

Life as a Christian in Qatar

As the eyes of the world turn towards Qatar for the men's FIFA World Cup – arguably the biggest sports tournament in the world – Christians in Qatar are inviting the global church to join with them in praying for a move of the Holy Spirit during the World Cup.



The country is number 18 on the World Watch List and one of seven participating countries that are on the World Watch List. The others are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Mexico and Cameroon.

Foreign Christians in the host nation can gather freely, although space is limited and there are some restrictions. During the pandemic, all 157 church buildings were closed. Since then, 61 have reopened, with many others still closed due to a revision of meeting guidelines by the government.

Meanwhile, Qatari believers – who are very small in number – are forbidden from having their own churches or even entering a church. Converts can face extreme pressure from their family and community, and there can be legal difficulties and loss of citizen status since Qatar doesn't officially recognise conversion from Islam.

But despite the costs that can come with following Jesus, the church in Qatar is growing – and there is the expectation that it will continue to do so during the World Cup.

“We're expecting a big move of the Holy Spirit during the World Cup,” says the leader of a church for migrant workers and foreign nationals. “Our main focus in our prayers is that God will touch the nationals here.”

Bishop Beda S. Robles thinks the tournament ‘will be very good for Qatar, a big opportunity for this nation’.

“We as Christians are praying that this will be a victorious event,” he says. “Many of us will be serving as volunteers at the event. We pray for Qatar, we pray for the World Cup, we hope that Christians around the world will stand with us in prayer, too.”

The decision to host the World Cup in Qatar has drawn much criticism. Those living in the country have already seen welcome developments. “We have seen positive changes in social justice in this country,” says a Christian woman.

However, more progress is needed. “Pray that God will bring changes,” says Daniel*, who oversees Open Doors work in the Arabian Peninsula. “Pray that Qatar will grow towards more respect for diversity, that the country will be a place where locals and foreigners can live like Christ wants them to live, with no fear for repercussions.”

PLEASE PRAY

The World Cup represents a precious opportunity to pray for Christians at risk of persecution in the seven participating countries that are on the World Watch List, including Qatar.

- That the Holy Spirit will move mightily among people in Qatar during the World Cup
- That all fear felt by Christians will vanish and that believers will express their faith with boldness and expectation
- That the World Cup will lead to greater religious freedom for Qataris.

Source: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

20 November 2022
Christ the King



Psalm 46

God's Defence of His City and People

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

‘Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.’
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.



Readings for this Sunday

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43

Collect for this Sunday

Eternal Father, whose
Son Jesus Christ
ascended to the throne
of heaven that he might
rule over all things as
Lord and King: keep the
Church in the unity of
the Spirit and in the
bond of peace, and bring
the whole created order
to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns
with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen**

Please pray for...

From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Fernley Copping, Jane Creasey, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Arthur Jeffries, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Richard Rice-Oxley, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Jose Stokes, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, John Weatherspoon, Kevin Whitfield, 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 all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Funeral anniversaries: John MacMillan (2 year anniversary)

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

20 November	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	4pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
27 November	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	4pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
4 December	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	3pm	Christingle	Morton with Morton School
11 December	10.30am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	4pm	Evening Prayer	Rippingale
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



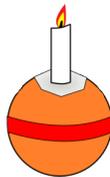
THESE ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY WANTED

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

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

Advent and Christmas services

4 Dec	3pm	Christingle	Morton with Morton School
11 Dec	4pm	Christingle	Rippingale
15 Dec	6pm	Nativity Service	Kirkby Underwood
18 Dec	4pm	Christingle	Haconby
24 Dec	5pm	Carols by Candlelight	Morton
24 Dec	7pm	Carols by Candlelight	Dunsby
24 Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist	Haconby



Upcoming events in the Group

**Every Wednesday at 10.45am
coffee morning at Morton.**

We extend a special welcome to the Ukrainian members of the community

**Saturday 26 November 7-9pm
Christmas comes early to Morton House**
Tickets cost £25 and include a two course meal and wine/soft drinks. All proceeds are being given to the church
Tickets available from Sue
(oriordan123@gmail.com or 07962 238413 after 5pm)

Wednesday 30 November 6pm, Haconby
Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew. This will be followed by a fish & chip supper. Please let Jill Hall know if you are going so she knows how many meals to order.

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

Christmas comes early to Morton House Saturday 26 November 7-9pm



Good friends, good food, good wine.
What better way to start the Christmas season

Mulled wine, canapes, shepherds pie, pudding, petit fours



Tickets are £25 per adult payable at the time of booking and are available NOW

Contact Sue O'Riordan on 07962 238413 (after 5pm) or oriordan123@gmail.com to get your ticket.
(Book early as tickets sell quickly)

All proceeds from this party will be donated to St. John the Baptist Church, Morton

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

www.ringstonegroupchurches.org ringstoneoffice@gmail.com