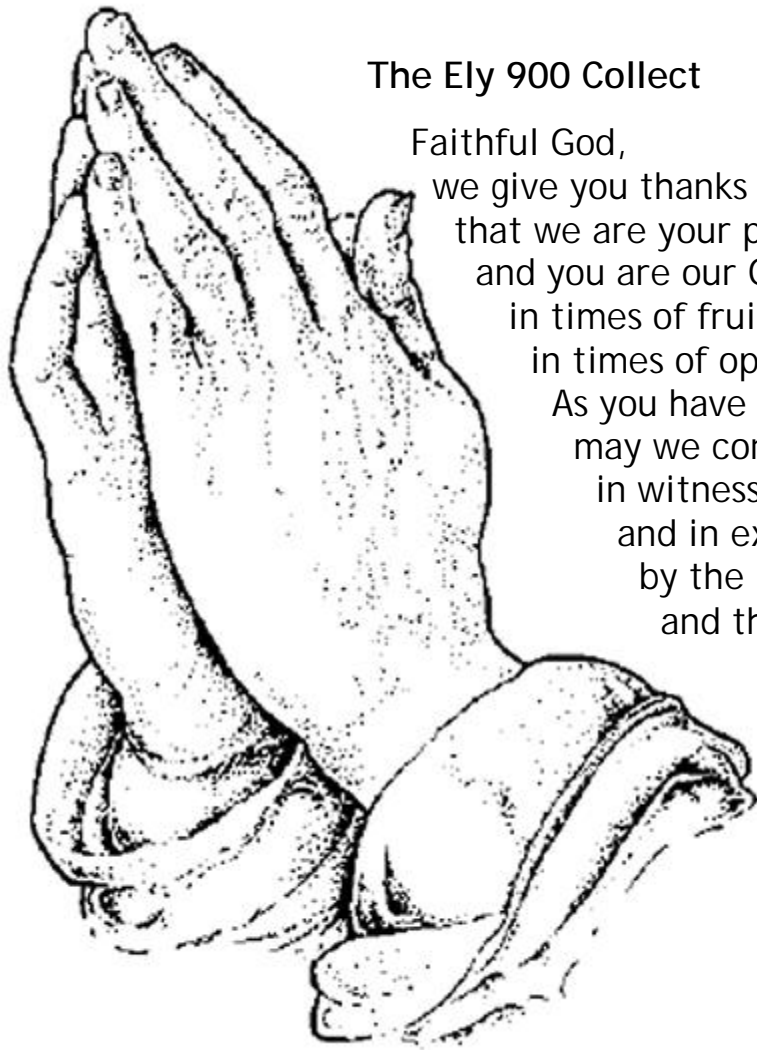




Prayer Leaflet

August 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

Open The Shutters

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

'Sleeper, awake!

*Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'*

Have you heard of the seventeenth-century theologian Samuel Rutherford? He was born around 1600 in a small farming community near Nesbit, in the southern part of the Lowlands of Scotland. Perhaps it's time to resurrect his faith-inspiring memory.

Rutherford was a member of the council that wrote the Westminster Confession. He was imprisoned because of his beliefs. While in prison, he wrote this soul-strengthening letter expressing the joy that sustained him through his trials:



"If God had told me some time ago that he was about to make me as happy as I could be in this world, and then had told me that he should begin by crippling me in all my limbs, and removing me from all my usual sources of enjoyment, I should have thought it a very strange mode of accomplishing his purpose. And yet, how is his wisdom manifest even in this! For if you should see a man shut up in a closed room, idolizing a set of lamps and rejoicing in their light, and you wished to make him truly happy, you would begin by blowing out all his lamps; and then throw open the shutters to let in the light of heaven."

When the candles that light up our darkness are blown out, let's rejoice that God is throwing open shuttered windows and pouring in the sunshine of his love.

Like Samuel Rutherford, let's "live as children of light" (*Ephesians 5:8*).

Our Prayers in August are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events — MU Coffee Morning (4th); Explorers Holiday Club (10th-14th); Treasure Hunt (16th); Midsummer Lunch (23rd); Youth Group — Greenbelt Festival (28th-31st); — please pray for these events, and for those attending them.

Pray for the safety of all going on holiday this month; and for those who would like to but cannot because of current financial pressures.

Children's Church — for all preparing to start school for the first time, and for those moving to new schools next month; that they can relax and enjoy their summer.

Choir — that they may be refreshed during the annual August break and return with renewed energy.

Mothers' Union — pray for the work of the Mothers' Union across the world as, together, we seek to support and encourage family life.

Flower Guild — for safe travel and happy holidays for us all.

St Mary's 0-5 Group — that we can appreciate what we do have, especially in uncertain times; and for those less well off-particularly the homeless.

In the Community

St Anne's School — for all preparing for the school's tenth anniversary celebrations next month; and give thanks for their first ten years.

Community School — for a refreshing summer break for all and that children and families will remain safe and well.

In the World

Pray for the Commission for Restoration, Life and Peace in Colombia whose workers are in the line of fire for speaking out against injustice and violence. We pray that they would be able to continue their work and that they would be effective in bringing justice to Colombia.

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

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is a human rights organisation specialising in religious freedom: they work on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs promoting religious liberty for everyone.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 2 August

London Street; Betts Close; Barringer Court; Earning Street; Sylton Close

Week commencing Sunday, 9 August

Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.

Week commencing Sunday, 16 August

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

Week commencing Sunday, 23 August

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

Week commencing Sunday, 30 August

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 August:

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.

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of glory,
the end of our searching,
help us to lay aside
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,
and to give all that we have
to gain the pearl beyond all price,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the developing situation regarding swine flu:

Creator and Father of all,
we pray for those who are ill.
Bless them, and those who serve their needs,
that they may put their whole trust in you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

