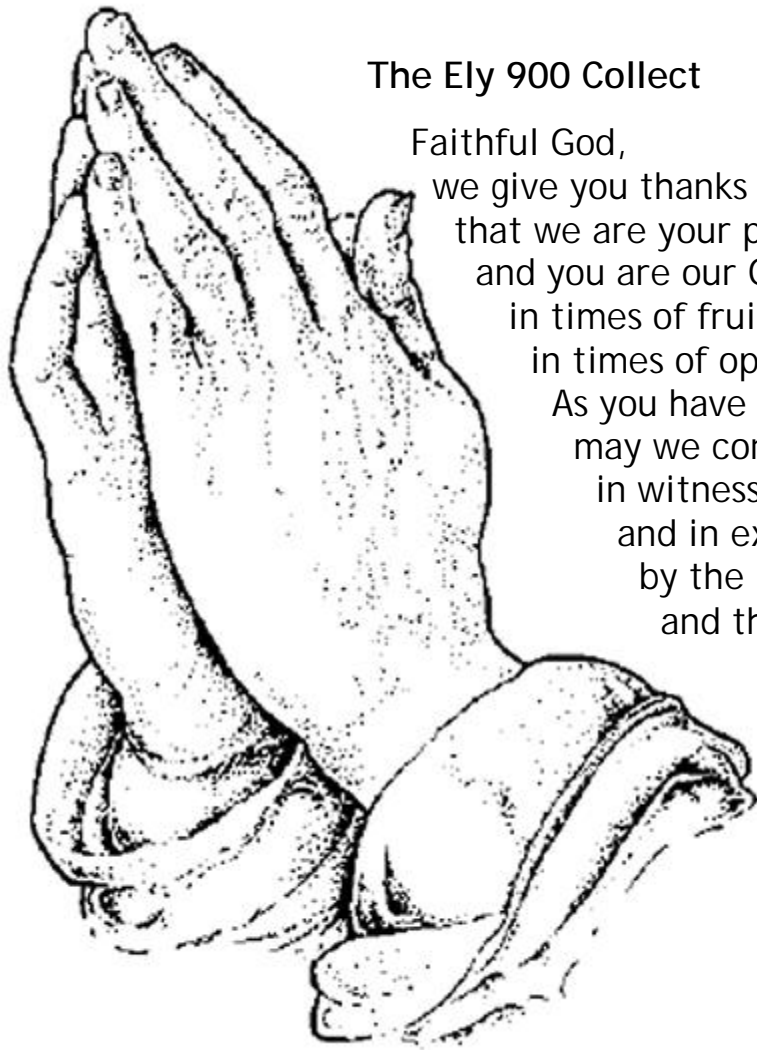




Prayer Leaflet

July 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

Bowling a Googly

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?' Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.



George Bernard Shaw once said, "England and America are two countries separated by a common Language." An example from the world of sport demonstrates his point.

Many of us are familiar with the term, "curveball", which comes from the world of baseball, which I like to watch on the rare occasion it makes it on to the TV here. It's a ball thrown by the pitcher in such a way that it changes direction, fooling the opponent. We have something similar in cricket, which I'm able to see much more frequently, but it has a very different name. A good spin bowler might try to overcome the batsman by "bowling a googly".

Shane Warne, pictured above, was arguably one of the most fearsome bowlers in the modern game, and could bowl a super googly. Fortunately England won't be facing him in the Ashes series that starts on July 8th, but I'm sure the team would appreciate your prayers — the Australians are still fearsome opponents.

Though games and cultures differ, the concept of the curveball portrays a reality familiar in any language. Life is full of times when we're unsuspectingly "bowled a googly", and we find ourselves overwhelmed. In those moments of fear and confusion, it's comforting to know we have a God who is sufficient for any challenge.

Trials are to be expected (*1 Peter 4:12*). Yet we may well be shocked by the circumstances facing us. But God is never surprised, and he can help and enable us to respond to them in a way that honours him.

When we suffer, we must "entrust [ourselves] to a faithful creator" (*1 Peter 4:19*). In God's strength we can face life's most troublesome curveballs.

Our Prayers in July are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mary Jepp – pray for Mary in her first month with us as an ordained priest.
Events – Gala Day (4th); Worship & Picnic in the Park (5th); Huntingdon Male Voice Choir and Cantores Novae Concert (11th) Picnic in the Garden (12th); Service of Benediction (16th); Parish Praise (26th); – please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Choir – give thanks for a dedicated group of people thinking especially of our choir master and praying that he may return refreshed from his holiday.

Mothers' Union – give thanks for the vision and calling shared by members which unites us in fellowship across many varied cultures and traditions; and for the role members each play by challenging injustices and by pioneering alternatives to help make the world a better place.

Flower Guild – give thanks for the friendship and fellowship we all enjoy within our Church family.

Charities Committee – for members who maintain the monthly charities publicity; pressing on in the background without prompting.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – Dear God, as we come towards the end of another school year, bless our children, who in September will be starting a new phase in their lives. Let them make the most of every opportunity, finding enjoyment in their efforts.

Pray for the newborn children and their parents in our Church family.

In the Community

Community School – for summer activities in school and out; that all will be safe and enjoy the experiences and learn from their activity.

Pray for unhappy families - give them comfort where parents are separated, strength for those who cannot provide for their children and healing where there is sickness.

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

The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG). Please pray for their work in helping local churches around the world to run schools and hospitals, build houses and dig wells, and provide agricultural training for subsistence farmers. They also support church outreach; theological training and youth work programmes.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 5 July

Prayers for those living outside the Parish.

Week commencing Sunday, 12 July

Bayliss; Bluegate; Hudpool; Pinder Close; Malcoff.

Week commencing Sunday, 19 July

Pettit Road; Windsor Road; Stuart Close; Ravenshoe.

Week commencing Sunday, 26 July

Buttermel; Brickkiln; Ferndown; Golden Rod.

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

Some Prayers for July:

Gracious Father,
by the obedience of Jesus
you brought salvation to our wayward world:
draw us into harmony with your will,
that we may find all things restored in him,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
that we may discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

