

## Commonwealth countries where Christians are persecuted - India

As we enjoy watching the Commonwealth Games on TV, it may surprise you that nearly 20% of the Commonwealth countries are on the World Watch List.

The persecution of Christians in India is intensifying in many parts of the country as Hindu extremists aim to cleanse India of the presence and influence of believers. The driving force behind this is Hindutva, an ideology that disregards Indian Christians and other religious minorities as true Indians because they have allegiances that lie outside India, and asserts the country should be purified of their presence.

This is leading to an often violent and carefully orchestrated targeting of Christians and other religious minorities in many parts of India. Increasing numbers of states are implementing anti-conversion laws, which purport to prevent coerced conversion, but are often abused to harass and intimidate Christians with false accusations.

Most church leaders are men, and being a pastor is understood to be one of the riskiest vocations in India. Hindu extremists target leaders and their families to instil fear among the local Christian community. The daughters, sisters and wives of pastors are particularly vulnerable.

Sumi\* and her family were amongst several Christians forced from their village because of their faith. They set up homes on farmland, but the conditions were poor. Despite threats and attacks by village extremists, Sumi's husband, Ravi, kept telling others about Jesus. "That was the joy of his life," she shares. Tragically, Ravi's perseverance and bravery cost him his life. He was shot dead.

Clutching her Bible close to her chest, Sumi – now a single a mother of four – remains steadfast in her devotion to Jesus. "I will continue living here, and will continue the ministry of my husband," she says.

### Please pray:

Lord Jesus, help our persecuted brothers and sisters in India to stand strong in their faith and shine as stars (Philippians 2:15) in their local communities. Continue to manifest Your love and power through healings and miracles. Guard Your children from harm and equip them for the challenges they face. Provoke social media companies to do more to combat the use of their platforms to spread disinformation and hatred. Soften the hearts of influential local leaders and officials towards Christians, so that greater protection is given to them. Amen.

\*Name changed for security reasons Source: [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://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

7 August 2022  
Eighth Sunday after Trinity



## Psalm 33.12-22 - The Greatness and Goodness of God

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.	and by its great might it cannot save. Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.
The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all humankind. From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth— he who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds.	Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.
A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.	Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,	

## Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

### Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **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)



### Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 15.1-6; Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16; Luke 12.32-40



### From today's Hebrew's reading

*"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."  
Hebrews 11.1*

#### Reflection:

Faith doesn't already possess the goal; nor does it always have concrete evidence of its existence. Still, we believers can see and hope for what is not yet visible to the eye, because we see with the eyes of faith. We trust, as our ancestors did, in our God, who has promised to be with us; whom the Book of Wisdom reminds us is worthy of our trust. God's promises give us courage to continue to take bold steps on our faith journey.

#### So we ask ourselves:

- ✚ How am I being asked to step out in faith at this time in my life?
- ✚ What promise do I hear God making me as I try to take that step?

### 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.

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

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

7 August	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evensong	Morton
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
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)

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