

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Maldives

Christians in the Maldives have few rights, but until now at least the courts protected those rights. Now, however, the government is increasingly controlling the courts and simply ignoring the law, leaving Christians in an even more vulnerable state.

The Maldivian government just suspended 56 lawyers, one-third of all lawyers in the islands, after they tried to submit a petition to the Supreme Court calling for the rule of law to be respected.

Despite being a popular tourist destination, the Maldives is one of the most difficult places in the world to be a Christian. The 2008 Maldivian constitution bans Muslims from becoming Christians.

In 1998, the government arrested 50 Maldivians suspected of having become Christians, and is thought to have tortured them. Any Maldivian even found to have a Bible in their house faces a prison sentence. There were signs of hope in 2008, with the election of President Mohammed Nasheed, of the Maldivian Democratic Party, who called for a “tolerant” form of Islam. However, he was forced out of office in 2012. He was recently granted political asylum in the UK, after being sentenced to 13 years in prison for “terrorism” in a trial that the UN said was politically motivated.

All of this makes the plight of Maldivian Christians even more precarious. The Maldivian government appears to be pursuing a slow process of Islamisation. Last year, the government passed a Defamation and Freedom of Speech Act, which criminalised any comments against “any tenet of Islam,” in effect an Islamic blasphemy law

Please Pray

- For wisdom and courage for Christians living in the Maldives

Editor's Notes for Family News

Deadline for messages is Thursday 9am These can be left:

- In the Family News pigeonhole at St Andrew's
- On the answer-phone 01923 332101 (Please spell names of people and places and any other special names such as trade names, and leave your name and contact number)
- By email: familynews@st-andrews.org.uk
- On the St Andrew's website: www.st-andrews.org.uk

Criteria for Use of Family News: ► Advertisements for commercial organisations will not be accepted unless the company has a very clear Christian ethos, has a displayed objective of local community outreach, is non-profit making and has a genuine connection with St Andrew's. ► Advertisements for paid services from churches or Christian charitable organisations will be accepted. ► Advertisements for paid services from individuals will be accepted only from church members who are students seeking casual employment. ► Advertisements for lets or second hand goods will be accepted from any church member. ► The Church Manager has final discretion.

St Andrew's Church

Chorleywood

E: familynews@st-andrews.org.uk

T: 01923 332101

St Andrew's October Prayer Diary - Have you got your copy? There are still some waiting for collection in the carousels.

Men's and Women's New Wine Days - Do any St Andrew's Men want to join Graham Dale and others at the New Wine Men's Day on **Saturday 4th November**, High Wycombe?

Do any St Andrew's Women want to join Gilly Dale and others at the New Wine Women's Day on **Saturday 11th November**, Westminster?

Please buy your own tickets online (Men £22; Women £30) then get in touch so we can help with lifts or traveling together on the tube. Emails: Grahamdale2@gmail.com; Gillydale@gmail.com. For more details - see the New Wine website at: <https://www.new-wine.org/>

And for Your Diaries - New Wine Summer 2018 Dates **5th – 11th August 2018** - Early bird booking rate available until 3rd December.

Judith, Susan and Gordon - Would like to thank all of the St Andrew's Church family for their love and kindness at the recent sad loss of Ranald. Ranald would have been stunned at the outpouring of love and affection. As we have been inundated with messages of kind words and support please excuse us if we make this our thank you to you all.

The Next Meeting to Pray for CMJ and Israel - Is on **Thursday 12th October** at 5pm. For further details please telephone 01923 284669

Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting - All are very welcome to come and pray for persecuted Christians worldwide on **Tuesday 10th October**, 2-3.30pm, at the home of Jenny Thornton - 50 Lower Road, Chorleywood. For more information phone 01923 351954.

Acute shortage at Foodbank – The Foodbank would be very grateful to receive donations of the following items that we are acutely short of at the present time: **tinned fruit, tinned rice pudding & tinned meat**
Donations if possible please take on a Tuesday to the Methodist church, Berry Lane, Mill End, WD3 7HJ - cafe open 10am-6pm. Or if we need to collect please email: info@rickmansworth.foodbank.org.uk - I am away now till 11th October, so can arrange after that date. Thank you so much Iris Bangs.

Interview clothes needed - Does anyone have any work type clothes in the back of their wardrobes that could be passed on to Probation Workers in Manchester. This is to give people on probation suitable clothes for interviews, helping them find work and integrate back into society. My daughter Emily is involved with them, through her work.
If you are able to help please contact me, Sara Richards, either phone 07776 350 972 or email: sara@richardsonline.co.uk
I can collect if that is a problem. I aim to deliver them in the next couple of weeks. Thanks Sara

Restore Hope - Are urgently looking to have more people that could work with children on a Monday and Tuesday mornings to enable mums to attend courses that we are running at those times. Please contact Becky or Naomi on 01494 765 555 or e-mail us at info@restorehopelatimer.org if you have any questions or to volunteer.

Hosting with Host UK 2017 – Host UK is a charity whose mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Whilst we operate all year-round Christmas or New Year is an especially valuable time to enjoy welcoming guests into your home. Consider what faces the international student this Christmas; a lonely hall of residence compounded with the uncertainty of their welcome from a Brexiting Britain. They may also be from a country experiencing conflict or natural disaster and if none of this applies, then they are invariably far from home, family and loved ones.
Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only), three days and two nights at the weekend, or at New Year, or four days and three nights during the Christmas festive period. The choice is yours. And remember...your offer can be made at any time of the year. If you should like to know more please look at our website: www.host.org, or email us at: info@hostuk.org, or telephone us on: 020 7739 6292.

Learn and Perform a Musical in a Day – **Saturday 14th October** from 11am-6pm at St Luke's Church, Watford, WD17 3EG. If you haven't yet booked your place to take part in "David in a Day", there's still time. More singers, dancers and instrumentalists welcome. Joyful Noise Choir with Watford Schools Trust invite you to a day of workshops, ending with a public charity performance in aid of Watford Schools Trust. Led and conducted by Sarah Moreton.
For registration details and form email: info@watfordschoolstrust.org

Sainsbury Apsley Mills Charity of the Year 2018 - If you shop in or are near to Sainsbury's Apsley Mills we would be grateful if you could please pop in and ask customer services for a form to nominate Playskill to be their Charity of the Year 2018.
This is the store that kindly supports us with our annual December back pack in to raise funds for Playskill.
Many thanks for your consideration of this request
Tanya Jacques - Playskill Administrator

Specialist Worker Position - (Hemel Hempstead – Leverstock Green)
Creative worker with lots of enthusiasm required for the charity Playskill working with pre-school age children with physical difficulties.
term time, 8.30am-3.45pm. This could be for 1 person doing all day or 2 people either AM or PM.
Experience of working with children with Special Needs is essential and applicants need to be fit for pre-school based work.
DBS & references. 8.41 per hour.
Informal visits welcomed 6th or 13th October.
Deadline for applications is Tuesday 17th October midnight. Interview date Monday 30th October pm.
Contact Tanya Jacques for an application form at: tanya@playskill.org or for more information please contact Andrea Clarke on 07572 465 504.

Furnished Bed-Sit to Rent in Chorleywood - Located near shops, 7mins walk from the station and only 10mins from St Andrews. Off street parking by arrangement. £375pcm incl. bills. Tel: 01923 283832

