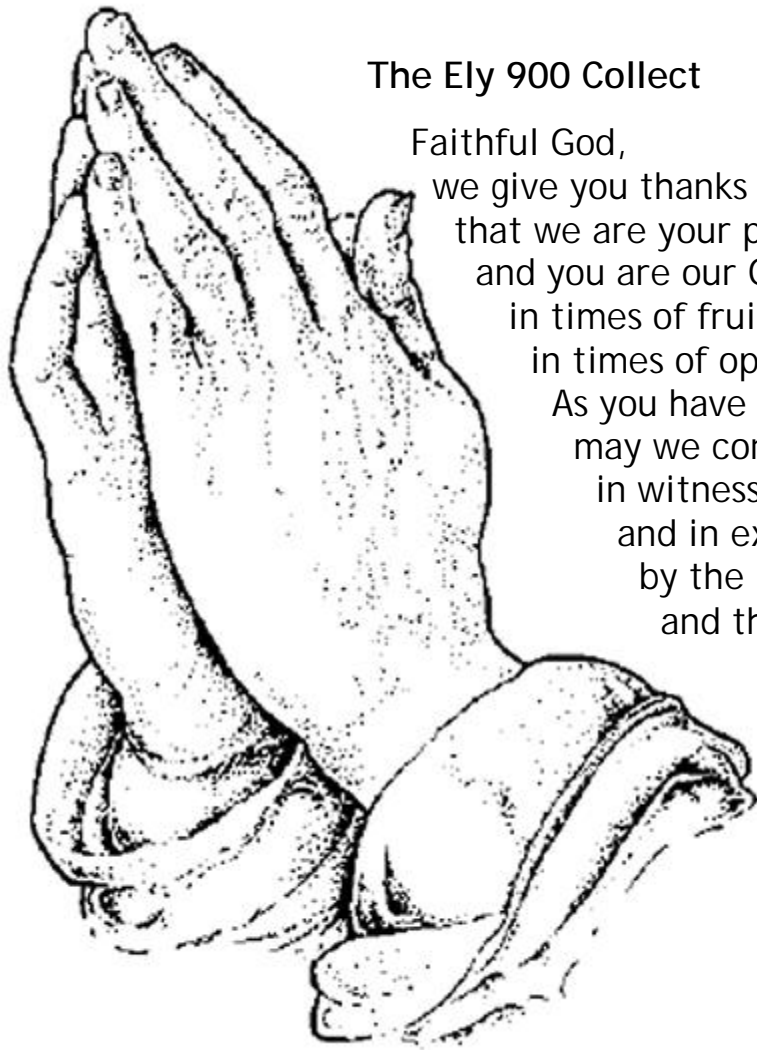




## Prayer Leaflet

June 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

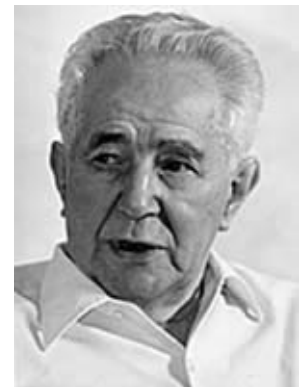
## Those Dirty Jobs

**John 13:3-17**

*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'*

*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'*

Before he became an outspoken critic of Communist oppression, Milovan Djilas was one of Yugoslavia's top Marxists. Jailed in his early twenties for anti-government activities, he took on the repugnant task of smuggling party literature through the prison sewer system. He was willing to perform such duty, he says, because "no job is dirty, low, or inconsequential".



If a communist who didn't believe in God could be so committed, we who serve God, whose purpose is infinitely higher, ought to have a similar attitude. A supreme motive enables us to perform the most menial labour with a sense of divine mission. Christ, by his washing of the disciples' dirty feet, set an example for us to follow.

If God's saving purposes are to be accomplished in this world, society must function with predictable order. Somebody must collect rubbish, work the fields to provide food, and labour in factories to produce necessary goods. Because of the inter-connectedness of life, we should be grateful for those who do the drab and menial tasks.

If we follow the example of Christ, and if we do everything for the glory of God, even unpleasant chores take on dignity.

**Our Prayers in June are especially requested for:**

### **In the Church**

Mary Jepp – pray for Mary as she is ordained as a Priest (27<sup>th</sup>), and embarks on this next stage in her ministry to all of God's people as she Celebrates at the Eucharist for the first time (28<sup>th</sup>).

Events – Shalom Service (2<sup>nd</sup>); Sedici Concert (6<sup>th</sup>); Carers' Service (7<sup>th</sup>); Archdeacon's Visitation (15<sup>th</sup> - Buckden); Summer Fete (20<sup>th</sup>) – please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Choir – that more people may be led to join us in leading worship.

Mothers' Union – for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Democratic Republic of Congo where it is involved with assisting displaced people with food, water and medicine and in educating people in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Flower Guild – give thanks for our beautiful riverside town and for all the people who work so hard to maintain it.

St Mary's Os-5s Group – give thanks for the warm summer sun and also the cooling rain. We need both to keep our land green and healthy. Let us not complain on rainy days, remembering those countries who are desperate for rain.

### **In the Community**

Community School – for the safety of all children and staff as they embark on numerous school trips; particularly Year 5 staying in Derbyshire and Year 6 on activity days.

Pray for all of our young people sitting exams at this time.

### **In the World**

World Refugee Day (20<sup>th</sup>) – pray for all displaced people, those fleeing violence and those still travelling to unknown destinations; that God may be with them in their journey towards freedom.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26<sup>th</sup>) – pray for families involved in this hoping to make some money through drugs or alcohol; that the Lord will reach out to them.

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

**Committee for Social Welfare**, an independent social work service for anyone in the diocese, especially supporting distressed families.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 7 June

**Saxon Close; Pipers Lane; Laroc Close; Lavender Grove; Cow Lane**

Week commencing Sunday, 14 June

**Porch Close; Grainger Avenue; Littlefield Close; Sears Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 21 June

**Park Lane; The Avenue; Pavillion Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 28 June

**Danes Croft; McCartney House; Woodley Court.**

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

## Some Prayers for June:

Holy God,  
faithful and unchanging:  
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,  
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,  
that we may truly worship you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

God of truth,  
help us to keep your law of love  
and to walk in the ways of wisdom,  
that we may find true life  
in Jesus Christ your Son.

Faithful Creator,  
whose mercy never fails:  
deepen our faithfulness to you  
and to your living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*A prayer for all being ordained as  
Deacons and Priests on Saturday, 27 June:*

God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship  
of your universal Church:  
hear our prayer for your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servants now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

