

## Let us pray with the persecuted church for refugees and the displaced

**Mexico** Several believers who were displaced from Plan de Ayala, Chiapas, for their faith are receiving persecution survival training. Despite their situation, they faithfully wait on the Lord. Please pray that they will receive compensation after losing all their belongings when they were displaced.

**Niger** Many Christians living near the Burkina Faso border have fled their homes after threats by Islamic militants: "Christians should leave within 72 hours or accept Islam." Ask the Lord to strengthen the church in Niger and help believers to remain strong in their faith amid this uncertainty.

**Laos** Around 16 families were expelled from their communities in 2023, including Vong\*, whose tireless evangelism helped bring 40 people to faith. But he and his family lost their house when other community members demolished it in anger. Ask God to provide a new home for them.

**Central Asia** Thank God for the hospitality of local house churches, which shelter new believers thrown out of home. Pray they reach more Christians in need, and that their love and generosity will be a shining light in their communities.

**Armenia** In September, Azerbaijan launched a military operation in NagornoKarabakh, home to 120,000 ethnic Armenians – including many Christians. Hundreds have died and thousands have fled. Pray for peace and that God will sustain all who are grieving and homeless.

**Myanmar** Tun Maung\*, a local Open Doors partner, was displaced when the coup began in 2021. He and his family fled to a camp for internally displaced people, but many camps have turned into conflict zones. "We are asking for God's protection and our safety," he says.

**Natural disasters** Pray for all persecuted believers displaced by natural disasters this year – in Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Morocco and Libya. Ask God to provide all practical and spiritual support, and pray that the churches in these nations will be strengthened to keep following Jesus.

**"Our prayers can go where we cannot." Brother Andrew, founder of Open Doors**



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

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet



**19 November 2023**  
**Second Sunday before Advent**

## Psalm 90: God's Eternity and Human Frailty

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.  
**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'  
**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
**You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.  
**The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.

**So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

**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

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### Please pray for...

Anthony Andrews , Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Joan Curtis Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Clive Hall, Marion Heygate, Rob Hubbard, Jane Knight, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Ruth Osborne, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, 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 John Coddington, Revd Gerry Curtis, Verne Davies, Mary Furey, Elva Lamb, Celine Pek Shang Tang, 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.

Baptism Anniversaries: Jasper Williams (1 year)

Funeral anniversaries: Peter Green, Frank Wyer (6 months); Emma Green (1 years)

### Readings for this Sunday

**Zephaniah 1.7,12-18**

**1 Thessalonians 5.1-11**

**Matthew 25.14-30**



### Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

### Thursday 30 November The Feast of St Andrew

6pm Patronal Eucharistic Service Rippingdale

The service will be followed by a fish and chips supper in The Bull. The meal costs £12 per person and needs to be booked. Places are limited to contact Jonathan on 01778 441211 or 07771 825422 as soon as possible to book your meal

### A reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

*Jesus told his disciples this parable. "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. "*

#### Reflection:

Jesus encourages us to put all of our lives on the line in his service – not just specific talents. We are to invest ourselves, serving God by serving others. Each of us baptized into Christ needs to engage in the world, conscious that the One who has "entrusted" us will be with us as we face life's challenges as full-fledged Christians.

#### So we ask ourselves:

- ✚ How "invested" am I in my Christian life?
- ✚ What do I need to do to invest more of myself in responded to God's call to me?

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

19 November	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
26 November	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
3 December	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
10 December	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	3pm	Christingle	Morton
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***

### Saturday Retreats at Edenham House

25th November: 'The Nature of Hope & Hopeful Waiting: Advent Retreat'. With Rev Dr Rhona Knight

9th December: 'Storytelling, Communication & Faith'. With Rev Simon Airey\*

All retreats run from 10am to 4pm and cost £16pp. Bring your own lunch  
To reserve your place, email edenhamoffice@gmail.com

### 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



### 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