

## Living in a country where Christians are persecuted for their faith—Jordan

There are 180,000 Christians in Jordan – just 1.7% of Jordan’s population. Despite many being able to enjoy relatively high levels of religious freedom compared to other Middle Eastern countries, persecution remains a very real possibility for Christians in Jordan.

Christians from Muslim backgrounds in particular can encounter opposition. Publicly declaring their faith can lead to beatings, arrest or even death.

The state exerts pressure on all Christian communities, especially through monitoring. Non-traditional churches can face harassment by public authorities, particularly churches that actively evangelise. Christians who actively share their faith, or help converts, can face hostility.

The presence of Islamic extremists, including returning jihadists from Syria and Iraq, continues to pose a threat to the Christian community.

If their faith becomes known, Christian men from a Muslim background can be denied security clearances and jobs, or face extortion through fines. At home, these converts are also susceptible to rejection, attack or expulsion.

Christian men can also encounter pressure from the authorities to inform on other Christians, especially those involved in helping converts.

Christian women who convert from Islam could face include house arrest, beatings, sexual harassment, travel restrictions, separation from children, forced marriage and even death. On a wider level, all Christian women face pressure to follow a specified dress code.

Under Sharia (Islamic law), marriages between a Christian and a Muslim are not allowed.

Hostility towards Christians in Jordan has marginally increased. There has been a rise in reported incidents of violence and less acceptance of public expressions of Christian faith, such as openly displaying Bible verses.

### Please pray:

Lord Jesus, may all those who have experienced suffering because of their faith in You know the depths of Your love, and Your power at work in them. Provide them with fellowship to help them grow in their faith. Give wisdom to our brothers and sisters facing pressure from the authorities. May the powerful witness of Your people soften hearts towards You and Your church. Stifle the threat of extremism in the country and continue to build Your church in Jordan. Amen.

*www.opendoorsuk.org  
Open Doors World Watch List*

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

4 September 2022  
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity



## Psalm 1 - The Two Ways

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the  
wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and  
night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives  
away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the  
judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the  
righteous;  
for the Lord watches over the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.



## Readings for this Sunday

Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14.25-33



## Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

### Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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

God of all mercy, in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

[www.ringstonegroupchurches.org](http://www.ringstonegroupchurches.org) [ringstoneoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com)

### 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 Sadie Hall, Neil Morgan, 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: Milo Allard (4 September); Parker and Miller Leyland (2 October)

Weddings: Sophie Barnett and Lloyd Wright (17 September); Renee Dams and Toby Uglow (1 October); Rachel and Raymond Cooper (1 year anniversary)

Funeral anniversaries: Celia Wells (6m); Hannah Faupel (6m); Teddie Creasey (6m); Gordon Durno (6m); John Street (1y); Hermia Slator (1y).

### Upcoming events in the Group

**Saturday 10th September, 10am to 12noon.** There will be a Coffee Morning in Dunsby Church with coffee, tea, cold drinks and delicious home-made cake for a small donation. All proceeds go to the church, which is a beautiful ancient Grade 1 listed building. Everyone will be made very welcome.

**Every Wednesday at 10.45am** - coffee morning at Morton. We extend a special welcome to the Ukrainian members of the community

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

### Memorial Service for Sadie Hall

Friday 30 September at 12,noon—St. Andrew's Church, Haconby



It is not too late to sign up to the Lincolnshire Churches Trust Ride and Stride. Go to <http://www.lincolnshirechurchestrust.org.uk> to print off a sponsorship form, get your sponsors, then enjoy the chance to cycle or walk on Saturday 10th September to raise funds for your church and the Trust.

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

4 September	11am	Harvest Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
11 September	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	'Songs of Praise'	Rippingale
18 September	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
25 September	11am	Harvest Eucharist	Rippingale
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
Each morning	9 am	Morning Prayer/Eucharist	see below
Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; <b>Wednesday: 10am, Eucharist, Morton;</b> 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](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)

### From today's Gospel reading:

*"If anyone comes to me without hating their father and mother, wife and children, brothers, and sisters, and even their own life, they cannot be my disciple."*

#### Reflection:

Jesus uses stark language today to make a point. There is no putting off decisions we must make and changes we have not yet gotten around to. We must carefully think out and weigh: how are to respond to Jesus today? What is very clear from the gospel is that it costs to serve completely and utterly this Christ we call Lord.

#### So, we ask ourselves:

- ✠ What decisions have we been putting that we know Christ is asking us to make?
- ✠ What will be the costs for us if we make these decisions?



### 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	