

Holidaying in countries where Christians are persecuted—Maldives

There are estimated to be a very small number of Christians – numbering a few hundred – in the Maldives. The vast majority of people living there are Muslim.

Government officials in Maldives proudly emphasise that the country is 100 per cent Muslim. Conversion to another religion will be reported to Muslim leaders or the authorities; non-Muslims can also lose their citizenship. Being known as a Christian is so dangerous that there is no ability to meet as a fellowship community – whole families may be Christian without ever knowing the rest of their family shares their faith. This lack of Christian support stifles believers' spiritual growth.

What's life like for Christians in the Maldives?

Women have no choice but to conform and wear Islamic clothing. If they don't, they will be confronted and harassed. Methods used to bring a female convert back to Islam include forced marriage, threats, verbal abuse and other violence. Exacerbated by Covid-19 lockdowns, domestic violence toward women and children continues to escalate.

If a man is found to be a secret believer, he is likely to be threatened, assaulted physically and may be imprisoned. If he's imprisoned, his entire family will suffer from lack of financial and emotional support. Children of Christian parents are likely to face bullying at school. For many Christians, the only option is to leave the country.

Please pray:

Father God, enlighten and encourage secret believers in the Maldives as they reach out to You in faith. Embolden expatriate Christians working there to reveal Your heart toward everyone they encounter. Move the hearts of government officials, ultimately allowing Christians to worship openly and minister throughout the country. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: *Open Doors International World Watch list*
<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>



Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

22 May 2022
The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Psalm 67 - The Nations Called to Praise God

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.
May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
Selah
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Selah
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.



Readings for this Sunday

Acts 16.9-15
Revelation 21.10,22 - 22.5
John 14.23-29



Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.**

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**



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	

Please pray for...

From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Annie Hersey, Arthur Jeffries, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Neil Morgan, Jonathan Newell, 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 Ed Cunningham, 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.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall this month:

Weddings: James and Harriet Guest (1 year)

Funerals: Evelyn Stuble (1 year), Roy McConchie (1 year)

From today's Book of Revelation reading:

"The angel took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God." Revelation 21.10

Reflection:

Revelation keeps our feet firmly rooted in our present struggles to live the Christian life; but it also focuses our eyes on what is to come. The world's indomitable powers, despite present appearances, will be overcome. In the meanwhile, John is inviting us to turn away from the false values and powers of the world and focus on the vision of the new Holy City where we will dwell with God and one another.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✠ How does our hope in a permanent future with God affect our lives now?
- ✠ What signs do I see that strengthen my hope in the power of good over evil?

Extra and Jubilee Services in the Group

Thursday 26 May	5.30am	Dawn Eucharist for Ascension Day Kirkby Underwood
Thursday 2 June	6pm	Songs of Praise Dunsby
Sunday 5 June	6pm	Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen Kirkby Underwood

www.ringstonegroupchurches.org ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

22 May	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	3pm	Rogation service with Morton School	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
29 May	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
5 June	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen	Kirkby Underwood
12 June	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Rippingale
19 June	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
Wednesday	10am	Morning Prayer	Morton
Monday - Saturday	9 am	Eucharist	Zoom

Contact Revd Neil for the link

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

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
- 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.