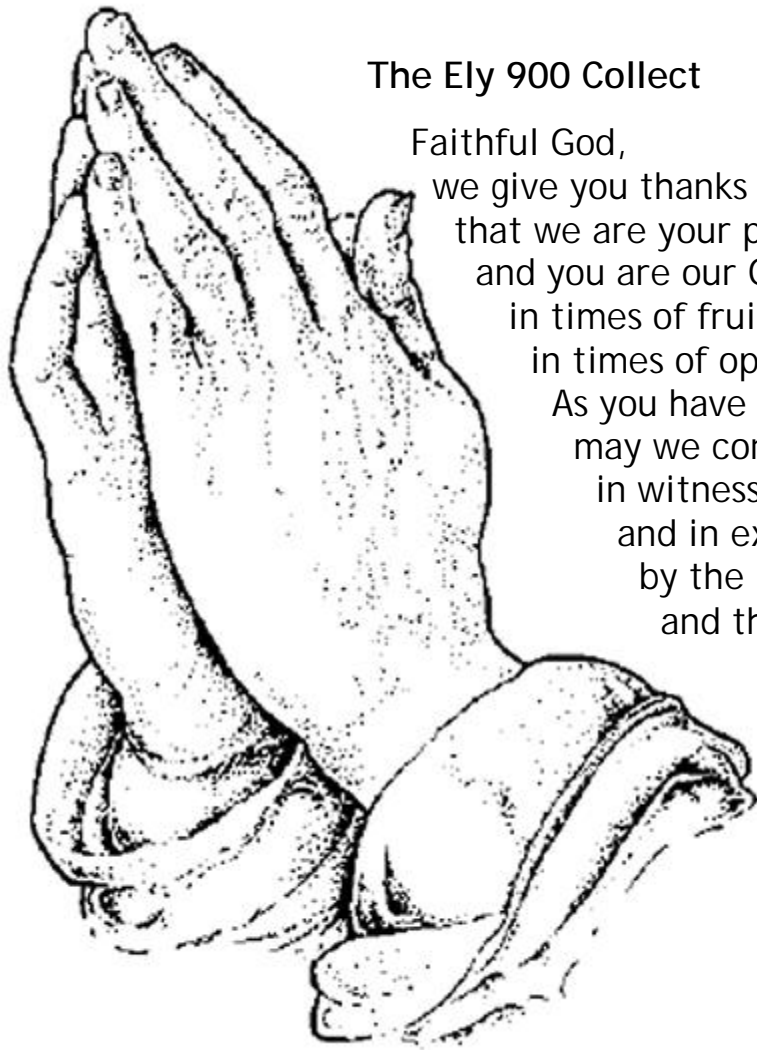




Prayer Leaflet

September 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

Turning Pain Into Praise

2 Corinthians 1:7-11

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted to us through the prayers of many.

After years of a remarkable and fruitful ministry in India, Amy Carmichael became a bedridden sufferer. As the courageous founder and dynamic heart of the Dohnavour Fellowship, she had been instrumental in rescuing hundreds of girls and boys from a terrible life of sexual servitude. All the while she carried on that rescue operation of bringing young people into spiritual freedom through faith in Jesus Christ, she was writing books, and especially poems, which continue to bless readers around the world.

Then arthritis made Amy a pain-wracked invalid. Did she bemoan her affliction or question God? No. Amy was still the guiding inspiration of Dohnavour, and she still kept on writing. Her meditations, letters, and poems are full of praise to God and encouragement to her fellow pilgrims.



When affliction strikes us, how do we react? Are we embittered, or do we trustfully appropriate God's sustaining grace:

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

And do we prayerfully encourage those around us by our Spirit-enabled cheerfulness, our courage, and our confidence in God?

As we rely on our Lord Jesus Christ, he can help us to turn pain into praise.

Our Prayers in September are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events – Celebrating the Ten-Year Anniversary at St Anne's School (4th–7th); Patronal Festival (6th); Shalom Service (10th); Historic Churches Cycle Ride (12th); Civic Service (20th); Clergy Conference (22nd–25th); Back to Church Sunday (27th); – please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Children's Church – for all members and leaders as they begin a new year, and a new format for those in the older groups.

Choir – that they will return rested from the summer break.

Mothers' Union – as the children return to school we pray for the Mothers' Union Literacy and Development programmes in Africa, which help families to participate in initiatives and set up small businesses. May these programmes continue to transform communities positively.

Flower Guild – for a fruitful harvest everywhere to help feed the world.

In the Community

St Mary's 0s-5s Group; the Schools in the town; and all our young people – This month heralds a new start for so many young people – those going to nursery for the first time, those beginning at primary school, those who will be going to comprehensive school, and those going on to university. Please help them all to become happy pupils, eager to learn and to share with one another in their new surroundings.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – We continue to pray for the people of Burma, that even more international pressure is put on the Burmese Government to address the human rights situation and enable lasting change to be brought to that country.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in September: **Mashambanzou Care Trust** aspires to shepherd those infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS through the dark night of loneliness, fear, hunger, stigma and discrimination so that they may walk confidently into the dawn of a new life, filled with hope.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 6 September:

Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.

Week commencing Sunday, 13 September:

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

Week commencing Sunday, 20 September:

Cambridge Road; Cambridge Villas; Meadow Way; Harcourt; Almond Close.

Week commencing Sunday, 27 September:

Carnaby Close; Rushes Walk; Field Walk; Merton Walk.

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

Some Prayers for September:

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

