

No more shame: why does the See. Change. campaign focus on persecuted Christian women?

Weaponising shame and violence against Christian women and girls

One of the most documented and visible forms of persecution against women and girls is violence. Given the 'honour' culture of many societies, sexual violence is often used to intentionally shame and stigmatise victims as well as their families and communities. This can result in a breakdown in relationships – for instance, parents no longer want to be associated with their daughter.

One such country with an honour-shame culture is Bangladesh. Jorina was attacked by a group of women in her community – women she considered to be her neighbours and friends – after she became a Christian. They forced her to strip after they heard that Christians are 'marked by the Holy Spirit' (Ephesians 1:13) and believed they would find a literal mark.

"I cried a lot in that room," Jorina says. "After a while, they kicked me out and I returned home. When I got back, I didn't share this with anyone. How could I? How was it even possible to talk about such a thing?"

Thankfully, with the support of her church, Jorina was able to open up about what happened to her and received emotional and spiritual care – but her story is just one example of how shame can debilitate women and stop them from asking for help, for fear of being shunned and ostracised.

The threat of shame and stigma is a key reason why physical violence is also common against Christian women and girls. Women are attacked with impunity because victims often keep quiet for fear of the dishonour it will bring and poor legal frameworks mean wrongdoing often goes unpunished. This, in turn, makes women and girls increasingly vulnerable to psychological violence and many experience trauma for years after the persecution event itself.

Please pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for the courage and perseverance of our persecuted sisters around the world. Draw near to them today to strengthen them and restore them. Take away their shame and remind them that they are made in Your image, and that You call them precious and beloved. Refresh their faith and open doors where they can minister the gospel and Your love to those around them. Amen.

Source: www.opendoorsuk.org



Ringstone in Aveland News Sheet

9 March 2025
First Sunday of Lent



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

Psalm 91.1-2,9-16: Assurance of God's Protection

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'
Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
**On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them.

With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

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

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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

Please pray for...

Eben Atkinson, 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 pray for Charlie Hopkinson as he takes his next steps on his journey of faith

We remember Mary Richardson, Ivan Spencer, Brenda Hare, 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.

Funeral anniversaries: Margaret Winter, Audrey Gray, Sophie Sandford (1 year); Ivor Roberts, Arthur Jefferys (2 years)

Additional Services in the Group

10 March	2pm	Funeral of Beryl Grange	Morton
14 March	2pm	Mary Richardson	Morton
20 March	10.30am	Funeral of Norma Worth	Kirkby Underwood
30 March	11am	5th Sunday Eucharist	Haconby



Can you help?

There is a collection box in St John the Baptist Church, on the left at the back of the church.

Please be as generous as possible.

Milk (UHT cartons)	Fruit juice / squash	Coffee
Tinned meat	Jam	Deserts
Custard	Snacks—pot nodles, rice etc	
Laundry powder / liquid	Washing up liquid	Toothbrushes
Toilet roll	Razors and shaving foam	

Safeguarding & Contact Information

Group Safeguarding Officer - Janice Hill

janicethreetun s@hotmail.co.uk, or 01778 440733 and 07972 211936

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

Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

9 March	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	3pm	Friendship Service	Morton
16 March	11am	Eucharist	Morton
23 March	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	3pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
30 March	11am	Eucharist	Haconby
6 April	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	3pm	Evening Prayer	Kirkby Underwood
Wednesday	10 am	See below	Morton

From 1 January, the Wednesday service will be Morning Prayer.

Do you know anyone who is unable to get to church but who would like to receive Holy Communion? Please speak with your church warden, or email ringstoneoffice@gmail.com



Readings for this Sunday

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8b-13

Luke 9.28-36



Friendship Service

When: Sunday 9 March

Time: 3pm

Where: St John the Baptist, Morton

This is a service for all ages, led by the children at Morton School. A joyous service around the theme of friendship, with tea and cake afterwards. Please come along and support the children in their faith journey.



Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

