

## NATIONAL NEWS by Andrew Halloway

# DISABLED MAN ARRESTED FOR PRAYING



A wheelchair-bound pro-life supporter is the first person in modern times to be arrested in the UK for praying in public.

Christian Hacking, from London, had his case dismissed – but only because of errors in police procedure.

Hacking was detained by police for praying outside a London abortion centre where Ealing Council has

**Christian Hacking, who was forcibly removed from outside an abortion clinic by police**

declared an ‘exclusion zone’ or PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) against protesters.

**“I can’t stand up – I’m in a wheelchair”**

According to Faithwire, police ordered Hacking, who was sitting on the grass, to stand up so they could arrest him. He replied: “I can’t stand up, I’m in a wheelchair.”

The disabled man was then carried into a police van near the Marie Stopes clinic. He was imprisoned for eight hours before being released on bail.

Hacking had refused to stop praying, so was detained because the PSPO ban prohibits “prayer or counselling”. He works part-time for pro-life organisation Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform UK.

Hacking pleaded not guilty of failing to comply with the PSPO, but the case fell apart

because the officers failed to caution Hacking before the arrest.

The Christian Legal Centre, which represented the pro-lifer, said: “What does it say about our society when peaceful compassion for life is treated by arrest and imprisonment?”

Hacking featured on the BBC’s ‘Today’ and ‘Sunday’ radio programmes. He quoted Proverbs 24:11, “Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter”, a verse that is followed by the warning that to plead ignorance of the slaughter is no excuse.

The campaigner also said, “I’d challenge how democratic our land is if there are patches where you can’t pray to your God.”

**“I will continue to do what it takes until this silent genocide of innocent children ends”**

Hacking commented: “I care deeply about all the families who attend abortion clinics and will continue to do what it takes, no matter what, until this silent genocide of innocent children ends.”

## Christian group protests over LGBT lessons

A Christian organisation has been set up to oppose the government’s new sex education requirements that will be introduced in English schools in September 2020.

Our Children Our Faith Our Rights (OCOFOR) demonstrated outside Parliament in October over the LGBT aspects of sex and relationships teaching, demanding the right to withdraw children from these lessons.

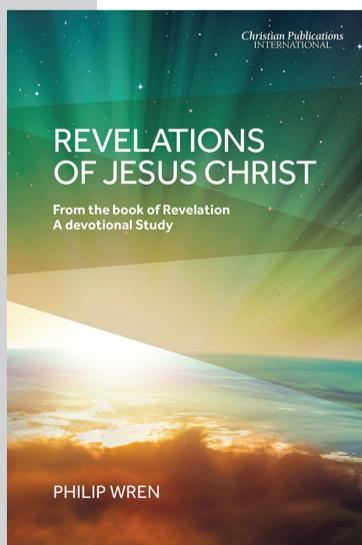
Meanwhile, the Department for Education (DfE) has contradicted the head of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), David Isaac. Isaac had said that parents should not be consulted about LGBT teaching in primary schools, but new DfE guidance states, “Schools must consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy”.

Muslim parents have already been demonstrating outside Birmingham primary schools for the past few months and last issue HEART featured campaigning Christian mother Susan Mason, who has set up the School Gate Campaign to hand out leaflets explaining the perceived harm that could be done to young children by the lessons.

## “Revelation was written for ordinary people, not theologians”

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*Simon Pease*

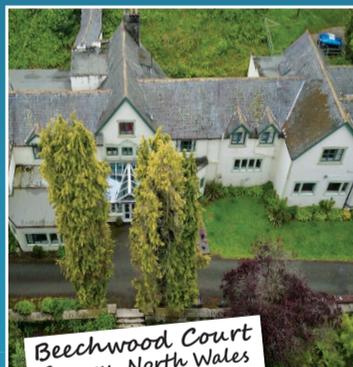
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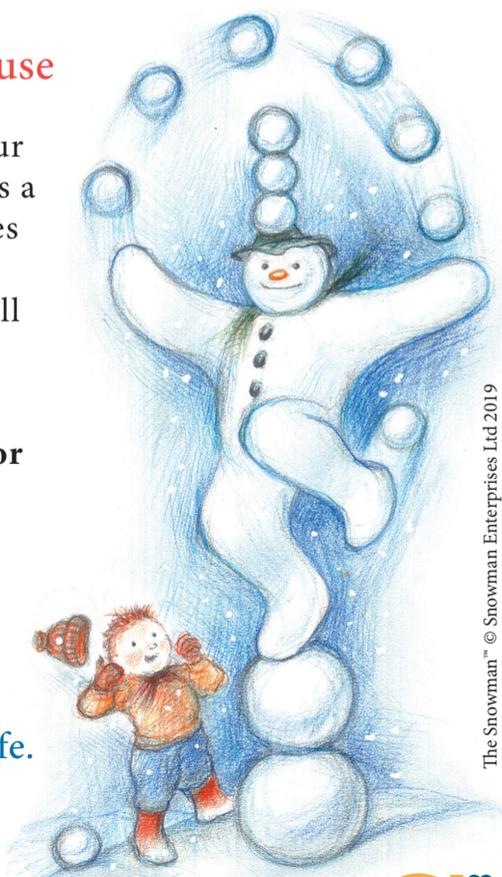
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## Calling all 'out of church' believers in Northants

Are you one of the growing number of committed followers of Jesus Christ who do not attend any local congregation? It is not because you have fallen away from the faith; it is just that your conscience will not allow you to align yourself with an unbiblical way of life.

Jesus gave us one command, "Go and make disciples." Disciples need to fellowship.

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