

## Holidaying where Christians are persecuted - Algeria

Algeria's tiny population of Christians are facing increasing obstacles to religious freedom.

Laws regulating non-Muslim worship ban anything that would 'shake the faith of a Muslim' or be used as 'a means of seduction intending to convert a Muslim to another religion'. Consequently, Christians are acutely vulnerable to prosecution under blasphemy and proselytising charges.

Meanwhile, the authorities continue to systematically close protestant churches. Thirteen churches that had been forcibly closed remain shut, whilst another three have since been closed.

Most Christians are converts from Islam and face strong opposition from their family and community. This can involve harassment, beatings, forced marriage, imprisonment, even death. The hostility is especially acute in the rural and religiously more conservative parts of the country. In the 1990s, these regions acted as a stronghold for Islamist insurgents in the fight against the government.

The closure of churches and clampdown on activities that could offend, or seek to convert, Muslims are two of the key reasons that Algeria is number 22 on the World Watch List.

These pressures are epitomised in the troubles facing Pastor Rachid. He leads a church and runs a bookshop that sells Bibles and other Christian books. In February 2021, he and his assistant Nouh were convicted of proselytising and selling books that 'shake the faith of Muslims'. They were fined and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. This was later reduced on appeal to one-year suspended sentences. The two men continue to appeal the verdict.

Rachid's church was also forcibly closed and sealed in July 2021 – one of 16 across the country in recent years.

### Please pray:

Father God, thank You that, even if churches are closed, nothing can stand in the way of Your children knowing and loving You. Please speak clearly and tenderly to our brothers and sisters who struggle to worship together, and who face such terrible persecution from their families and communities. Provide ways for Christians to worship together and to share the good news of the gospel, and bring breakthrough in places of authority so that laws and regulations opposing Christian practice will be overturned. Amen.

*www.opendoorsuk.org Open Doors World Watch List*

Please email items for the news sheet to Sue  
by the **Thursday** of each week

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

# Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

21 August 2022  
Tenth Sunday after Trinity



## Psalm 103.1-8 - Thanksgiving for God's Goodness

Of David.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and  
mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you  
live  
so that your youth is renewed like the  
eagle's.

The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast  
love.



## Readings for this Sunday

Isaiah 58.9b-14

Hebrews 12.18-29

Luke 13.10-17



## Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

### Collect

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Please pray for...

#### From our prayer list

Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Jane Creasey, Josh Elliott, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Nora Green, Ann Hall, Clive Hall, Arthur Jeffries, June Langley, Judy Long, Imogen Matthews, Neil Morgan, 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 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.

Baptisms: Henry Kerr (20 August); Obie Ingram (21 August)

Weddings: Tracey Stafford & Paul Johnson (6 August); Elise Dewes & William Stevenette (13 August); Aimee Foster & Patrick O'Riordan (13 August); Ruth Penney & Corie Morgan (27 August)

Funeral anniversaries: Phyllis Cotton (6m); Patricia Goodman (1y); Philip Green (2y)

#### 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.**



#### 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	

### Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

21 August	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
28 August	11am	Eucharist	Rippingale
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
4 September	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
11 September	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	6pm	Songs of Praise'	Rippingale
Each morning	9 am	Morning Prayer/Eucharist	see below
Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; <b>Wednesday: 10am, Eucharist, Morton</b> ; 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](mailto:revdneil@yahoo.com)



### A Service of Thanksgiving

at

**St. John the Baptist**

**Saturday 27 August**

**4pm**

**All are welcome at this joyous event**

### Upcoming events in the Group

Every Wednesday at 10.45am - coffee morning at Morton

Wednesday 24 August at 10.45 am—a celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day. Think Ukrainian food etc. Come along to celebrate and show solidarity with our Ukrainian visitors.

Saturday 27 August at 4pm—Service of Thanksgiving at Morton

*If you have an event taking place in the next four weeks that is not on this list, please let Sue know.*