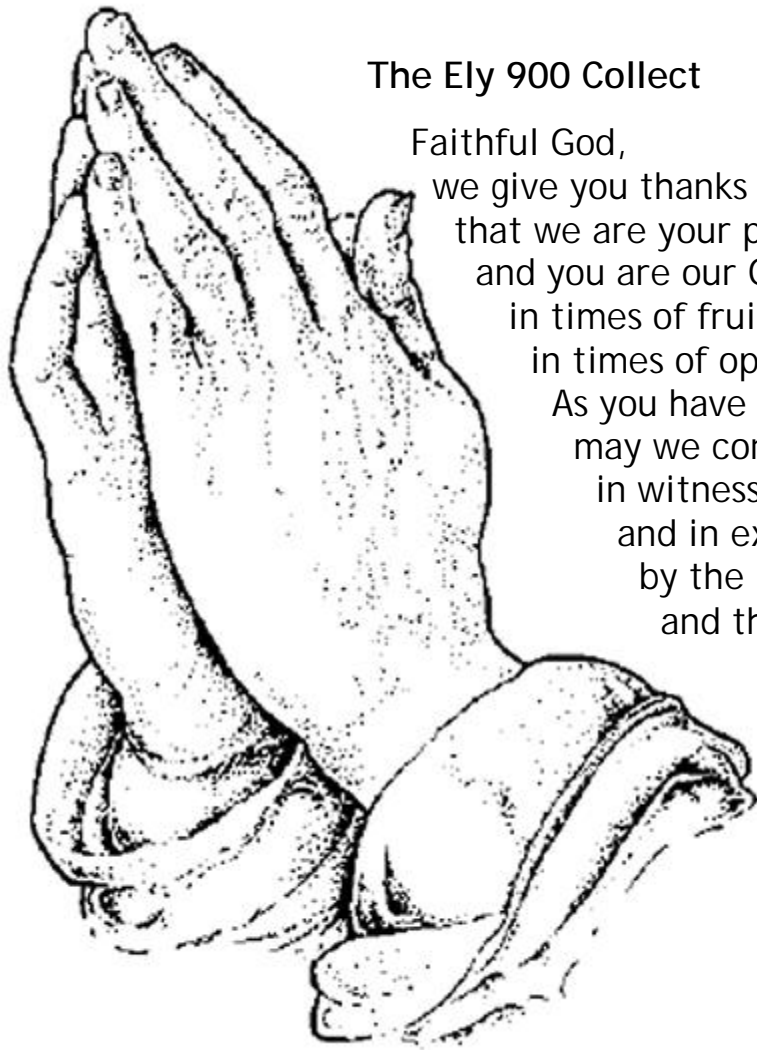




Prayer Leaflet

May 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

He's Always With Us

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'



The children of Israel faced what seemed to be a severe crisis. Moses, their leader, had just died. What would they do? Who would lead them? Would they now perish in the wilderness?

Of course not! Although Moses had died, God certainly was not dead! He told the new leader, Joshua, exactly what to do next: "Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them" (*Joshua 1:2*). Then the Lord spoke these words of assurance to Joshua: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous" (*Joshua 1:5-6*).

Yes, Moses was dead, but God was still alive. And his plans for the nation of Israel would go on.

What a comfort that is for us today! Even though troubling crises arise, great leaders fall, precious loved ones die, and all human help and comforts fail, God is not dead. He is always with us.

Are you weighed down with the cares of life — lonely, discouraged, and despondent? Remember, our trust is in the living God. As he was with Moses, Joshua, and the children of Israel, so he is with us. Look to him today for guidance, and experience his abiding peace.

Our Prayers in May are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events — Christian Aid Week (10th-16th); Ely Diocesan Choirs Festival (16th); LLM (Reader) AGM (16th); Musica Beata (Szentendre) Concert (16th); Spring BBQ (17th); Church Plant Sale (24th); Churches Together Ecumenical Pentecost Service (31st); — please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Choir — that our choir master may return refreshed after his break away and that we are able to sing with energy and joy at the Ely festival.

Mothers' Union — we are asked to pray for all people who face discrimination and unjust treatment because of their age, colour, ethnicity, gender or religion. May we be people who model inclusion in both our words and actions.

Flower Guild — for all those caring people who look after the sick and housebound in the community.

In the Community

Pray for all new fathers that they may know how vital their role is and how important they are in the life of their child. May they be supported and encouraged as they learn to be a father.

Pray for families separated as people travel for work. Pray for parents and children, husbands and wives asking that their relationships be protected and sustained during the time apart.

In the World

Christian Aid — pray for the continued success of this worldwide organisation, especially in Christian Aid Week, as it strives to root out poverty, fund long-term development work, and challenge governments on climate change and international trade.

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

Tearfund; a leading relief and development charity, working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches worldwide to tackle the causes and effects of poverty.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 3 May

Crow Hill; Thickwillow; Bergamont Close.

Week commencing Sunday, 10 May

St Anne's Lane; The Stiles; New Street; St Anne's Court

Week commencing Sunday, 17 May

Bascraft Way; Mowlands; Lions Cross; Dovehouse Close.

Week commencing Sunday, 24 May

Croftfield Road; Peate Close.

Week commencing Sunday, 31 May

White Hart Lane; Hilsden Driv; Anderson Crescent; Kisby Avenue.

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

Some Prayers for May:

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever.

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

