

“Danger Until Death” – Five Years On from the Taliban Takeover

This week marks five years since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan. For the country’s tiny Christian community, life has become unimaginably dangerous. Many believers have fled; others live in deep secrecy. Yet, against all odds, the church remains alive. As Jesus reminds us, “*With God all things are possible.*” (Matthew 19:26)



Christians in Afghanistan are forced to live out their faith secretly

Life for Christians Today

Under Taliban rule, every choice carries risk. Even selecting a Christian name can lead to death. There are no public churches; fellowship happens quietly and informally. If someone’s faith becomes known, their property may be seized, their family threatened, and their life placed in immediate danger. Girls are especially vulnerable, often kidnapped or forced into marriage.

One Christian family recently endured a violent night-time raid. The father was stabbed, his son’s fingers broken, and his wife’s hands pierced. Despite this, the father wanted to stay in his community to forgive his attackers and share the hope of Jesus. His wounds later became infected due to lack of medical care, but he eventually received treatment. The danger, however, remains constant.

Yet God continues to work. Many Afghans are weary of the Taliban’s harsh rule, and whole families are coming to Christ. Their faith resembles the book of Acts—courage, miracles, and costly discipleship. One woman, divorced and cast out after becoming a Christian, still praises God for the peace she has found.

Supporting Afghan Believers

Open Doors partners in Central Asia provide discipleship, practical help and long-term support for Afghan Christians who have fled. These relationships help believers grow in resilience and faith, even as they carry deep pain.

How We Can Pray

Please pray:

- For believers suffering in silence, with no one to pray for them.
- For those paying a heavy price, that their faith would be strengthened.
- For unity across the global church.
- For protection, courage and wisdom for Afghan Christians and those who support them.
- For Afghanistan itself—that hearts would soften and many would encounter Jesus.

A Prayer

Sovereign God, strengthen our Afghan brothers and sisters in their suffering. Protect them, comfort them, and meet every need. Encourage secret believers with dreams, visions and miracles, and through their witness draw many to Yourself. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

“Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...” (Acts 4:29–30)

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Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet 16 August Trinity 11



Psalm 133: The Blessedness of Unity

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

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

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**



Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 45.1-15

Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15.10-20, 21-28



Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

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...

Julie Shortland, Linda Hall, Brian Osborne, Jane Nichols, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, 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 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

Weddings: Emily and Paul Blackburn, Jade and Archie Gray (1 year)

Baptisms: Harper Green, Zoe Goodley, Dylan Seymour (2 years)

Funerals: Gladys Woolley (1 year); Anthony Andrews, Jean Gibbons (2 years)

A Service of Thanksgiving

**For the staff of the NHS
and Key Workers**

Saturday 19 September at 5.30pm

At St. John the Baptist, Morton

Followed by refreshments

**ALL are welcome to this
joyous service of celebration**



Thank you for all your service

End of summer BBQ

Saturday 12 September

4 – 6pm

**Morton House
High Street, Morton**

Celebrate the glorious summer of 2026

Pulled Pork Burgers	Fresh Salads	Desserts
Wine & Soft Drinks		
Live Music	Raffle	

Tickets £10 per person | £25 per family

To buy your ticket(s)
contact Sue on 07962 238413 after 5pm

All proceeds to St. John the Baptist Church

Safeguarding & Contact Information

Priest in charge: Revd Helen Roulston -

revhelenroulston@outlook.com or 07736 780131

Group Safeguarding Officer: Janice Hill

janicethreetuns@hotmail.co.uk or 01778 440733 and 07972 211936

Group Administrator: Sue O'Riordan

and for entries to the news sheet (by Tuesday please) . ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

Services in the Ringstone and Corby Glen combined Groups

Sunday 16th August	9.00am	Eucharist	*Bassingthorpe w Burton
	11.00am	Eucharist	Morton
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Corby Glen
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Irnham
	11.00am	Eucharist	Swayfield
Wednesday 19th August	10.00am	Eucharist	Corby Glen
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Morton
Sunday 23rd August	10.00am	Eucharist	Corby Glen
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Morton
	10.00am	Eucharist	Corby Glen
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Morton
	10.00am	Eucharist	Corby Glen
	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Morton
Wednesday 26th August	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Corby Glen
	10.00am	Eucharist	Morton
Sunday 30th August	9.00am	Group HC	Bassingthorpe
	11.00am	Group Eucharist	Dunsby

Additional Services

Wednesday 19 th August	2pm	Funeral of Faith Susan Taylor	Morton
Friday 28 th August	11am	Funeral of Brian (Ginger) Lawrance	Morton
Saturday 29 th August	tbc	Baptism of Louie, Jonathan & Michael Blackburn	Haconby
Tuesday 8 th September	10.30am	Funeral of Jane Dyer	Morton
Saturday 10 th October	2pm	Baptism of Freya Cambell	Morton

Did you know?.....

If you find it difficult (or forget) to bring things to leave in the drop off bin at the back of Morton church, you can go to the Foodbank website, and purchase items which will then be available in the foodbank.

Go to <https://bournefoodbank.org.uk/how-to-help>

Urgently needed items – can you help?

Pasta Sauce

UHT Milk

Washing Powder

