

Pray for our persecuted family in the Middle East this Easter

The Easter season is a time when the church around the world often faces extra dangers and the possibility of violence. Our brothers and sisters have already felt the pain of these additional vulnerabilities this week. Many Palm Sunday celebrations in the Middle East were cancelled because of the threat of persecution, and conflict in the wider region, bringing despondency and fear in Holy Week to believers who have already suffered so much over the years.

“This year, I feel sad, discouraged and disappointed, because we can’t celebrate as we used to,” a Christian lady shared, echoing the sentiment of many Iraqis and others across the Middle East who look forward to their Easter celebrations. Similar strictures are taking place for believers in most countries in the region.



A deserted street in Iraq

Remembrance over Easter

As many of us gather in the coming days to remember Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, please pray for our family in the Middle East who are unable to

mark the occasion as they long to do so – their freedoms hindered, their remembrance marred by fear, their celebrations silenced.

And across the world, please pray for all of our persecuted family, in places like Nigeria, China, North Korea and Afghanistan. Many will meet at grave danger of exposure and attack, with others understandably too afraid to gather at all. Some will feel too worn down by pressure and persecution to even celebrate.

Whatever their situation, please pray that Christ Jesus, the man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3, ESV), will comfort every heart, and that the glorious, inexpressible light of resurrection morning will breathe fresh hope into their lives.

Please pray

- That ‘Almighty God will stop the fire of wars and grant our world just and lasting peace,’ ask Iraqi Christians
- For peace in the Middle East, and that believers will feel the support and protection of security forces, the government and the wider communities
- For protection of Christians over Easter, and that our persecuted family will emerge from Holy Week greatly strengthened in their faith and witness.

Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet 5 April Easter Sunday



We welcome Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley and thank her for leading our services today

Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24: A Song of Victory

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures for ever.’

The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

Please pray for...

Clifford Hitchens, Jane Nichols, Jonathan Newell, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Robert Hitchens, Jane Knight, Imogen Matthews, Pat Reid, John Rowntree, Maggie Sharman, Amanda Thomson, Clive Walker, Judy Watson, Kevin Whitfield, King Charles III, and for any others whom we name in the silence of our hearts.

We give thanks for those on the road to recovery.

We remember Penelope Rose Baldry, and the souls of all the faithful departed. May they rest in peace and rise in glory; and we pray for those who mourn their loss.

Anniversaries...

Wedding Anniversaries: Rowena and Tom Sutton (1 year)

Baptism Anniversaries: William Blades, Isabel Sherwin (1 year)

Funeral anniversaries: Barbara Durno (1 year); Nellie Machin (2 years)

The Collect for this Sunday

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen**



Readings for this Sunday

Acts 10.34-43

Colossians 3.1-4

Matthew 28.1-10



The Prayer after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Services for the next 10 days in the Ringstone and Corby Glen combined Groups

Sunday 5 April	9.00am	Holy Communion	Swayfield
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Corby Glen
	10.30am	Easter Hymns & Prayers	Dunsby
	11.00am	Eucharist	Morton
	11.00am	Morning Prayers	Irnham
	6.00pm	Eucharist	Rippingale
Tuesday 7 April	7.00pm	Licencing of Revd Helen Roulston as Priest in Charge	Morton
Wednesday 8 April	10.00am	Midweek Eucharist	Morton
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Corby Glen
Sunday 12 April	9.00am	Eucharist	Haconby
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Irnham
	4.00pm	Holy Communion	Corby Glen
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Morton

Grateful thanks and sad goodbyes

While we are excited to be welcoming Rev Helen this week as she starts her ministry in our parishes, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Revds Sylvia and Peter who have supported us throughout the vacancy, taking the services across the five churches, and so much more.

The congregation at Morton will be particularly sad to see Sylvia leave. We are deeply grateful for all you have done throughout 2025 and the beginning few months of 2026, and although we know that you are looking forward to the rest, we will miss the personal and spiritual support you have given us.

Dear Lord, we give thanks for Reverend Sylvia and Reverend Peter and their servant hearts. We are grateful for the friendship, kindness and guidance they have given in service to us all. May God bless them as richly as they have blessed our church family. Amen

Safeguarding & Contact Information

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