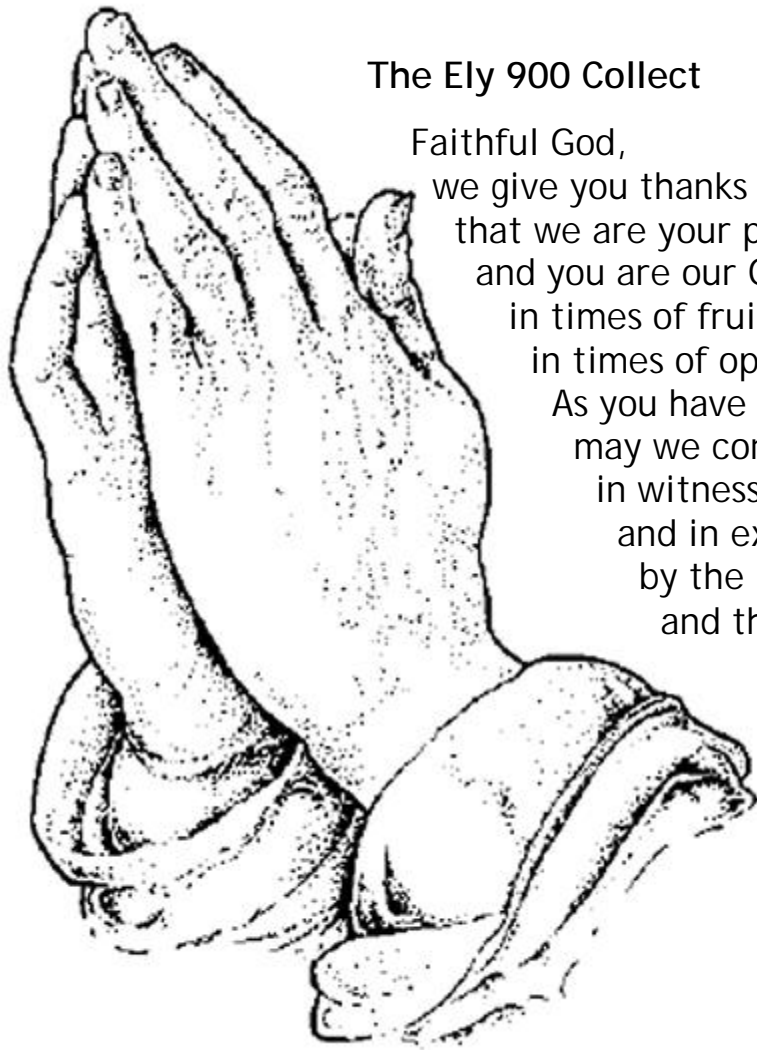




Prayer Leaflet

April 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

An Inevitable Appointment

Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Sarah Winchester's husband had acquired a fortune by manufacturing and selling rifles. After he died of influenza in 1918, she moved to San Jose, California.

Because of her grief and her long-time interest in spiritualism, Sarah sought out a medium to contact her dead husband. The medium told her, "As long as you keep building your home, you will never face death."



Sarah believed the spiritualist, so she bought an unfinished 17-room mansion and started to expand it. The project continued until she died at the age of 85. It cost 5 million dollars at a time when workmen earned 50 cents a day. The mansion had 150 rooms, 13 bathrooms, 2,000 doors, 47 fireplaces, and 10,000 windows. And Mrs. Winchester left enough materials so that they could have continued building for another 80 years.

Today that house stands as more than a tourist attraction. It is a silent witness to the dread of death that holds millions of people in bondage (Heb. 2:15).

Because Jesus died for us and rose from the grave, our fear of death can be changed to hope. That happens when we receive him as our personal Saviour. That's the best way to face our inevitable appointment with death.

Our Prayers in April are especially requested for:

In the Church

Holy Week and Easter – that this time may encourage spiritual growth and refreshment for those attending the various services in church; remembering also the children's workshop and the Churches Together walk of witness – both on Good Friday.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting on Sunday 26th, giving thanks that we are able to enjoy a Church rich in spiritual leadership, committed stewardship and social participation.

Choir – that they may lead our worship joyfully at Easter.

Evening Bible Study Group – resuming after Lent: breaking from the usual pattern on 29 April to think about some of the techniques used by New Testament scholars to recover the best possible Greek text – which most of us will know about only in translation.

Mothers' Union – for the Mothers' Union prison support work as they strive to make a difference to lives across the world.

Flower Guild – that the Easter flowers will enhance our worship in church.

In the Community

The School's in the Town – for all school staff who prepare and serve our meals and the Midday supervisors who care for children at lunchtimes.

In the World

Pray the peace process in Northern Ireland may continue. Pray for those who stir up trouble that they may be moved to change their viewpoint.

Give thanks for the wonderful sunny days we've been enjoying: give thanks for our beautiful world, praying we may be led to care for it properly.

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

Dhiverse is one of the longest-established HIV and sexual health charities and is involved in sexual health promotion, support and advocacy work in Cambridgeshire, and in campaigning on HIV and AIDS issues across the county and nationally.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 5 April

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

Week commencing Sunday, 12 April

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

Week commencing Sunday, 19 April

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

Week commencing Sunday, 26 April

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

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

Some Prayers for April:

True and humble king,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the depths of our isolation
we cry to you, Lord God:
give light in our darkness
and bring us out of the prison of our despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

