

## World Watch List 2023

More than 360 million Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – that's a staggering 1 in 7 believers. Discover the 50 countries where faith costs the most.

### Somalia—Number Two on the World Watch List 2023

When Nala (name changed) heard about Jesus online, from Somali converts living abroad, she was initially shocked. But she kept exploring:

"I started to look for more videos and found others who shared the Word of God," says Nala. "I connected with them through Facebook and asked them to tell me about Christ." After a while, she chose to follow Jesus! She met with other secret believers and was eventually baptised. Unfortunately, while Nala was exploring her new faith, her family became increasingly suspicious and tricked Nala into coming home by telling her that her mother was dying. "When I got home, the men in my family were waiting for me," Nala says. "They beat me and took my mobile phone and locked me up in a room."

The following days and weeks were torturous. "They tried different rituals to fix what was 'wrong' with me. Sometimes they put a lightbulb against my head and repeated words from the Quran over and over... They even tried some concoctions on me."

Her family then pledged her in marriage to a sheikh who already had two wives. But a few days before the wedding, Nala ran away and hid with friends, who helped her to escape the country. Her life has changed completely and she lives in danger, but does not regret choosing to follow Jesus.

"Jesus had changed me. I realised that I didn't choose Him, but He chose me. I didn't go out looking for Him, but He found me. Previously I didn't have happiness, but now I have joy... I know that until I came to know Jesus, I knew nothing at all."

*Society expects all Somalis to be Muslim. Imams in mosques and madrassas state publicly that there is no room for Christianity, Christians or churches. Christians from Muslim backgrounds are regarded as high-value targets and may be killed on the spot if discovered. Believers continue to face an extreme level of violence, which has worsened in recent years. Islamic militants have intensified their hunt for people who are Christian. Their goal, as they have stated on many occasions, is to rid Somalia of any Christians.*

*Christians also face serious persecution from their family and community. Leaving Islam is regarded as a betrayal, and anyone even suspected of being a Christian convert is closely monitored by the elders in the community, and even by their own family members. 'Church life' is simply not possible, so the few believers must meet in secret.*

### PLEASE PRAY

Father God, we recognise the dangers that our Somali brothers and sisters face, simply for following Christ. Cast Your protection over secret believers, and those whose faith has been discovered. Heal those who have been harmed physically and emotionally. Comfort those who have lost a family member because of their faith. Intervene in the hearts of extremists to put an end to the violence and restore peace to this region. Move in powerful, supernatural ways to eradicate fear, intimidation and violence. Amen.

*You can order your free World Watch List Top 50 booklet to get detailed information about the 50 countries, inspiring testimonies and stories from the persecuted church, and prayers to help you stand with your risk-taking church family from [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)*



# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

5 February 2023  
Third Sunday Before Lent



## Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 58.1-9a[9b-12]

1 Corinthians 2.1-12[13-16]

Matthew 5.13-20



## Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Psalm 112 - Blessings of the Righteous

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.  
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures for ever.  
They rise in the darkness as a light for the  
upright;

they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.  
It is well with those who deal generously and  
lend,

who conduct their affairs with justice.  
For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered for ever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.  
Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their  
foes.

They have distributed freely, they have given to  
the poor;

their righteousness endures for ever;  
their horn is exalted in honour.

The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

### Please pray for...

#### From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Judith Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Arthur Jeffries, Jane Knight, 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 Evelyn Bates, Brian Cook, Arthur Branch, Jane Creasey, Peter Emmingham, Hilary Geisow, Margaret King and all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Wedding Anniversaries: Anita and Gary Ramsden (1 year)

Funeral anniversaries: Phyllis Cotton(1 year)

#### Ash Wednesday Services

##### Wednesday 22 February

10 am Morton  
(followed by tea and coffee)  
7pm Rippingale

#### Games Night & Supper

##### Saturday 25 February from 6pm

##### at St John the Baptist Church

Games for all ages. Fish/Sausage and Chips  
from George's Fish Bar

Tickets £4 - £10 depending on meal ordered.

Contact Sue by 17 February on

07962 238413 or

oriordan123@gmail.com, or

scan the QR code



#### 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

Please email items for the news sheet to Sue  
by the **Thursday** of each week to [ringstoneoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com)

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

|              |        |                          |                  |
|--------------|--------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 5 February   | 11am   | Eucharist                | Haconby          |
|              | 4pm    | Evening Prayer           | Morton           |
| 12 February  | 11am   | Eucharist                | Kirkby Underwood |
|              | 4pm    | Evening Prayer           | Rippingale       |
| 19 February  | 11am   | Eucharist                | Morton           |
|              | 4pm    | Evening Prayer           | Haconby          |
| 26 February  | 11am   | Eucharist                | Rippingale       |
|              | 6.30pm | Deanery Evensong         | tbc              |
| Each morning | 9 am   | Morning Prayer/Eucharist | see below        |

Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; **Wednesday: 10am, Morning Prayer, 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](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)

#### Lent Course 2023

As a church community, the voice of God has to be at the heart of everything we do. Learning how to hear God is an exciting journey for every Christian to explore – and the Lectio Course is going to help us do just that.

Each session is a 15-minute video led by Pete Greig which we'll watch together and features an interview with a special guest. Then we'll engage with the material using the course discussion guides.

Sessions will take place on Saturday mornings 25th Feb to 25 March inclusive from 10 - 11am in Dunsby Village Hall.

There is an optional book to accompany the course, cost approx £12.50 (maybe less depending on quantity ordered).

Note: It is NOT essential to buy this book but it may enhance/compliment the course

**To book a place, to order a book or simply to ask more about the course, please speak to Revd Neil, or email him on [revdneil@yahoo.com](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)**

#### The Real Easter Egg

Out of the 80 million Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only Fairtrade one with the Easter story in the box.

You can get your through the Peterborough Christian Bookshop.  
Email them from their website <https://www.p-christianbooks.co.uk>,  
or phone them on 01733 551915

Or, you can order eggs online (eden.co.uk is one site that has them)

