



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

Freedom

What is freedom? Are we free?

Freedom, generally, is having the ability to act or change without constraint. Something is "free" if it can change easily and is not constrained in its present state. This is what Wikipedia says about freedom.

Do we have the liberty to change things without constraint? Well that's debatable. We like to think that we have freedom of speech, religion, freedom of the press, freedom to go more or less where we want. We often find that that our freedoms impinge, though, on the freedoms of others.

We have just been through 18 - 19 months so far of the pandemic Covid-19. Most of us have found that we weren't as free as we wanted to be. We couldn't see family and friends or go to some shops. Sport venues were closed or operated without audiences. We had to stick to the newly made laws. And we didn't like it. We wanted to be free to live our 'normal' lives.

Today our TV screens are full of refugees and migrants who want to be free. They are escaping Afghanistan and other countries, taking great risks with their lives, for freedom. Freedom is what they hope for.

In 1989 the desire for freedom led to the Berlin wall coming down and the subsequent unification of East and West Germany. The oppression of communist control was fought against. They wanted freedom and after 44 years achieved an amazing victory which changed their lives.

The Bible has a great deal to say about freedom. We are created with free choice. We can choose to do the right thing or the wrong thing. We can choose to trust in Jesus. Does that make life easy? No, it brings challenges along the way. Jesus himself told us how to have freedom. He said in John 8 v 36: 'So if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you are truly free'. Truly free is a state of our hearts and minds. The prophet Isaiah wrote that He (Jesus) was sent to proclaim freedom. His death sets us free if you believe and accept him. There has been continuing attempts to eradicate this freedom but it's still going strong, still growing.



Freedom also has responsibilities. As we found during the various lockdowns, we had a responsibility to follow the rules and guidance for our own protection. Jesus makes us free but we also have a responsibility to choose the right thing to do. So we must live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil.

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 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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