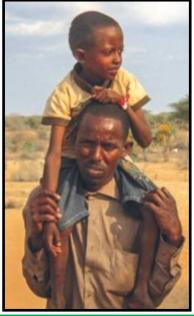
#### Let us pray this week for our brothers and sisters in Africa

**Sunday 16 February – Nigeria** Mob violence is increasingly being used as a weapon against religious minorities in Nigeria, with Christians particularly vulnerable to attacks sparked by accusations of blasphemy. Ask God to protect His people from false accusations.

**Monday 17 February – Cameroon** Ramata's\* husband was killed in an attack by Boko Haram. Open Doors local partners gave her emergency aid and trauma care, and provided her with support to set up a small business. Please pray for her continued healing and peace.

**Tuesday 18 February – DRC** Despite the increase in violent attacks against Christians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), people continue to come to faith in Christ. Pray that their faith will grow strong and that they will be well discipled.

**Wednesday 19 February – Mali** Christians in the Mopti region are being ordered to pay a tax (jizya) – more than half the monthly income for many families – by Islamist extremist groups. Local leaders are told refusal to pay will result in the



seizure and closure of churches. Pray for God's wisdom and provision.

**Thursday 20 February – Somalia** Pray for wisdom for Somali secret believers who are parents as they teach their children about Jesus. Pray that their children will grow up strong in the Lord.

**Friday 21 February February – Sudan** More than nine million people have been displaced by the civil war, among them many Christians. Ask God to provide food and shelter for those in need, and pray for an end to the conflict.

**Saturday 22 February – Eritrea** Pray for Eritrean believers who are forced into military service against their will. Ask God to protect them as they live out their faith, and pray that they will cling to Him as their refuge.

Source: www.opendoorsuk.org

## Safeguarding & Contact Information

<u>Group Safeguarding Officer - Janice Hill</u> janicethreetun s@hotmail.co.uk, or 01778 440733 and 07972 211936 <u>Group Administrator and for entries to news sheet (by Tuesday please)</u> Sue O'Riordan: ringstoneoffice@gmail.com



16 February 2025 Third Sunday before Lent

We welcome Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley, and thank her for leading our Eucharist service

#### **Collect for this Sunday**

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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** 

### Psalm 1: The Two Ways

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

## but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

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...

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 remember Ivan Spencer, Brenda Hare, Peter Ashton, Astrid Kuhn, 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.

<u>Funeral anniversaries:</u> John Cottingham (6 months); Peter Emmingham (1 year);

### From today's Gospel

Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, For the kingdom of God is yours." Reflection:

As Jesus announced, the blessings of the kingdom are already present to his disciples – but not fully. Thus, his Beatitudes stir up hope and form our way of thinking and acting as we wait for the fullness of God's Reign. We persevere in our struggles to live as members of God's community and we pay special attention to those in need, those Jesus has called " blessed."

So, we ask ourselves:

- ✤ What norms do I use to measure "success" in life?
- ✤ How would those norms measure up to the Beatitudes?
- Or, are they among the "woes" Jesus rejects?



# 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.

Coffee

Deserts

Toothbrushes

Milk (UHT cartons) Tinned meat Custard Laundry powder / liquid Toilet roll

Fruit juice / squash Jam Snacks—pot nodles, rice etc Washing up liquid Razors and shaving foam Sunday and regular weekday Services in the Group

16 February	11am	Eucharist	Morton
23 February	11am	Eucharist	Kirkby Underwood
	3pm	Evening Prayer	Morton
2 March	11am	Eucharist	Morton
	3pm	Evening Prayer	Haconby
9 March	9am	Eucharist	Haconby
	3pm	Friendship Service	Morton
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 you church warden, or email ringstoneoffice@gmail.com

## Post Communion Prayer for this Sunday

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen** 

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.



Ash Wednesday Eucharist We are pleased to announce that Revd Peter Lister has offered to lead a Eucharist service on Ash Wednesday. When: Wednesday 5 March Time: 5.30pm Where: St John the Baptist, Morton This service replaces Morning Prayers at Morton 5 March

