

What is life as a Christian like if you live in Nigeria?



Ayuba (*name changed*) vividly remembers the day that Boko Haram came to his village. Where he lives in the north east of Nigeria, this is a danger that everyone knows could happen: violent attacks by Islamic militant groups are increasing and there is the constant threat of attack. But nothing could truly prepare him for the day it became a reality. He was only 20 years old.

“Around 6pm, word spread that Boko Haram were approaching our village,” he remembers. With Boko Haram torching buildings nearby,

Ayuba and his younger brothers and sisters fled the village, hiding some distance away overnight. Ayuba’s father had initially been hiding at his sister-in-law’s house, where he was the only Christian. When Boko Haram burst into the house, they singled him out. It’s not only Christians who are affected by attacks in the region – but, in this attack, they were targeted. Ayuba tells the story based on what he heard later from his relatives.

“They grabbed our father and took him with them. He kept asking what his offence was, but they did not reply. They brought him outside and put him on his knees.”

The militants demanded that Ayuba’s father read a passage from the Qu’ran, as a test to see if he was a Muslim. But he didn’t try to hide his faith in Jesus. When they asked him if he was a Muslim or a Christian, he replied ‘Christian’. They beheaded Ayuba’s father on the spot. Nine Christians were killed in the attack.

“A few weeks after the attack, Boko Haram sent a list to our village – a list of people they are coming to kill. And my name was on it.” Ayuba was reluctant to leave, but was eventually persuaded to move his siblings to another village.

It was here that Ayuba was able to get trauma care at a centre run by Open Doors partners. Ayuba found the trauma care transformative. When asked about the biggest lesson he learned at the trauma care centre, he says, “Forgiveness. I thought to myself, what would I gain going around with a knife seeking for revenge, and my mind is never at peace? So I decided to let go of my anger and have peace. God brought me here to heal me. Honestly, if I had not come, I don’t know how I would have ended up.”

Thousands of communities in Nigeria and across sub-Saharan Africa are experiencing violent crises like this. Last year, more than 5,000 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria – that’s 14 people a day, and about 90% of all the Christians murdered for their faith across the world. Thousands more were abducted or forced to leave their homes. And yet much of the world doesn’t seem to notice.

Please pray

- “I want you to pray for us here in Nigeria experiencing terrorism,” says Ayuba. “Pray with us that God will bring an end to it.”
- That the global church will wake up to, and stand up to, the violent persecution affecting Christians in sub-Saharan Africa.
- For Open Doors trauma care partners to be equipped with God’s love and grace as they bring His healing to young people like Ayuba.

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

14 May 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

IF YOU LOVE ME,
OBEY MY COMMANDMENTS.

JOHN 14:15

Collect for this Sunday

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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**

Readings for this Sunday

Acts 17.22-31

1 Peter 3.13-22

John 14.15-21



Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Psalm 66.7-18

Praise for God’s Goodness to Israel

Who rules by his might for ever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

Selah

Bless our God, O peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.

For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;

we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

I will come into your house with burnt-offerings;

I will pay you my vows,
those that my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt-offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Selah

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him,

and he was extolled with my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

Please pray for...

From our prayer list

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Debbie Dams, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Dennis Gentleman, Judith Gentleman, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Jane Knight, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, 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 Richard Rice-Oxley, John Sharman, Robert (Bob) Wellman, Frank Wyer 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: Harriet & James Guest (2 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Emma Green (6 months); Evelyn Stubley, Roy McConchie (2 years)

Funerals

Funeral of Frank Wyer

This will be at St Mary & All Saints Church, Kirkby Underwood at 2pm on Friday 19 May , followed by burial in the churchyard in reserved plot.

Funeral of Richard Rice-Oxley

This will be Abbey Church, Bourne at 12.30 on Wednesday 24 May followed by family to the Crem. The retiring collection is for Bourne Abbey, and there will be light refreshments offered after the Abbey Service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to your chosen charity.



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

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|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

Safeguarding & 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

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

14 May	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	To be arranged
21 May	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	3pm	Rogation service	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
28 May	11am	Eucharist	To be arranged
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
4 June	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
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

18 May Ascension Day Dawn Eucharist - Morton

at 6am (no that’s not a mistake!)

Those who have been to previous services know how special it is. Weather permitting the service will be held outside, and after the service you are invited to stay and have breakfast. If you’ve not been before, come along and celebrate Ascension Day.



21 May Rogation Service with Morton School - Morton at 3pm

This service is a celebration of our community and environment. A short and cheerful service with well known hymns which is followed by a treasure hunt, making our way to Morton school where you are invited to bring a picnic and get to know others in our community

APCMs

Sunday	21 May	12.30pm	Morton (church)
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