

Five ways you can pray for Iran

Recent events have once again shone a spotlight on the nation of Iran, and their role in the Middle East. For the beleaguered Christians in Iran, their ever more extremist government presents many challenges. So, as we pray about the situation in the Middle East, here are some ways in which you can pray for the Christian witness in the country.

Pray for the growth of Christianity among disadvantaged groups

Christianity has been growing in Iran as Christians have been helping vulnerable groups. Stories have been shared of drug addicts turning to Christianity in a search for peace and a new path for themselves. Some have even formed house churches. *“Please pray with us that God would protect the believers who preach the gospel in such environments, especially when they gather in the house churches,” our partner adds. “Please pray that God would keep using the weakest ones to show His glory.”*

Pray for the effect of forbidden media

Christian satellite TV channels and an active presence in social networks have given led to an increase in the number of people coming to Christ. Again, the government is extremely concerned about this. They have prohibited the possession of satellite dishes and the authorities do all they can to stop access to satellite broadcast channels and internet sites which they disapprove of, including Christian media. *Please pray for the continued effectiveness of this ‘forbidden media’.*

Pray for more freedom for Christians

In Iran the only official religion is Shia Islam. Some Christians are permitted to publicly follow Jesus in very limited ways: they must belong to historical churches, and converts from Islam are certainly not allowed. The punishment for converting Muslims or for converting from Islam can be the death penalty, though this has rarely occurred. *Pray that the recent waves of protest and the increasing dissatisfaction with the regime will lead to an opening up and a change in the spiritual landscape of the country.*

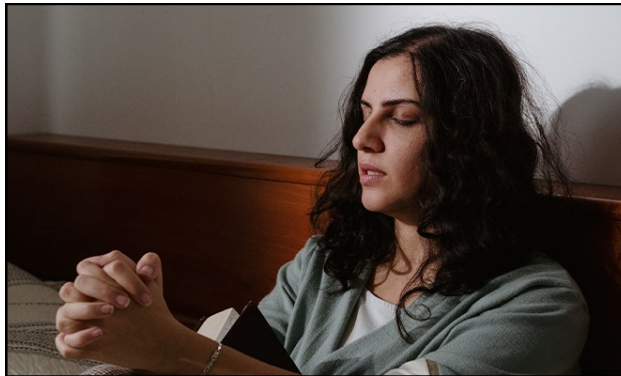
Pray for Christians in prison

Many Christians are in prison in Iran. Four Iranian Christians were recently arrested in a raid on a house-church gathering. *Pray for their safe and expedient release and that they would see God’s hand continue to move in their lives.* One of the believers arrested is a refugee from Afghanistan. *Pray that that God would bring comfort and peace in unexpected ways to this believer far from home.*

Pray for peace

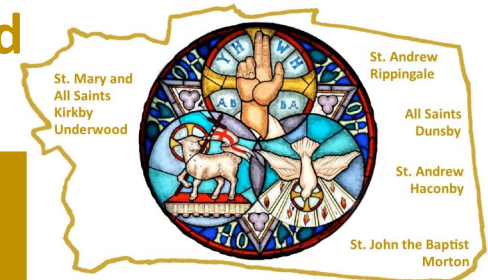
Pray for peace in Iran and over Iran. Pray for wise governance, that the Iranian authorities will put the safety of their people above any desire for retaliation or escalated conflict.

Source: www.opendoorsuk.org



Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

26 May 2024
Trinity



Collect for this Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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

Psalm 29: The Voice of God in a Great Storm

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendour.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and for evermore, Amen

Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please pray for...

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Robert Hitchens, Jane Knight, Judy Long, Andrew Luck, Imogen Matthews, Tom Rae, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Ivan Spencer, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Denise Warcup, Kevin Whitfield, King Charles III, 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 Wally Baxter, Tony Bradbury, Gordon Lack, Nellie Machin, Belinda Neumann, Elsie 'Mary' Perkins, Barbara Robinson, Michael Rowe, Pat Woodger and all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Funeral anniversaries: John Coddington (6 months); Frank Wyer, Peter Green (1 year).

From today's Letter to the Romans

The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ... heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Reflection:

Today we do not celebrate a doctrine, but the heart of our faith: in Christ we have a special relationship with God, we are children of God and so "joint heirs with Christ." We don't have to fear and impersonal and distant God, because God is our "Abba," the parent who has come to our rescue and adopted us.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✚ How do I experience the dignity I have as a child of God?
- ✚ What frequent behavior of mine diminishes me as a child of God?

Safeguarding & Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (Rector): revdneil@yahoo.com, 01778 219626 or
Janice Hill (Group Safeguarding Officer): janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk,
01778 440733 and 07972 211936

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

Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

26 May	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
2 June	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
9 June	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
16 June	11am	Eucharist	Morton
Wednesday	10 am	See below	Morton

Wednesday services will usually be a service of Holy Communion . On occasions this will be replaced by a service of Morning Prayer

Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion? Contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626



Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 6.1-8
Romans 8.12-17
John 3.1-17



Can you help?

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

**AFRO
CARIBBEAN
COMES TO MORTON**

Live music | Soul Food
All Day D & B

DILGIM

SLEAFORD
TRAINING
BAND

SATURDAY 1st JUNE

7:00pm start

St. John the Baptist Church
with



Tickets: £10 per adult and £5 for children under 12
(food and drink not included in the price)

Tickets from nick@humphreyshall.com / 07931
709053 OR The Five Bells Pub, Morton

Contact Nick on 07931 709053 or nick@humphreyshall.com to buy your tickets