

## Some Prayers for January:

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Eternal Lord,  
our beginning and our end:  
bring us with the whole creation  
to your glory, hidden through past ages  
and made known  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

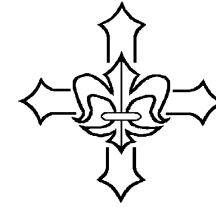
God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.



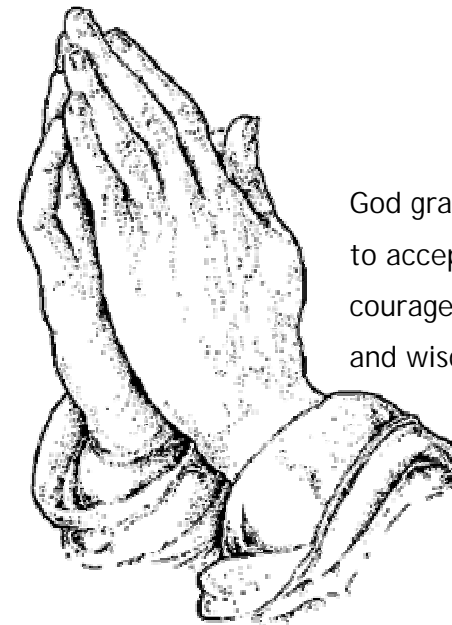
### January Charity of the Month

The charity the Church supports this month is:  
**The Dapaul Trust**, a charity supporting young people who  
are homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged.



## Prayer Leaflet

January 2010



God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

## Don't Bother Me

### **Revelation 3:14-22**

*'And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:*

*'I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'*



As a young man, C. S. Lewis abandoned his childhood faith in God and declared his belief in no religion, saying they were all myths created by man. Years later, after acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God and his Saviour, Lewis wrote of that time in his book *Surprised By Joy*. He said:

"No word in my vocabulary expressed deeper hatred than the word *interference*. But Christianity placed at the centre what then seemed to me a transcendental Interferer. There was no region even in the innermost depth of one's soul which one could surround with a barbed wire fence and guard with a notice 'No Admittance'. And that was what I wanted; some area, however small, of which I could say to all other beings, 'This is my business and mine only'."

Every person has the right to say to God, "Leave me alone. Don't bother me". But it is the Lord's right to pursue us with his persistent mercy. To the self-satisfied church at Laodicea, the risen Christ said: " Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me" (Revelation 3:20).

By his grace, the Lord keeps knocking, ready to fill our lives with his love.

Our Prayers in January are especially requested for:

### **In the Church**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (17 - 24 Jan) — pray for the activities and services to mark this special week, and that Christians everywhere can put aside that which divides them and share God's peace together.  
Events — Choir Party (8<sup>th</sup>); Kevan Taylor's induction, Trinity Church (16<sup>th</sup>); Pastoral Team meeting (14<sup>th</sup>); BCP Holy Communion (24<sup>th</sup>); Choir AGM (29<sup>th</sup>) — please pray for these events, and for those attending them.  
Choir — that we may all keep healthy so that we can continue to lead our worship with enthusiasm and joy.  
Mothers' Union — for members who are active in countries where it is particularly difficult to be a follower of Christ. May they know God's strength and protection as they seek to minister in his name.  
Flower Guild — that someone will feel called to come forward and take over the leadership of the Flower Guild at our AGM in February.

### **In the Community**

Pray for all who sleep rough and for those who feed and shelter them. The schools in the town — for both schools, as they have changes of teaching staff in January, and reorganisation of responsibilities.  
Note from Anthea Kenna — my prayers for the Acting Head of St Anne's who takes up the position in January and, as I leave to take up my new post at The Cathedral School, Chelmsford, my thanks for the wonderful 10 years I have had with such generous support from the local community. (*Our gratitude and prayers go with you Anthea*)

### **In the World**

Christian Solidarity Worldwide — We pray for the Change for Burma! campaign as it continues to raise awareness of the suffering in Burma. We also pray for Aung San Suu Kyi who is still under house arrest. We ask God to strengthen her physically, mentally and emotionally.

† † †

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

Week commencing Sunday, 3 January  
**Danes Croft; McCartney House; Woody Court.**  
Week commencing Sunday, 10 January  
**Prayers for those living outside the Parish.**  
Week commencing Sunday, 17 January  
**Bayliss; Bluegate; Hudpool; Pinder Close; Malcoff.**  
Week commencing Sunday, 24 January  
**Pettit Road; Windsor Road; Stuart Close; Ravenshoe.**  
Week commencing Sunday, 31 January  
**Buttermel; Brick Kiln; Ferndown; Golden Rod.**