

Nigeria—the sixth most dangerous country in which to be a Christian

Around the world, 5,621 Christians were killed for their faith last year. That's approximately 15 a day. Of these, 89% were in Nigeria a shocking 5,014 believers were murdered in the country where violence continues to escalate. The persecution facing Christians in Nigeria is extreme and often brutally violent, as Islamic militants and armed bandits attack with increasing impunity. This mostly affects believers living in the Muslim-majority north and Middle Belt, but it's also spreading to the south.

"We were working in the fields of our farm when armed men approached us. They kidnapped three of us. They later killed my two friends. I am the only one living."

Agnes was only a teenager when Boko Haram kidnapped her. Life in the camp was horrific. "They forced us to work hard for them," Agnes remembers. "They kept pushing us to denounce Christ. I was given to a woman who was married to one of the fighters. In secret, the woman was still a Christian. She told me to fake it. That if these people forced me to denounce Christ, I should say yes, but deep down within me I should hold on to Christ."

You might not blame Agnes if she had questioned where God was through her ordeal. But despite the horror, she found herself recalling over and over a song her father taught her and her siblings.

"When my siblings and I grew up, we were sometimes very worried that people would attack us," she says. "At those moments, my dad sang this song to us: 'God will never forsake us. God will never abandon us. Even when there is suffering and persecution, God will never leave us.'"

Agnes eventually escaped the camp after two years, but coming home was not easy. Thankfully, Open Doors partners have been supporting her with trauma counselling, and they are helping to end the stigma that surrounds young women who've suffered like Agnes.

PLEASE PRAY

Father God, the violence and brutality across Nigeria is unimaginable. Please intervene to stop these evil attacks and work in the hearts of the militants to turn them from hatred to Your love. Heal Your people who are traumatised by attacks. Give them fresh hope for the future and the means to support themselves financially and socially. Bring about change in the government to protect Christians, and help the president and state governors to work transparently to find lasting solutions to the deepening security crisis in Nigeria. Amen.

APCMs

Thursday	20 April	7pm	Rippingale (church)
Tuesday	25 April	7pm	Kirkby Underwood (village hall)
Sunday	21 May	12.30pm	Morton (church)

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

2 April 2023
Palm Sunday



Collect for this Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 for this Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21.1-11

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11
Matthew 26.14 - 27.66

Psalm 31.9-16

Prayer and Praise for Deliverance from Enemies

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—

as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'

My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and
persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Please pray for...

From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Niamh Brown, Margaret Brumby, Debbie Dams, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Judith Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Jane Knight, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Richard Rice-Oxley, John Rowntree, John Sharman, 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 Peter Emmingham, Arthur Jeffries, John Kearsey, Janice McDonnell, Mary Mountain, Ivor Roberts and all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Baptism anniversaries: Michael Nicholson (1 year)

Funeral anniversaries: Margret Gibson (1 year); Annie Bagworth, Mark Dow (2 years)

Baptisms this month: Henry Clare, 16 April at Morton; Penelope Healy, 29 April at Morton

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

2 April	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6.30pm	Deanery Evensong	Corby Glen
9 April	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
16 April	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
23 April	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
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

Holy Week and Easter Services in the Ringstone in Aveland Group

2 April	Palm Sunday	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
3 April	Monday	7pm	Eucharist	Haconby
4 April	Tuesday	7pm	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
5 April	Wednesday	7pm	Eucharist	Morton
6 April	Maundy Thursday	7pm	Eucharist (with washing of feet)	Rippingale
7 April	Good Friday	10am	Stations of the Cross	Morton
		12pm	Stations of the Cross	Kirkby Underwood
		3pm	Last hour at the Cross	Haconby
8 April	Holy Saturday	7pm	Easter Vigil	Rippingale
9 April	Easter Sunday	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood

Reflections for Lent - Hearing God in the whole world

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.” – Acts 17:24-25

- Reading the Bible sets us free: as we absorb God’s word, we become God’s word for a world that may never read the Bible
- The more we find God in His word, the more our eyes are primed to see Him in the world
- As we encounter God contemplatively it can become an intimate encounter, as sharing between friends

“Contemplation is the form of prayer that helps us to hear God and see God in the whole of his creation.”

This week: Decide on one thing you’re going to do so that you can learn to hear God in your daily life. You might like to set a reminder on your phone, or write a note in your diary. It can be helpful to find someone who can encourage you by checking in and seeing how your commitment is going.

THESE ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY WANTED



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

Tinned meat	Tinned custard	Tinned rice pudding
Tinned vegetables	Jars of pasta sauce	Packets of plain rice
Squash or fruit juice	Tinned potatoes	Household goods
Shaving gel	Toothbrushes	Toiletries

Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (our Rector): revdneil@yahoo.com, 01778 219626 or

Anthony Andrews (our group safeguarding officer): andrews.seed@btconnect.com , 01778 440669

Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)

Sue O’Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com