

Where is most dangerous to be a Christian? The World Watch List 2026

More than 388 million Christians face persecution and discrimination because they follow Jesus. This is a rise of 8 million people in a single year. Yet, where faith looks impossible, God is doing the impossible. The church continues to grow.

111 MPs attended the launch of World Watch List 2026 in Westminster. They heard about the immense challenges facing Christians in Iran, Somalia and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, and discovered how they can use their influence to bring change. Henrietta Blyth, the CEO of Open Doors UK shared the following:

“Nigeria is in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that represents a deathtrap for Christians. Fourteen of the countries there are on the World Watch List this year,” she said, whilst expressing relief that people are finally talking about what’s going on in Nigeria.

This year’s biggest riser is Syria, jumping 12 places to sixth, largely due to a surge in violence. “And pressure is rising across the board,” explained Henrietta Blyth. “This is caused not, as far as we know, by the new government [Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham], but by security vacuums, fragmented governance and local extremist groups – all of which increases the vulnerability of Christians.

“Elsewhere, the increasing smash and squeeze continues to drive the church underground. And the tighter the squeeze, the more difficult it becomes to get word to the outside world about what’s really happening, or to be honest about it.” She explained how what we’ve seen for several years in places like Afghanistan, Algeria, China and Iran, we’re now seeing its ‘chilling effect’ in Tunisia and Mauritania.

The event featured an interview with from Iran Bahar (*Name changed for security reasons*), who began by sharing how, as a child, her father was imprisoned twice – first for two months and then for a year.

“Every single day, I’m fearing for Christians in the country,” said Bahar, as she shed further light on the widespread protests that have spread across Iran in recent days and urged those present to use their voice for those suffering under the regime.

Please pray

- Praise God for an amazing turnout of MPs at the launch, for God’s help in all aspects of the event, and for the progress made in promoting freedom of religion or belief in government in recent years
- That the stories shared will stay in people’s hearts and minds in the coming days, weeks and months, compelling them to urgent, decisive and impactful support for our persecuted family
- That through this event, and other interactions with people in power both nationally and globally, God will do ‘immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us’ (Ephesians 3:20).

Ringstone in Aveland

News Sheet

25 January

Third Sunday of Epiphany

We welcome Revd Peter Lister and thank him for leading our Eucharist service



Psalm 27.1,4-12: Triumphant Song of Confidence

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they are breathing out violence.

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



Readings for this Sunday
Isaiah 9.1-4
1 Corinthians 1.10-18
Matthew 4.12-23



The Collect for this Sunday

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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**

The Prayer after Communion

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**



Did you know?.....

If you find it difficult (or forget) to bring things to leave in our drop off bin at the back of the 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>**

These are a few of the things that are running low. Can you help?

Shampoo
Tinned Meat

Deodorant (M)
UHT Milk

Pasta Sauce
Washing Powder



14th February at 7pm **Games Night in Morton Church Hall**

LOTS OF GAMES TO PLAY
JENGA, SNAKES AND LADDERS, DOMINOES ETC
Tickets £10 per person to include buffet supper
(payable in advance please) by 10th February

from Dianne Newton on 01778 571890 or 07971 380034

Sunday and regular weekday Services **in the Ringstone and Corby Glen combined Groups**

Sunday 25 January	10.15am	Café Church	Swayfield Village Hall
	11.00am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Corby Glen
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Irnham
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
1st February	6.00pm	Holy Communion	Bitchfield
	9.00am	Holy Communion	Swayfield
	11.00am	Eucharist	Morton
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Corby Glen
	11.00am	Hymns & Prayers	Irnham
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Wednesday Services	10.00am	Morning Prayer	Morton
	10.00am	Eucharist	Corby Glen

Please pray for...

Jane Nichols, Jonathan Newell, Eben Atkinson, Sheila Bates, Margaret Brumby, Marie Rose Cubacub, Christine Evans, Sue Grainge, Annie Hall, Clive Hall, Robert Hitchens, Jane Knight, Imogen Matthews, Rory O'Riordan, 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...

Wedding Anniversaries: Nicholas and Catherine Walker (1 year); Tony and Pat Reid (65 years)

Funeral anniversaries: Peter Ashton, Astrid Kuhn (1 year); Shirley Dawson, Peter Chubbuck (2 years)

Safeguarding & Contact Information

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Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)