

Holidaying where Christians are persecuted - Turkey

Christians in Turkey experience incredible pressure from very strong – and increasing – religious nationalism in Turkey. The government continues to target even foreign Christians in its borders, along with the foreign spouses of Turkish citizens.

While it isn't technically illegal for Muslims to convert to Christianity, anyone from a Muslim background who does decide to follow Jesus comes under immense pressure from their families and communities, who often demand the convert return to Islam. Women and girls who convert are particularly considered to have brought shame on their family by converting. Christians who've converted from Islam are sometimes forced to lead a double life and hide their new faith completely.

Even Christians who did not convert from Islam are hardly regarded as full members of Turkish society and encounter all kinds of legal and bureaucratic obstructions. All Christians have limited access to state employment and experience discrimination in private employment, especially in jobs with ties to the government.

Without warning, the Turkish government notified Hans-Jurgen Louven that his routine application to renew his residency visa had been denied. He was then ordered to leave Turkey within 10 days. He had lived and worked in the country for more than 20 years, and had intended to stay for the rest of his life.

The notice from the Migration Bureau of the Turkish Ministry of Interior (MOI) gave the tour agent no explanation for the cancellation of his long-term visa in Mugla province. Although 15 specific reasons for refusal listed on the form were left blank, only one item was checked: 'Other Reasons'. But there was no further detail. He has to assume it was because he is a Christian: "The only reason I can think of is that we are people of faith," he shares, "and we have shared our faith with the local people." Turkey fell 17 places in the Open Doors World Watch List, from number 25 last year, which is excellent news. In terms of Christian's everyday lives in Turkey, it's a mixed picture. Violence fell significantly, with no Christians killed and fewer churches attacked – which is believed to be partly because the church became much less visible during Covid-19 lockdowns. On the other hand, pressure increased slightly, and the blurring of Islam and nationalism continues to increase from both the government and wider society.

Please pray:

Dear God, help Your children in Turkey as they seek to proclaim the gospel in a stifling and suspicious atmosphere. Grant them wisdom, discernment and boldness. Give believers favour where there is often discrimination. Strengthen and sustain all converts under pressure for following You. Build the faith and witness of all believers. Change the atmosphere in Turkey. 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 ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

28 August 2022
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity



Psalm 112 - Blessings of the Righteous

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his
commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the
land;

the generation of the upright will be
blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures for ever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the
upright;

they are gracious, merciful, and
righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously
and lend,

who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved;
they will be remembered for ever.
They are not afraid of evil tidings;
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady, they will not be
afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on
their foes.

They have distributed freely, they have
given to the poor;

their righteousness endures for ever;
their horn is exalted in honour.

The wicked see it and are angry;
they gnash their teeth and melt away;

the desire of the wicked comes
to nothing.

Collect and Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; 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 Sadie Hall, Neil Morgan, 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: Hannah Faupel (6m); Teddie Creasey (6m); Gordon Durno (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
- 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)

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

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
18 September	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	6pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
Each morning	9 am	Morning Prayer/Eucharist	see below

Monday: Morton, Tuesday: Dunsby; **Wednesday: 10am, Eucharist, 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



Readings for this Sunday

Ecclesiasticus 10.12-18; Hebrews 13.1-8,15,16; Luke 14.1,7-14



From today's Gospel reading:

"Rather, when you hold a banquet invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Reflection:

Jesus is preparing us for a banquet where those in most need will receive honors and fulfilment. Since that will be the case, we ought to do some "kingdom practicing" now: act in ways that will reflect the kingdom in which we are already citizens— treat the poor as honoured guests in our lives.

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✠ Have you ever had a surprise party? What did it feel like to be surprised and honoured?
- ✠ To whom can you extend the "surprise" of special and honoured treatment?

Upcoming events in the Group

Every Wednesday at 10.45am - coffee morning at Morton

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