



**Northall Baptist Church – 200 years and still going.**  
*A little Church with strong local links.*

**Derrick Bonfield 1924 – 2021: Was he the oldest man/oldest person in Northall?**

I wrote in the November 2018 about Derrick who was a long term resident of Northall, along with his wife Dil who died in 2004. Dil had attended Northall Baptist Church for many years and during this time continued to encourage Derrick who was always helpful in giving her a lift to Church and their three children to Sunday School. Although it took some time for him to fully commit himself, Dil was delighted to see the rewards of her gentle encouragement when Derrick started actually attending with her and was later baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2000 at age 75. Dil was assured that they would meet again their Heavenly home.



**Derrick reading in Northall church**

From then, Derrick has faithfully attended the services at Northall Baptist Church and was really keen to return to our in-Church services as soon as possible after Lockdown. However, Derrick had mastered joining our Zoom services on the telephone in the intervening 18 months, managing to unmute himself to read the scripture occasionally. The chat before and after the Zoom services helped us all to remain united as a church family. Derrick had a beautiful reading and singing voice which rang out with all the familiar hymns. We will really miss him. Derrick was taken to be with the Lord on 22<sup>nd</sup> December after a couple of weeks in the L&D. He was aged 97 and was last in Church a couple of days after his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Derrick loved going to Northall Baptist Church. He came on his electric mobility scooter and took some secateurs in his basket to clip the thorns from the hedge that often impeded his way along the main road. And solid tyres had also to be fitted to combat the frequent flat tyres caused by these thorns. Nothing deterred him. Rain or shine

His favourite passage in the Bible was Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I will not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,  
He restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Of this Derrick was confident. This passage was read at his Funeral Service on 17th January 2022 in St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, borrowed for the occasion for its size and convenience for parking.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we are also able to stream our services.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

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