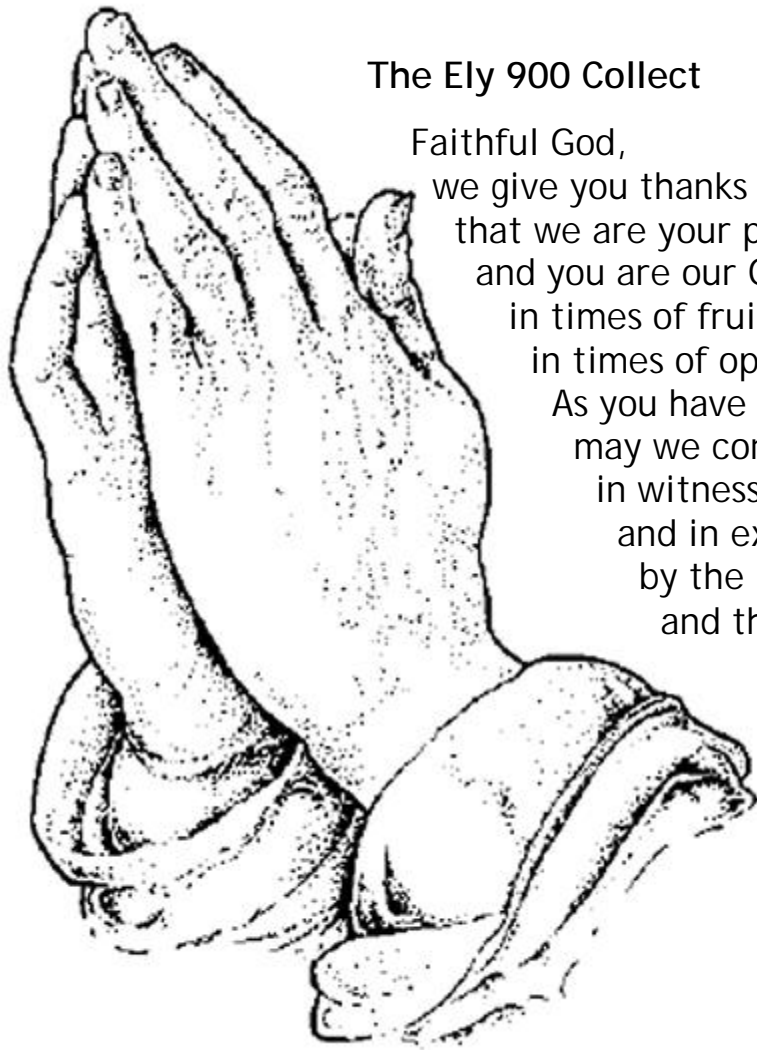




# Prayer Leaflet

February 2009



## The Ely 900 Collect

Faithful God,  
we give you thanks  
that we are your people  
and you are our God,  
in times of fruitfulness and times of need;  
in times of opportunity and times of challenge.  
As you have been faithful to us,  
may we continue in faithfulness to you,  
in witness to your love  
and in expectation of your promises,  
by the power of your Spirit  
and through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Godmanchester

## Castaway

**1 Kings 19:1-10**

*Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.*

*But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.*

*Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'*

In the film *Castaway*, Tom Hanks plays Chuck Noland, a clock-conscious Federal Express manager who gets shipwrecked on a desert island. Completely cut off from other people and modern conveniences, he must learn the primitive skills of a caveman. He puts arduous effort into harpooning fish, making fire by rubbing sticks together, and opening a coconut to get its sweet milk and fruit. The movie is full of clues on how difficult life can become for someone who is stranded in an isolated wilderness.



In the Bible, the wilderness is often the setting for the mighty work of God within the human heart. Jesus made a practice of withdrawing to the wilderness to pray and receive direction (*Mark 1:35*). He also took his disciples away from the crowds (*Mark 6:31; Matthew 16:13*). In a similar setting, God fed the despondent prophet Elijah with heavenly food (*1 Kings 19:1-10*). It was in the wilderness the Ethiopian pondered the gospel (*Acts 8:26-40*). After Paul's conversion, he withdrew to the Arabian Desert and was taught by the Spirit (*Galatians 1:15-18*).

Do you find yourself in a "wilderness" experience, isolated from friends and family? If so, the Lord may want to teach you lessons of faith and endurance that you could never learn in a busy crowd.

Our Prayers in February are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Events – Film Night (7<sup>th</sup>); Wine and Cheese Party (21<sup>st</sup>); Teaching Eucharist followed by the Pancake Race (22<sup>nd</sup>) – please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Mothers' Union – for Mothers' Union publications especially "Families Worldwide" books and leaflets and all who work for them to promote the work of the MU.

Choir – that members may keep well during this cold weather so that they can continue to lead the singing effectively.

Flower Guild – give thanks for all the skill and dedication that the flower arrangers put into their work and hope that some new members will come forward to join them during the coming year.

Lent Groups – for those preparing to lead this year's Lent Groups.

### In the Community

Education Sunday, 8 February – pray for the schools, governors, teachers, support staff, children and parents; and all involved in education in the town and district.

Pray for the work of the hostel for the Homeless in Huntingdon that more people may visit to use their skills to help in the education process of the young people in their care. Pray too for the homeless that they may be led towards rehabilitation.

Community School – give thanks for all PTA members and their valuable support to the school.

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

**Corrymeela** is people of all ages and Christian traditions, who, individually and together are committed to the healing of social, religious and political divisions that exist in Northern Ireland.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 1 February

**Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.**

Week commencing Sunday, 8 February

**Cambridge Street; Orchard Way; Linden Grove; Clyde Yard;  
East Chadley Lane.**

Week commencing Sunday, 15 February

**Old Court Hall; Corpus Christie; Silver Street; Wigmore Close;  
Duck End; Allen Farm Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 22 February

**Sweetings Road; Devana Close; Parcell Walk; Middlemiss; Miller Close.**

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

## Some Prayers for February:

God of heaven,  
you send the gospel to the ends of the earth  
and your messengers to every nation:  
send your Holy Spirit to transform us  
by the good news of everlasting life  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.

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.

Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,  
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your goodness  
and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

