

## Let us join in prayer with the persecuted brothers and sisters in China

**Sunday 1 October** In China, the state is threatened by anything that could rock the 'stability' of the country. For the government, this means conformity to political thought and cultural identity. Ask the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of those in government to see Christians as a positive influence in the country, not disrupters.

**Monday 2 October** Under new measures introduced in 2022, churches that want to share sermons or Bible studies online require a permit – but this is only available to state-approved religious institutions, such as the Three Self Patriotic Movement. Pray that house churches will find ways to continue sharing and growing in their knowledge of God's Word.

**Tuesday 3 October** In what is believed to be a 'test case', churches in Zhejiang Province have been ordered to display new signs by their entrances saying, "Love the Communist party, love the country and love the religion." Pray that local churches will remain faithful to Christ and not be intimidated by this order, and pray that it will not be rolled out in other provinces.

**Wednesday 4 October** Muslim-majority areas of China are among the most restricted in the country. Monitoring and control by the authorities have tightened further in recent months. Ask God's Spirit to bring freedom and hope to these areas, and pray that the small number of Christians will remain steadfast in their faith and deeply connected to Jesus.

**Thursday 5 October** Give thanks that several Christian pastors and church workers were released from prison this year. They are still being closely monitored by the authorities. Ask for God's protection as they adjust to life outside prison, and pray that their relationships with loved ones will be restored.



**Friday 6 October** Regulations on religion introduced in 2018 include a ban on under-18s attending church. Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide pastors into ways to connect with and disciple children and young people

**Saturday 7 October** Thank God for the growth of the church in China, despite the efforts of the authorities. Pray for the hearts of Chinese people to be receptive to the OCTOBER above An undercover youth prayer meeting in China, earlier this year gospel and pray that many more will come to Christ.

An undercover youth prayer meeting in China, earlier this year

Source: [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org)

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

1 October 2023  
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity



## Psalm 25.1-8 Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

**Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

**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**

## Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; 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, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Readings for this Sunday

**Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32**  
**Philippians 2.1-13**  
**Matthew 21.23-32**



### Please pray for...

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Dennis Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Jane Knight, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Jose Stokes, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Denise Warcup, 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 Verne Davies, Peter Ward and all the faithful departed may they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we also pray for those who mourn their loss.

Wesley Morgan and Zoe Clampin-Kent who will be baptised this month

Wedding Anniversaries: Renee & Toby Uglow (1 year)

Baptism Anniversaries: Adam Bruce, Enya Trevor, Nile Trevor, Parker Leyland and Miller Leyland (1 year)

Funeral anniversaries: Robert Wellman (6 months); Nigel Kuhn (2 years)

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

1 October	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
8 October	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
15 October	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
22 October	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
29 October	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
Wednesday	10 am	See below	Morton

Wednesday services will usually be a service of Holy Communion . On occasions this will be replace 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?** Just contact Revd Neil on 01778 219626 or [revdneil@yahoo.com](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)

### Confirmation classes

Confirmations will be taking place in the new year. If you are interested in confirmation, please contact Revd Neil as soon as possible.

### Safeguarding & Contact Information

Safeguarding: We take your welfare and safety very seriously!

Revd Neil (Rector): [revdneil@yahoo.com](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com), 01778 219626 or

Janice Hill (Group Safeguarding Officer): [janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com)



### Harvest Services in the Group

29 September	7pm	<b>Kirkby Underwood</b>
1 October	3pm	<b>Morton, with Morton School</b>
		Tea and cake after the service
6 October	6pm	<b>Rippingale</b>
8 October	3pm	<b>Dunsby</b>
		Fruit and veg auction and tea in the village hall

### From today's Gospel reading

*"A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, "Son go out and work in the vineyard today." He said in reply, "I will not," but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, "Yes, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first."*

#### Reflection:

Did you notice in today's parable there is no mention of how things turned out when the first son changed his mind and went into the vineyard? How hard of a worker was he when he finally got to the vineyard to work?

Did he do what was expected of him? There are no standards or measurements of success laid out for us in this story. The emphasis is just on someone who changed his mind; who in the end, responded to an invitation.

Maybe that is what is pleasing to God: our desire to serve and our attempts, if at times feeble, to respond –while we leave plenty of room for God to step in and fill in the gaps: The big ones and the small ones.



### 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