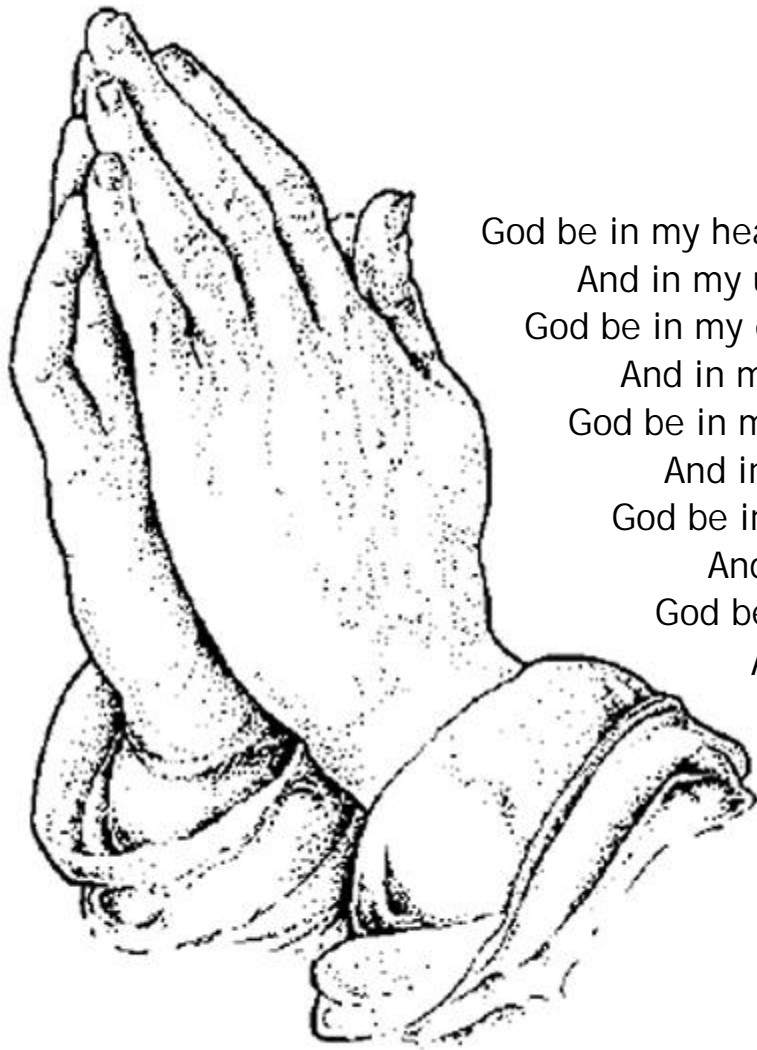




Prayer Leaflet

August 2008



God be in my head,
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking.
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin
Godmanchester

Does God Love Me?

1 John 4:7-19

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

It's not easy to understand the depth of God's love for us. Because of our pride and fear, we fail to grasp how undeserving we are, and how free his love is.



At times I struggle with pride, so I tend to believe that I have earned any love I have received. Pride tells me that I am loved only when I am lovable, respectable, and worthy.

At other times I feel the tug of fear. Deep down inside, I know that I don't deserve the love I get. My motives are never pure, and I fear I will be rejected if they are exposed. So even while I am basking in acceptance, I live with the fear of being unmasked, revealing that I am much less than what others think me to be.

When I consider my relationship with God, therefore, I tend to feel that his affection for me is based on my performance. When I do well, he loves me; but if I foul up, then I expect only his scorn.

Yet God does not love us because we deserve it. He loves us in spite of what we are. 1 John 4:10 states, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son". Because of what Jesus Christ has done for us, we know we are always loved by God. That simple truth shatters our pride and dispels our fear.

Our Prayers in August are especially requested for:

In the Church

Mothers Union – Mary Sumner Day (9th); pray for God to help us spread the good news of Mother's Union with those we meet.

Flower Guild – that visitors to Godmanchester this summer will enjoy our pretty river-side town.

St Mary's Os-5s Group – give thanks for all those who have joined the committee and helped out over the last few months. Please pray for those children who are leaving the group to go to school in September.

In the Community

The School's in the Town – for a refreshing, and safe, summer break for both staff and pupils. And for children and young people leaving school and preparing to move on to the next situation, that they may be relaxed and confident.

Pray for all those on holiday that they may return safely feeling renewed and rested in body, mind and spirit.

Pray for those who find the holiday period tiring, stressful, or lonely.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – Heavenly Father, we praise you and thank you for the growth of your Church in China. As China enjoys a time in the spotlight this summer, we pray for your light to shine through that land. We pray that the darkness which has consumed the nation for so long will be overcome by your light.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in August:
Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is a human rights organisation specialising in religious freedom. CSW works on behalf of those persecuted for their Christian beliefs and promotes religious liberty for everyone.

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

Week commencing Sunday, 3 August

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

Week commencing Sunday, 10 August

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

Week commencing Sunday, 17 August

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

Week commencing Sunday, 24 August

Riverside Mill Flats; Bridge Place.

Week commencing Sunday, 31 August

London Road; Martin Close; Roman Gate.

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

Some Prayers for August:

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.

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.

