

Holidaying where Christians are persecuted - Cuba

Although more than 60 per cent of Cuba's 11.5 million population are Christians (7.1 million), they are facing increasing persecution from the Communist government.

Since 1959, Cuba has been governed by the Communist Party, which seeks to control the church according to its Communist ideology. The government reacts harshly against opposition voices and demonstrators. When church leaders or Christian activists criticise the regime, they face arrest, closure of their churches or businesses, prison sentences, and harassment by the government. New churches are often denied registration, as the authorities want to control and limit the church's influence. The government controls all media and restricts access from the outside world, so it is very hard for Christians to communicate widely in the country.

National service is compulsory for men. If it's discovered that they are active Christians or have Christian parents, they often face persecution if their commanding officer is prejudiced against believers.

"Government officials have joined some of the WhatsApp groups the churches have set up, and they do so to monitor our activities." PASTOR JORGE, A MINISTER IN CUBA

Pastors – the majority of whom are men – come under particularly close scrutiny from Cuba's Communist regime. They face beatings, arrests, confiscation of Christian literature, destruction of property and death threats. Children of activists or pastors are also vulnerable and may face mistreatment from their teachers and peers. An Open Doors source says: "Christian men and boys in Cuba are beaten: adults physically; children in the soul."

Christian women are among those who lose their jobs, receive threats and monitoring, and are mistreated by police because of their activism – such as the 'Ladies in White', a group of women founded by the relatives of political prisoners.

Please pray:

Heavenly Father, we know that Your church in Cuba faces intense opposition from the Communist Party – but we also know that Your children are 'more than conquerors through Him who loved us' (Romans 8:37). Please equip the church in Cuba to stay strong, joyfully worshipping You. Bring freedom and justice to Cuba. Amen.

www.opendoorsuk.org Open Doors World Watch List



Bourne Foodbank

THESE ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY WANTED

Tinned meat	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned vegetables	Jars of pasta sauce	packets of plain rice
Squash or fruit juice	Tinned potatoes	Instant mash
Shaving gel	Toothbrushes	

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

14 August 2022
Ninth Sunday after Trinity



Psalm 82 - A Plea for Justice

A Psalm of Asaph.

God has taken his place in the divine council;

in the midst of the gods he holds judgement:

'How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?

Selah

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the

wicked.'

They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, 'You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'

Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!



Readings for this Sunday

Jeremiah 23.23-29; Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2; Luke 12.49-56



Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Please pray for...

From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Jane Creasey, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Arthur Jeffries, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Neil Morgan, Richard Rice-Oxley, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Jose Stokes, John Weatherspoon, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We also remember and the souls of all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Baptisms: Henry Kerr (20 August); Obie Ingram (21 August)

Weddings: Tracey Stafford & Paul Johnson (6 August); Elise Dewes & William Stevenette (13 August); Ruth Penney & Corie Morgan (27 August)

Funeral anniversaries: Phyllis Cotton (6m); Patricia Goodman (1y); Philip Green (2y)

From today's Gospel reading

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."

Luke 12.49

Reflection:

The peace Jesus offers does not come without cost. Accepting him and his way, may separate us from our family, close friends and even from our old self – perhaps the most painful division we must suffer.

So we ask ourselves:

- ✚ Do I avoid conflict at any cost, despite my Christian values?
- ✚ Where and how must I stand up for my faith, despite the cost?

Upcoming events in the Group

Every Wednesday at 10.45am - coffee morning at Morton

Wednesday 24 August at 10.45 am—a celebration of Ukranian Independence Day. Think Ukranian food etc. Come along to celebrate and show solidarity with our Ukranian visitors.

Saturday 27 August at 4pm—Service of Thanksgiving at Morton

If you have an event taking place in the next four weeks that is not on this list, please let Sue know.

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

14 August	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Rippingale
21 August	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
28 August	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
4 September	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
Each morning	9 am	Morning Prayer/Eucharist	see below

Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; **Wednesday: 10am, Eucharist, Morton**; Thursday: Haconby; Friday: Rippingale; Saturday: Kirkby Underwood

Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion? Just contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626 or revdneil@yahoo.com

Have you come to church and forgotten to bring cash for the collection?

Fortunately this need not be a problem if the service is at Haconby, Kirkby Underwood, Morton or Rippingale as they all have online giving pages.

How do I access these pages?

- Use your phone and go to the group website, www.ringstonegroupchurches.org
- Go to the dark blue box on the home page and select the name of the church
- Follow the instructions online and select one of the set amounts, or choose your own amount
- Enter your card details (you may have these already saved on your phone)
- ALL DONE

If this seems too tricky, you can always make a payment from your PC, laptop or tablet when you get home.

EVEN EASIER Morton now has a card reader, so you can donate to the collection using your card or payment app on your phone.

If you already use the online giving pages, thank you for your generosity, and please spread the word as to how easy it is now to give to your church.

Please send items for the news sheet to Sue via email by the **Thursday** of each week

www.ringstonegroupchurches.org ringstoneoffice@gmail.com