

## 10 years on: keep praying for Chibok schoolgirls

The Chibok schoolgirls were abducted 10 years ago. More than 90 of the young women are still missing. Please remember this anniversary with your prayers.

It's been ten years since the horrific attack in Chibok, northern Nigeria, that made

headlines around the world. On 14 April 2014, 276 girls were kidnapped from their secondary school in Chibok by the Islamic militant group, Boko Haram. On the 10th anniversary, parents of the young women gathered for a special service - to pray for those who have yet to return.

Whilst some managed to escape, and others have been released, a decade later, at least 90 of the schoolgirls – now young women – are still in captivity. The majority of the girls that were taken were Christians, and the 'Bring Back Our Girls' campaign garnered global attention.

Being released isn't the end of the complexities for these women, though. Some have joyful reunions with their families and are delighted to re-start their lives with their loved ones and church families – but this isn't the story for everyone. Women who have been held captive are often forcibly married to the militants, and bear their children. Upon returning, sometimes they are stigmatised by their ordeal in the eyes of their communities.

Meanwhile, some of the women who have found freedom have chosen to remain married to the militants they wed in captivity. This can cause a lot of understandable pain for the women's families, and make it difficult to restore the relationship they once had with their daughters. These marriages can only continue when the militants have handed themselves in to the Nigerian authorities and undergone a 'deradicalisation' programme.

"We have been married for eight years," Aisha, one of the kidnapped women who escaped told the BBC. "I first came out of the forest and then he followed me. There in the bush, we had no relative, no brother, no sister, that is why we decided to come out. He finished deradicalisation before we were allowed to stay together. The government welcomed us well, gave us food, shelter, everything."

Stories like Aisha's highlight the complexities and sensitivities of the situation, even after good news emerges of more women returning to freedom, and why your prayers continue to be urgently needed for all those affected.

PLEASE PRAY

- For the safe release of all the Chibok women who are still held in captivity
- That God would reconcile and unify women with their families, and give peace to all involved
- For an end to violence against Christians in Nigeria.

Source: [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)



## Ringstone in Aveland News

21 April 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Easter



### Psalm 23: The Divine Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;**

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no  
evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my  
enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and for evermore, Amen**

### Readings for this Sunday

**Acts 4.5-12**

**1 John 3.16-24**

**John 10.11-18**



### Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Please pray for...

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Robert Hitchens, Jane Knight, Gordon Lack, Judy Long, Andrew Luck, Imogen Matthews, Tom Rae, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Ivan Spencer, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Denise Warcup, Kevin Whitfield, King Charles III, 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 the souls of Tony Bradbury, Nellie Machin, Belinda Neuman, Elsie 'Mary' Perkins, and all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Baptism Anniversaries: Penelope Healy (1 year), Michael Nicholson (2 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Peter Ward (6 months); Robert Wellman (1 year); Celia Margaret Gibson (2 years).

### From today's Gospel Reading

*Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*

#### Reflection:

There are a lot of voices out there that can only distract and scatter us. Perhaps we've paid too much attention to them at times in our lives. Through hard experience we have learned that they don't have our best interests at heart and if we listen to them, we are scattered. But the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus tells us, wants to gather us. His voice can help us keep our wits about us in an often-misguided world.

#### So, we ask ourselves:

- ✚ Can I name the "false shepherds" I have listened to?
- ✚ How did they mislead me?
- ✚ Where and how do I listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd?

### Safeguarding & Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (Rector): revdneil@yahoo.com, 01778 219626 or

Janice Hill (Group Safeguarding Officer): janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk,  
01778 440733 and 07972 211936

Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)

Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

21 April	11am	Eucharist	Morton
28 April	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
5 May	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
12 May	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	3pm	Family Service goes wild at Morton School	Morton
Wednesday	10 am	See below	Morton

Wednesday services will usually be a service of Holy Communion . On occasions this will be replaced by a service of Morning Prayer

***Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion? Contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626***

### Funeral Services in the Group

25 April	11.30am	Funeral of Nellie Machin	Morton
30 April	1pm	Elsie 'Mary' Perkins	Dunsby
9 May	5.30am	Ascension Day Dawn Eucharist	Haconby

**Ascension Day  
Dawn Eucharist Service**  
9 May at 5.30am  
Haconby Church  
Eucharist service followed  
by breakfast

**Family Service goes wild at  
Morton School**  
12 May at 3pm  
Morton School Forest School  
Celebrate creation through  
prayers, songs and activities  
Stay for tea and cake



**Can you help?** There is a collection box in St. John the Baptist Church, on the left at the back of the church

Tinned meat	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned vegetables	Jars of pasta sauce	Packets of plain rice
Squash or fruit juice	Tinned potatoes	Household goods
Shaving gel	Toothbrushes	Toiletries