

THIS MONTH AT WIGMORE E.F.C.



**Treasure Seekers
Church Group
For ages 3-11
SUNDAY 11am**



**Friday Club
For Young People
aged 6-11
FRIDAY 6.00-7.30pm**



**10.16
For Young People
Aged 12 and over
FRIDAY 7.30-9.00pm**



**Coffee Morning
Everyone welcome
THURSDAY 10.30-12.00**

‘Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering’
Hebrews 13:3

release
international
voice of persecuted christians

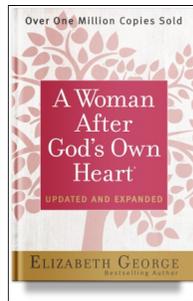
Ever thought that owning Christian books might make you an ‘extremist’?

Christian books can be a huge encouragement to us and we take it for granted that we can buy them freely. But what if they became a reason to persecute us? What if singing ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ made us guilty of treason?

Pastor Bakhrom is behind bars today because secret police found songbooks and Christian literature during a raid on his Church in Tajikistan last month.

Please pray for Pastor Bakhrom as he waits to hear whether Tajik police will press criminal charges related to ‘extremism’.

Recommended Reading

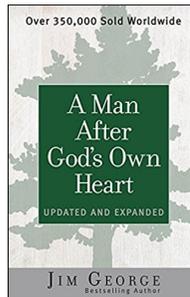


Experience real peace and joy as you follow God in every area of your life—and become a woman after His heart. With warmth and grace, Elizabeth George shares practical, scriptural insights on how you can pursue God's priorities when it comes to... your husband, your children, your home, your walk with the Lord, your ministry.

ISBN: 9780736959629

This powerful companion to the CBA bestseller ‘A Woman After God's Own Heart’ points out that all a man needs to have is a heartfelt desire to grow spiritually. God's grace does the rest and helps bring about real and lasting change in all the key areas of a man's life.

ISBN: 9780736959698



If you wish to make an offering during the Sunday evening service, there is a collecting box at the rear of the Church for this purpose. Thank you.

The average weekly offering for April 2017 was £658 for which we give thanks to God for His provision.

Reminder - ‘Breathe Easy’ (an offshoot of the British Lung Foundation) use the Church hall on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month.

Wigmore
Evangelical Free Church



WELCOME TO WIGMORE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

In Touch

May 2017

Pastor: Timothy Wood

**Durham Road, Rainham, ME8 0JN. 01634 388187
wigmorefreechurch@blueyonder.co.uk
www.wigmorefreechurch.org.uk**



Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

The issue of tolerance bothers many Christians, we are frequently accused of being intolerant, even narrow minded. Toleration in today's society means openness towards more promiscuous ways, abortion on demand and more of an open-minded view of homosexuality.

The Bible has a great deal of things to say about these things and when we express a biblical view, we are seen to be intolerant. It seems like whatever we say we are intolerant.

Groups like homosexuals and pro-abortionists are increasingly becoming the oppressors. It seems that we are not allowed to criticise or disagree with such views without being branded as homophobic. Even organisations such as The Barnabas Fund which seek to highlight the widespread persecution of Christians in Muslim Countries are accused of Islamophobia and racism. Christianity can only be taught in schools in such a way that it's not as important as other beliefs and views, so how are we, as Christians, to be tolerant?

Well, the Bible makes it very clear that while we must be tolerant of one another we must never tolerate sin. This means that we should be clear on the Bible's view of sin. Of course, we have to avoid the ‘holier than thou’ attitude, but there are sins that the Bible still calls sin, and we must not be persuaded otherwise by today's society. Remember Jesus was quite clear on this. To the woman who was caught in adultery he said, “Go and sin no more”.

Secondly, although we acknowledge sin to be sin, we show compassion, love and mercy towards sinners. Again, the example of Christ is our pattern. While Jesus did not excuse the woman caught in adultery, he did show compassion for her situation. That's why he said to the people who wanted to stone her: “If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her”. Then he spoke to her in verse 11: “Go and leave your life of sin”. That needs to be our own model.

