

## Some Prayers for March:

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid  
and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love,  
passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

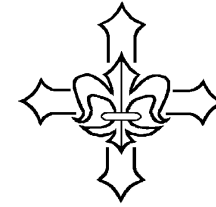
Gracious God,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.



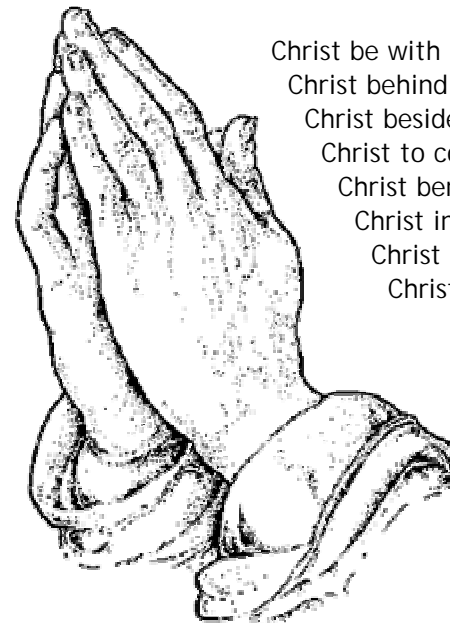
### March Charity of the Month

**Dhiverse** is one of the longest-established HIV and sexual health charities and is involved in sexual health promotion, support and advocacy work in Cambridgeshire, and in campaigning on HIV and AIDS issues across the county and nationally.



## Prayer Leaflet

March 2010



Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.  
*from St Patrick's Breastplate*

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

## Invisible Support

### *Exodus 17:8-16*

*Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some men for us and go out; fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.' And Moses built an altar and called it, The Lord is my banner. He said, 'A hand upon the banner of the Lord! The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.'*



Prison guards couldn't understand how Irina Ratushinskaya could be so joyful. She was cold, sick, and hungry in a cruel Soviet prison camp. But Irina says she understands how: People were praying for her.

Irina is convinced that she and other prisoners experienced God's presence like "the sense of delicious warmth in a freezing land" because Christians all around the world were asking God to help them. After she was set free, Irina wrote a poem to express her gratitude to God and fellow believers. She included the words, "My dear ones, thank you all".

In our Scripture lesson we see that the Israelites prevailed over the superior Amalekite army when Moses lifted his staff toward heaven — a symbol of intercessory prayer. His praying on the hill, possibly unseen by the Israelites, gave them the invisible support they needed.

Sick, suffering, sorrowing people cannot see their fellow believers who are praying for them. But many people have told me they are amazed at the sense of God's presence in their affliction, and they know this to be the result of the prayers of their friends.

May we faithfully intercede for those who are struggling. Let's be a source of invisible support.

Our Prayers in March are especially requested for:

### In the Church

Events — Lent Groups; Woman's World Day of Prayer (5<sup>th</sup>); Mothering Sunday (14<sup>th</sup>); Deanery Evensong (28<sup>th</sup>); Holy Week services; — please pray for these events, and for those attending them.

Children's Church — that we might enthuse the children with the message of Easter through the Lent and Good Friday sessions. This year's Lent Charity is, "Christian Aid".

Choir — that the Deanery evensong at the end of the month will be a joyous and well-attended celebration.

Mothers' Union — for those members who work throughout the world bringing practical help and spiritual hope to those for whom they care. May they never feel alone in their task, but gain strength from God and their fellow workers.

St Mary's 0-5 Group — give thanks for the approach of spring and the renewing of life; rejoice in the wonders of the growth in nature and animals, and as we nurture our children and watch them grow, we're thankful that they grow healthily, happily and full of love.

Flower Guild — that the Flower Guild will go from strength to strength under its new leadership.

### In the Community

For all who support school in a voluntary capacity, giving time freely for children and staff, listening to readers, gardening, assisting on trips, raising funds and much more. May they continue to enjoy the pleasure of helping knowing that they really do make a difference.

### In the World

Womens World Day of Prayer — for all women throughout the world who have positions of leadership and influence in their country.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide — Over 250,000 people have been displaced in recent attacks in Sudan. We pray that they will find temporary shelter and would be able to return to their homes soon. We pray for the Church in Sudan. Heavenly Father, please help it remain strong even while facing so much instability and uncertainty.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 7 March

**Sweetings Road; Devana Close; Parcell Walk; Middlemiss; Miller Close.**

Week commencing Sunday, 14 March

**Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.**

Week commencing Sunday, 21 March

**London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.**

Week commencing Sunday, 28 March

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