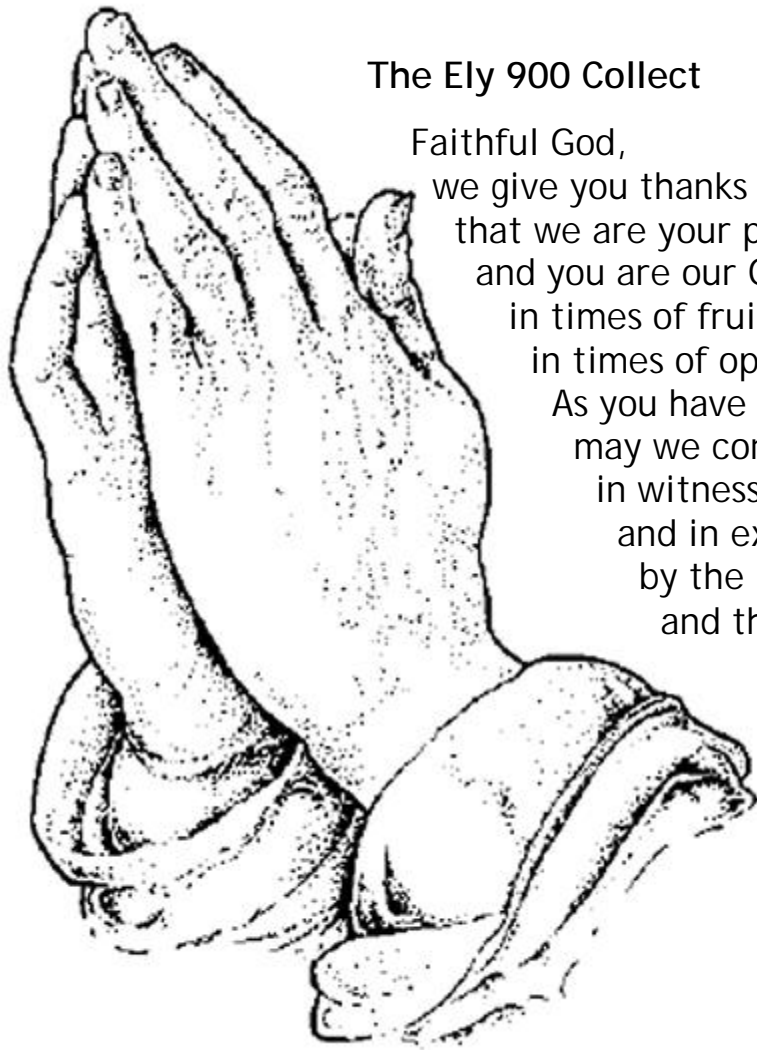




## Prayer Leaflet

November 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.



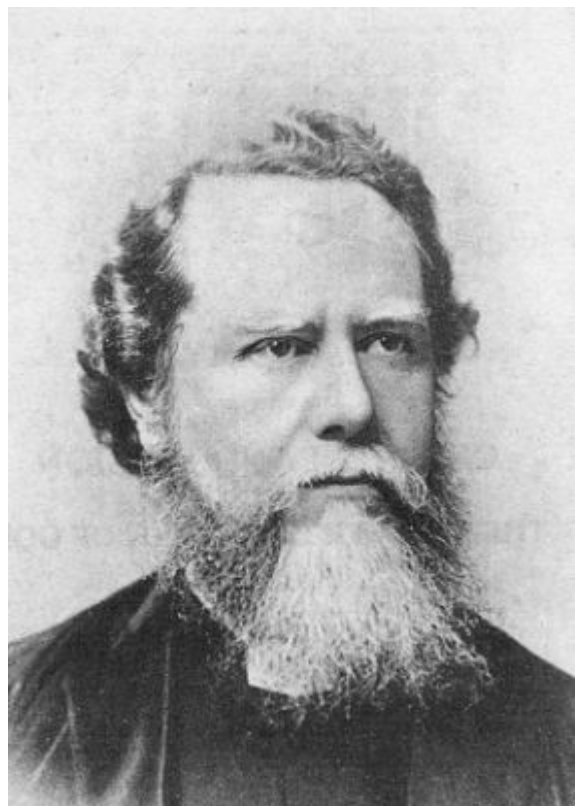
The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin  
Godmanchester