We can think of many Christians who work amongst the down and outs and those whose lives have been destroyed by sin. There are Christians who work with alcoholics, drug addicts and homeless people; while not condoning their sin they have tried to reach out with compassion as Christ did to broken sinners. This is not weakness. Perhaps we could be frightened that in trying to reach those who are lost in sin that we will be accused of tolerating sin. But Christ was called a friend of sinners in Luke 7 v34. We must not be frightened of what people might say, instead we must see sinners who are lost and need the gospel. Remember how Jesus reacted when he saw the multitude: “He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” Matthew 9.36

Let us love as Christ loved and yet have holy hatred for the sin that destroys so many lives.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor.

Church Events planned for this year

- Sat 20th May Paintballing**
(for the young at heart)
- Sun 4th June Fellowship Lunch**
(bring friends to Church)
- Sun 18th June Barbecue Lunch**
(After the morning service)
- Sat 1st July Community Day**
(Hog Roast and much more)
- Sat 9th Sept Day at the Beach**
(A family fun day out)
- Fri 13/Sat 14 Oct Creation Event**
(Creation versus Evolution)
- Nov (TBA) Ten Pin Bowling**
(Family fun, buffet and talk)
- Tue 12th Dec Band Concert**
(Carols with Canterbury Brass Band)

*Please see Thomas for more info
on these events*

Advance Information

Fellowship Day Sunday 4th June

The morning service will be held as usual followed by lunch in the hall. The PM service will be brought forward to 2.30pm.

Fathers' Day service and Barbecue Sunday 18th June

There will be a barbecue lunch in the Church garden after the morning service. This is an evangelistic event so please consider who you will invite.

**Do you have some spare time
on a Thursday morning?**



Coffee Morning

Why not come along (and bring some friends) to the Church hall between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon for some good fellowship and chat plus a short Christian based talk. You will be very welcome.

Saturday 20th May



For those who are young at heart (and who don't mind a bruise or two!), Thomas and Caleb are arranging a paintballing day on 20th May.

If you are brave enough to participate, please see T or C for the full details.

Church Treasurer

Andrew Barrett is our new Church Treasurer and financial matters should be addressed to him from now on.

Please also remember Andrew in your prayers as he carries out his duties on behalf of the Church.

Our Community Day will soon be upon us. If you would like to help with the significant cost of this event, there are envelopes available at the back of the Church for this purpose. Thank you.

Our annual Gift Day, which will be for urgent work on the Manse, will be on Sunday 11th June.

SERVICE INFORMATION FOR THIS PERIOD

Sunday 7th May

11.00 am Pastor Timothy Wood
6.30 pm Pastor Timothy Wood

Revelation 21:5-8
To be announced

Sunday 14th May

11.00 am Pastor Timothy Wood
6.30 pm Pastor Timothy Wood

Revelation 21:9-21
To be announced

Sunday 21st May

11.00 am Pastor Timothy Wood
6.30 pm Pastor Timothy Wood

Revelation 21:22-27
To be announced

Sunday 28th May

11.00 am Pastor Timothy Wood
6.30 pm Pastor Timothy Wood

Revelation 22:1-3
To be announced

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm
Please make every effort to attend this important meeting

Wisdom from the Past

It is rare for a period of prayer to be given over to thanking God for His eternal plan of redemption. But how fitting it is!

Matthew Henry on praise in 'A Way to Pray'.

Whosoever offers praise glorifies Me.

Psalms 50 v 23.

The most holy service that we can render to Him is to be employed in praising his Name.

John Calvin on Isaiah p 204

Special Offering Envelopes...

... are available at the back of the Church for contributions towards the Community Day and Evangelism.

For your Prayers

Please remember to pray for those who are suffering ill health at the moment.

Geoff and Christine are both unwell. Geoff is continuing to preach despite a bad chest infection and Christine has a problem with her jaw. Your prayers for them would be welcome as well as your ongoing prayers for **Rachel and Cerys** for their health problems.

Please continue to pray for **Rowland, Ray & June, Mary Butcher and Jean Parker.**

Let's not forget to thank God for the many blessings we receive as a Church and in our daily lives.