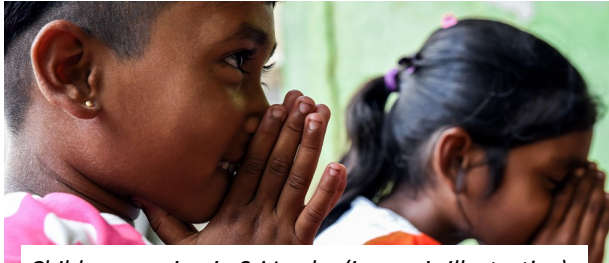


Surprised by love – how Sister Muthu from Sri Lanka is reaching out to her persecutors



Children praying in Sri Lanka (image is illustrative)

The love of God is powerfully revealed when our persecuted family respond to their persecutors by not just forgiving them, but also by reaching out to them in love. That's what Sister Muthu and her niece have done in Sri Lanka – and it's having quite the impact.

For years, Sister Muthu* has faced opposition for leading Christian activities in her Buddhist-majority village in Sri Lanka. Locals have gathered to stone her, and police officers have interrupted and surrounded prayer meetings and services. But attitudes are softening and some are even attending church – and that's because Sister Muthu has chosen to forgive her persecutors and reach out to them in love.

Sri Lanka is just outside the top 50 of the World Watch List. Although Christians don't experience the levels of persecution seen elsewhere, many believers do encounter hostility for their faith. But across Sri Lanka, believers like Sister Muthu are surprising people by their response to persecution. Last year, helped by local partners, she conducted a Children's Day programme for villagers, which included giving books to the more than 75 children who attended. "The programme became a blessing to many villagers," says Sister Muthu.

The event's success gave Sister Muthu's niece an idea. "Mihiri initiated a prayer group with children who attended our Children's Day programme last year," she says. "All the children are from a Buddhist background." The prayer group continues to meet weekly.

At Christmas, Sister Muthu put on another event – and, to her surprise, many villagers came along! Sister Muthu shared the gospel and children from the prayer group sang carols. "It is great to see the children's progress in just a few months," said Sister Muthu. Amazingly, two families have since started attending church!

Open Doors local partners in the region have been inspired by Sister Muthu and Mihiri's forgiveness and perseverance, and the way they are courageously living out the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:43-44: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. "

PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for Sister Muthu's and Mihiri's courageous faith, and the impact of these programmes
- That the outreach will continue to be immensely fruitful amongst children and families, leading more people to Jesus
- That the two families now going to church will keep attending and will grow in faith.

Source: opendoorsuk.org

* names changed for security reasons

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet



7 July 2024
Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Collect for this Sunday

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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**

Psalm 123: Supplication for Mercy

To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
until he has mercy upon us.**

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.**

**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

**Ezekiel 2.1-5;
2 Corinthians 12.2-10;
Mark 6.1-13**



Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of 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, 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 Ernest Michael Appleby, Wally Baxter, Gordon Lack, and all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Please pray for Natasha Male and Daniel Green as they approach their wedding day, Emma and Paul Taylor as they embark on married life together.

Weddings: Kari and James Parrott, Georgina and Daniel Day, Abigail and Thomas Knott (2 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Peter Chubbuck, Shirley Dawson (6 months); Alan Rock (1 year); Margaret Andrews (2 years).

From today's Gospel reading

Jesus said to them,

"A prophet is not without honour except in his [her] native place and among his [her] own kin and in his [her] own house."



Reflection:

Faith is a risky business and may require us to take unpopular positions. There are times when we may alienate even family and friends because our faith requires we speak up or take a stand.

So we ask ourselves:

- ✠ Have I ever not said or not done what was right because I was afraid how others would react?
- ✠ When have I had to do what I thought was right and found even those closest to me did not support me?

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

7 July	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
14 July	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
21 July	11am	Eucharist	Morton
28 July	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	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

Haconby PCC meeting

Tuesday, 9 July at 7pm in the church

.Can you help?

There is a collection box in St John the Baptist Church, on the left at the back of the church

- Milk (UHT cartons)
- Tinned or Packet Potatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tea Bags (80 packs preferred)
- Squash
- Pulses
- Rice

The items are things that are running low at the food bank



† ALL PROCEEDS GO TO CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS FUND †

Bourne Tuneless Choir

ARE PERFORMING AT

St Andrew's church, Haconby
Saturday 13th July at 7pm



Admission: £10 per person cash/cheque Includes light refreshments 16's & under FREE when accompanied by an adult