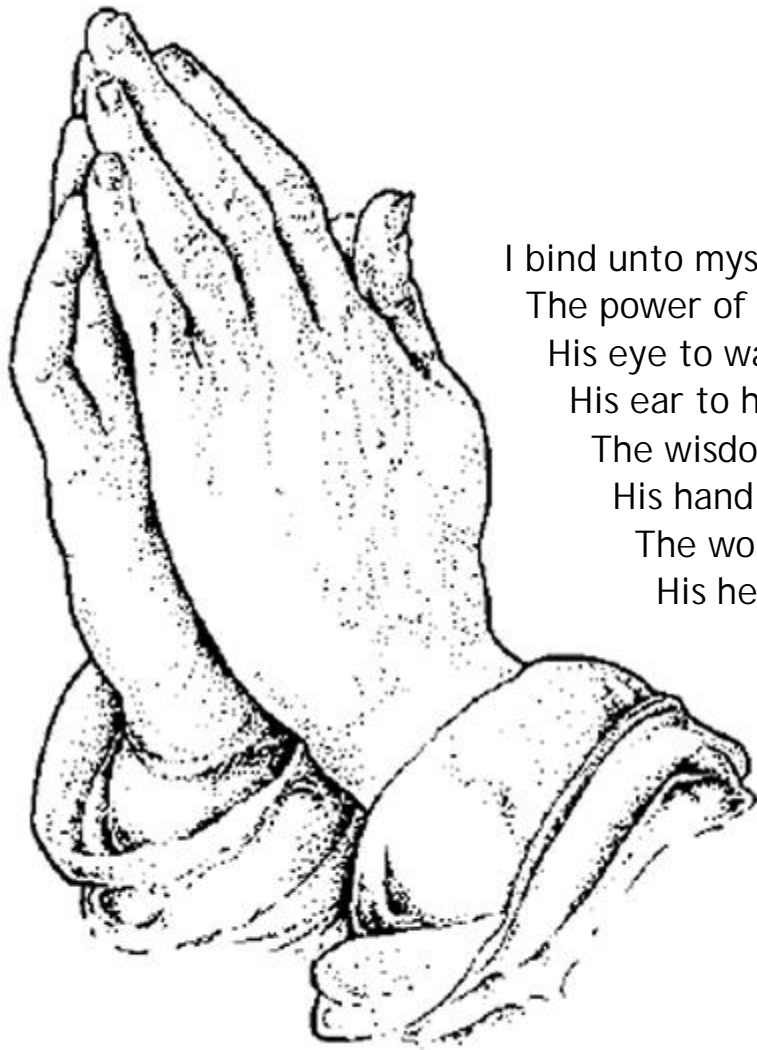




# Prayer Leaflet

October 2008



I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need.  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward;  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.

*from St Patrick's Breastplate*

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Godmanchester

## Keep On Writing

### 2 Corinthians 3:1-6

*Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

*Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

The following poem written by Paul Gilbert is intended to encourage us as Christians to be persuasive, flesh-and-blood testimonies for our Saviour.

You're writing a "gospel",  
A chapter each day,  
By the deeds that you do,  
By the words that you say;  
Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the "gospel"  
According to you?



Sometimes, however, our writing is done with scratchy pens. Maybe it's badly blurred and so illegible that God's message can't be deciphered.

Hannah More, an outstanding witness for the gospel in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century, sometimes felt discouraged about the quality of her spiritual penmanship. Although she organised schools for the unevangelized poor and wrote many tracts and hymns, she had a low opinion of her effectiveness. This was her self-appraisal: "God is sometimes pleased to work with the most unworthy instruments — I suppose to take away every shadow of doubt that it is his own doing. It always gives me the idea of a great author writing with a very bad pen".

Yet we need not be discouraged. God, the great author, is able to use even scratchy pens like you and me to communicate his message to people around us. Regardless of how we appraise our penmanship, let's prayerfully keep on writing.

Our Prayers in October are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Linda Watson – give thanks for all she has done with the Pastoral Care Group, and pray for her as she concentrates on her studies.

Harvest Festival Weekend (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>) – that it may draw us all together in greater love and friendship; and for those in the world who have no food or clean water and those in places where the harvest has failed.

Events – Alpha Course (3<sup>rd</sup>); Parish Meeting launching MAP (19<sup>th</sup>); Deanery Evensong (26<sup>th</sup>); After Dark (29<sup>th</sup>); PCC Away Day (Nov 1<sup>st</sup>); please pray for these events and all those who will attend them.

Mothers Union – for families struggling with the increasing costs of running their homes in these uncertain times.

Flower Guild – for the hard work and skills members put in all year round.

Pastoral Care Group – give thanks for all those who offer comfort and support by giving themselves for the love of others. Pray for Mary Jepp as she becomes co-ordinator, that with her leadership, the group will continue to flourish, so that the love of God and the message of hope and reassurance are spread throughout our mission community.

### In the Community

The Schools in the Town – for all those new children joining our schools, learning a new language and new routines.

Pray for those adults in our community with emotional difficulties whose daily challenge is preparing food to eat and a safe place to stay.

### In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Lord, we praise you for the millions of people now hearing your gospel for the first time and giving their lives to you – in China, India, Nepal, Nigeria and elsewhere. We ask you to protect and grow your new churches being planted across the world.

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

**Mission Aviation Fellowship** - a Christian agency whose mission is to fly light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 5 October

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

Week commencing Sunday, 12 October

**Lancaster Way; Fox Grove; Rectory Gardens; Grove Court.**

Week commencing Sunday, 19 October

**West Street; Pinfold Lane; Granary Close; The Maltings;  
Oakleigh Crescent.**

Week commencing Sunday, 26 October

**Crow Hill; Thickwillow; Bergamont Close.**

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

## Some Prayers for October:

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, our light and our salvation:  
illuminate our lives,  
that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,  
and looking on your beauty  
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,  
in whose service lies perfect freedom:  
teach us to obey you  
with loving hearts and steadfast wills;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,  
whose Son went among the crowds  
and brought healing with his touch:  
help us to show his love,  
in your Church as we gather together,  
and by our lives as they are transformed  
into the image of Christ our Lord.

Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,  
that trusting in your word  
and obeying your will  
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

