

### Join in prayer with our persecuted brethren in Nigeria

There are just over 98 million Christians in Nigeria – that’s almost half of the country’s 211.5 million population. The persecution facing Christians in Nigeria is extreme and often brutally violent, as Islamic militants and armed bandits attack with increasing impunity.

This mostly affects believers living in the Muslim-majority north and Middle Belt, but it’s also spreading to the south. Although all civilians are subject to threats and violence, Christians are often specifically targeted because of their faith. Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), for example, want to eliminate the presence of Christianity in Nigeria.

#### What’s life like for Christians in Nigeria?

When Boko Haram stormed Amina’s home in Nigeria, her husband and two sons could have escaped harm if they denied Jesus. They refused – but it came at a tragically awful cost. Daniel, her husband, was killed. The two sons miraculously survived.

That wasn’t the end of the story. Five years later, Amina was in a van with five men and ten other women travelling to the funeral of her sister-in-law when it was stopped by Boko Haram militants. The men were killed and the women abducted and held deep in the Sambisa Forest under the yoke of Boko Haram control.

The women faced enormous pressure to renounce their faith in Jesus, but they courageously stood firm. Thankfully, after eight months in captivity, they were freed. On her release, Amina broke out into song: “By His grace I am alive, that is why I am singing. Jehovah saved my life.”

#### Please pray:

Dear God, intervene to halt and thwart the activities of extremist groups and armed bandits in Nigeria. Protect Christians and churches from attack, and pour Your peace into fearful hearts. Heal all those traumatised by attacks. Give Your children strength to hold onto You, despite suffering, and may they tangibly feel Your presence with them. Equip and empower believers in their response to persecution. Stir the government and security forces to do more to protect Christians. Amen.



#### 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



8 May 2022  
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

We welcome Revd Peter Lister, and thank him for leading this Sunday’s Eucharist service.

#### Psalm 23 - The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.	they comfort me.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;	You prepare a table before me
he leads me beside still waters;	in the presence of my enemies;
he restores my soul.	you anoint my head with oil;
He leads me in right paths	my cup overflows.
for his name’s sake.	Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
Even though I walk through the darkest	all the days of my life,
valley,	and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
I fear no evil;	my whole life long.
for you are with me;	
your rod and your staff—	



#### Readings for this Sunday

Acts 9.36-43  
Revelation 7.9-17  
John 10.22-30



#### Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

##### Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: praise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

##### Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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, Annie Hersey, Arthur Jeffries, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Neil Morgan, Jonathan Newell, 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 Ed Cunningham, 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.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries fall this month:

Weddings: James and Harriet Guest (1 year)

Funerals: Evelyn Stublely (1 year), Roy McConchie (1 year)

#### From today's Book of Revelation reading

*"I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue." Revelation 7.9*

#### Reflection:

In a competing and divided world, the Book of Revelation gives us a vision of our mutuality. We are interdependent; our present and our future are entwined. We cannot live lives of indifference and isolation; not if we plan to go before, "the one who sits on the throne" and be fed together at the same eternal banquet table.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✠ Do I share John's vision of the future unity of all peoples?
- ✠ What am I doing to heal divisions that I perceive around me?

#### Extra and Jubilee Services in the Group

<b>Thursday 26 May</b>	<b>5.30am</b>	<b>Dawn Eucharist for Ascension Day</b> Kirkby Underwood
<b>Thursday 2 June</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Songs of Praise</b> Dunsby
<b>Sunday 5 June</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen</b> Kirkby Underwood

[www.ringstonegroupchurches.org](http://www.ringstonegroupchurches.org) [ringstoneoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ringstoneoffice@gmail.com)

#### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

8 May	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
15 May	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
22 May	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	3pm	Rogation service	
		With Morton School	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
29 May	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
5 June	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen	Kirkby Underwood
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Morton</b>
Monday - Saturday	9 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom

Contact Revd Neil for the link

**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)

#### 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](http://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.