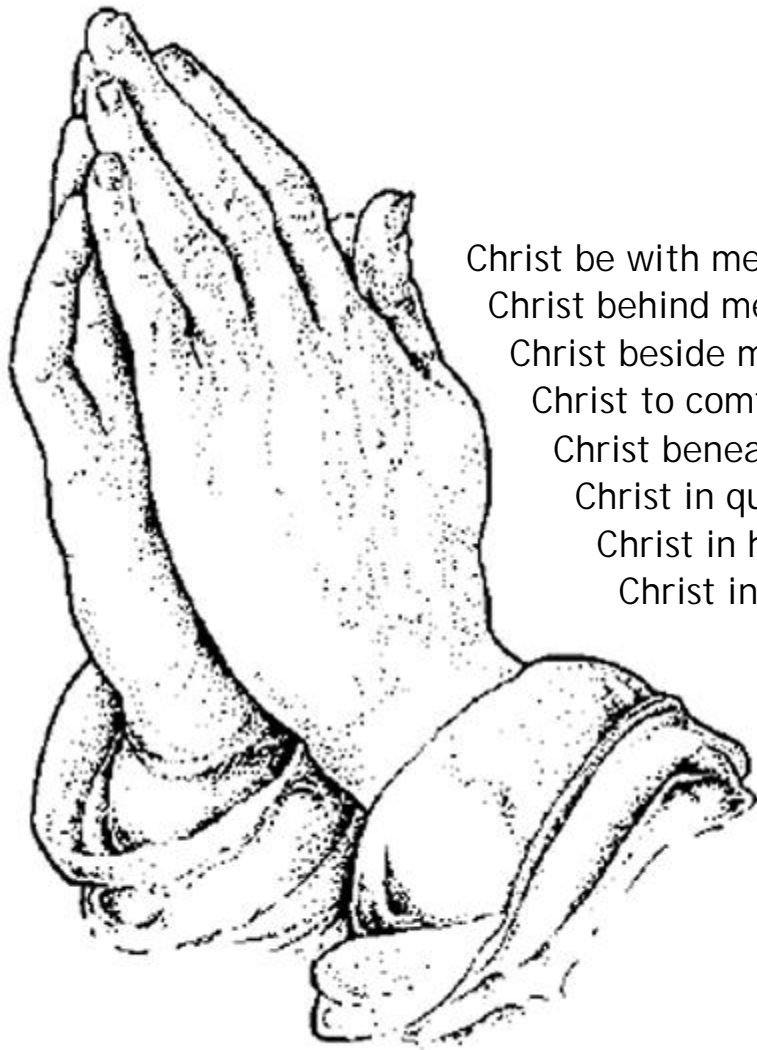




Prayer Leaflet

September 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

Take The Time

Matthew 9:18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, 'My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.' And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.' Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, 'Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.' And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

A legend is told about a rabbi from a small Jewish town. The people had gathered in the synagogue on the eve of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), but when the time came for the most important service of the Jewish year to begin, the rabbi was nowhere to be found.

During the delay, a young mother went home to check on her little daughter, whom she had left sleeping. To her surprise, she saw the rabbi sitting quietly in a chair, holding the child in his arms. He had been walking by her home on the way to the synagogue when he heard the infant crying and stopped to help. He held the little one until she fell asleep.



Whether the legend is true or not, there's a lesson for us in this rabbi's example and in Jesus' love for people (Matthew 9:18-26). In our hectic and busy lives, we tend to get so caught up with our own concerns that we lose our sense of compassion for others. We must take time to observe and respond to individuals – whether they are little children, parents, or older people.

Somewhere amid all the demands on you as a servant of Jesus Christ, take the time to hold the hand of an older person, to comfort a tired mother, or to cradle a child until she sleeps.

Our Prayers in September are especially requested for:

In the Church

Give thanks for the ministry of the Rev David Busk amongst us here in Godmanchester – he will have been in post two years on the 10th.

Pray for the children being Admitted to Communion for the first time, and their families and our Church congregation as they support them.

Events – Patronal Festival (7th); Shalom Service (7th); Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride/walk (13th); Last Night of the Proms Concert (13th); King's Festival for Church Choirs (20th); Back to Church Sunday (28th) – please pray for these events and all those who will attend them.

Mothers Union – for a fruitful harvest everywhere to help feed the world.

Flower Guild – for a fruitful harvest everywhere to help feed the world.

Children's Church – for the children and helpers, as Children's Church returns after the summer holidays; for learning together and having fun together in all activities.

Evening Bible Group – for the group as they come together again after the summer break: they will be looking at the Corinthian correspondence.

GMC Churches Together – for success and companionship at the Coffee Morning's, re-starting this month on Tuesday's at the Salvation Army.

In the Community

The School's in the Town – for the teachers and pupils at the schools that they may start the new term with renewed energy and enthusiasm; and pray especially for all starting at new schools this term.

Pray for young people leaving home for the first time this month.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in September: **Mashambanzou Care Trust** aspires to shepherd those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS through the dark night of loneliness, fear, hunger, stigma and discrimination so that they may walk confidently into the dawn of a new life, filled with hope.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 7 September:

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

Week commencing Sunday, 14 September:

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

Week commencing Sunday, 21 September:

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

Week commencing Sunday, 28 September:

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

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

Some Prayers for September:

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with the confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

