

Commonwealth countries where Christians are persecuted - Pakistan

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.

In Pakistan, Christians are considered second-class citizens and are discriminated against in every aspect of public and private life. Believers who have converted from Islam are the most vulnerable to persecution.

Christian women and girls are particularly vulnerable in Pakistan. Reports indicate there is a silent epidemic of kidnappings, forced marriages and forced conversion of Christian girls and women in Pakistan. These 'marriages' mean that a girl's parents don't have legal recourse to rescue their (often underage) daughter – and it is a widely-used tactic to persecute minority faith communities, such as Christians.

Christians, particularly Christian men, are often compelled to take lower-state jobs referred to as 'chura', a derogatory word meaning 'filthy'. The Covid-19 crisis led to an increase of aid being provided to Christian day labourers only if they converted to Islam. Church leaders can be arrested if they don't abide by the authorities' wishes, and these arrests are often intended to act as warnings to intimidate the Christian minority.

Arzoo is one of the many Christian girls who has suffered from targeted persecution in Pakistan. She was 13 when she was taken from her parents by a 44-year-old Muslim man. Two days later, Arzoo's father was informed that the abductor had produced a marriage certificate stating Arzoo was 18 and had converted to Islam. A court gave custody to the 'husband'.

"Arzoo is a third-generation Pakistani Christian girl", says a source who wishes not to be named. "She is one of many who go through the trauma of abduction and forced conversion.

Please pray:

Father God, may our brothers and sisters in Pakistan know that they are loved and valued by You today - that You see them as treasured and precious. Please restore and heal the many girls and women who have been abducted, and comfort believers who are currently imprisoned. Help the church in Pakistan to shine as a light in the darkness.

**Name changed for security reasons*

Source: 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

31 July 2022
Seventh Sunday after Trinity



Psalm 49.1-12 - The Folly of Trust in Riches

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.
Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
both low and high,
rich and poor together.

My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be
understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the
harp.

Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors
surrounds me,
those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their

riches?

Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
there is no price one can give to God for
it.

For the ransom of life is costly,
and can never suffice,
that one should live on for ever
and never see the grave.

When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.

Their graves are their homes for ever,
their dwelling-places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.
Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.

Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Collect

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

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, 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.

Weddings: Daniel Day and Georgina Orłowskyj (16 July, Morton); James Parrott and Kari Ward (22 July, Rippingale)

From today's Ecclesiastes reading

Vanity of vanities, says Quheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!
Ecclesiastes 1.2

Reflection:

Qoheleth is a wake-up call directing our attention away from the ephemeral towards what will last. Here is a mantra we repeat as a daily reminder to avoid greed and practice a simpler life, "I have all that I want, I have all that I need." It's a statement that can stir thanksgiving in our hearts as we offer today's Eucharist.

So we ask ourselves:

- ✚ Have I placed my trust in what is passing and will not sustain me in times of difficulty?
- ✚ What reordering must I do in my priorities to put more balance in my life?



Readings for this Sunday

Ecclesiastes 1.2,12-14; 2.18-23; Colossians 3.1-11; Luke 12.13-21



Coffee morning in Morton Church

Wednesday at 10:45am

Specially to welcome our Ukrainian Guests.

ALL WELCOME!!

Ранкова кава в церкві Мортон Середа о 10:45 Особливо

вітати наших українських гостей.

ВСІХ ВІТАЄМО!!

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

31 July	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
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; **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

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.

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

www.ringstonegroupchurches.org ringstoneoffice@gmail.com