## Sustained in the Silence

**Psalm 94:16-23**

*Who rises up for me against the wicked?  
Who stands up for me against evildoers?  
If the Lord had not been my help,  
my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.  
When I thought, 'My foot is slipping',  
your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up.  
When the cares of my heart are many,  
your consolations cheer my soul.  
Can wicked rulers be allied with you,  
those who contrive mischief by statute?  
They band together against the life of the righteous,  
and condemn the innocent to death.  
But the Lord has become my stronghold,  
and my God the rock of my refuge.  
He will repay them for their iniquity  
and wipe them out for their wickedness;  
the Lord our God will wipe them out.*

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was the founder of the China Inland Mission and a great servant of God. But after the ferocious Boxer Rebellion of 1900, in which hundreds of his fellow missionaries were killed, Taylor was emotionally devastated and his health began to fail. Nearing the end of life's journey he wrote, "I am so weak that I cannot work. I cannot read my bible; I cannot even pray. I can only lie still in God's arms like a child and trust."



Have you been passing through a time when you are tired of body and sick of heart? Do you find it difficult to focus your mind on biblical promises? Has it become hard for you to pray? Don't write yourself off as a spiritual castaway. You are joining a host of God's people who have experienced the dark night of the soul.

When we endure such times, all we can do – indeed, all we *need* do – is lie like a child in the arms of our heavenly father. Words aren't necessary. A comforting father doesn't expect his child to make speeches. Neither does God. He knows we need his soothing care. In times of trouble, his mercy holds us up (Psalm 94:18). We may trust him to carry us through that dark night of the soul and on into the dawning light.

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

### **In the Church**

Events – All Souls service (1<sup>st</sup>); Remembrance Day services (8<sup>th</sup>); Healing Day (7<sup>th</sup>); Curry Night (14<sup>th</sup>); Time to Talk (18<sup>th</sup>); Archbishop of York receiving MAPs (21<sup>st</sup>); Parish Praise (22<sup>nd</sup>); Christmas Bazaar (28<sup>th</sup>); – please pray for these events, and for those who will attend them.

Choir – that throughout this busy time of preparing for the Crossroads concert and Christmas we may keep healthy and energetic.

Mothers' Union – for the work of the Mothers' Union in Malawi where their literacy and development programme means that families are able to enjoy two meals daily instead of only one.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – As the nights grow colder and darker please keep our children safe and warm. Let us enjoy the fireworks and festivities safely and with our families. Keep everyone healthy and well as winter approaches.

Flower Guild – for the lonely and the house bound during the long winter months.

### **In the Community**

Pray for the souls of the departed who have died alone and unloved - may they enjoy the eternal happiness of being with God.

Community School – keep children safe and well away from modern dangers.

### **In the World**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Father, we thank you that we are part of your body – the Church. You teach us that if one part of that body is honoured, we all rejoice, and if one part suffers, then every part suffers. We pray today for that part of your Church that is suffering, in whatever form that may take. We ask that you draw near to them, and give us the courage to do all we can to relieve their suffering.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 1 November

**West Street; Pinfold Lane; Granary Close; The Maltings; Oakleigh Crescent.**

Week commencing Sunday, 8 November

**Crow Hill; Thickwillow; Bergamont Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 15 November

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

Week commencing Sunday, 22 November

**Bascraft Way; Mowlands; Lions Cross; Dovehouse Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 29 November

**Croftfield Road; Peate Close.**

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

## Some Prayers for November:

God of holiness,  
your glory is proclaimed in every age:  
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,  
inspire us to follow their example  
with boldness and joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



## Charity of the Month

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in November:  
This month the Church supports several of the **Service Charities**.