

ALASTAIR ALLCOCK

9th January 1934 – 6th January 2021



I first came across Alastair because of his leadership of men's outreach work. He had a wonderful heart for evangelism especially amongst men, recognising that in modern Britain working men often seem the most resistant to the call to follow Jesus and often the hardest people to engage because of their busy-ness. For many years he was the Fairfield coordinator for Christian Viewpoint (then Vision) for Men and my first meetings with him were pub breakfasts and other events he had organised.

Alastair was great at welcoming people in the Fairfield foyer with his lovely clear voice and his gentlemanly and imposing presence, many peoples' first experience of Fairfield was Alastair. As Siobhan Frost wrote to me '*He was such a gentleman and I will miss seeing dressed in his smart clothes (he never looked messy he was always dressed graciously)*'. Alastair was so welcoming and so interested in people and he was also a strong and faithful follower of the Lord Jesus who has had a great impact and influence upon the life of Fairfield Church.

Alastair came into Church membership in 1962 and apart from several years when he was away studying and his time in the British Embassy in Washington in the 1980s, he has been a member and attender of Windsor Hall/Northwood Hills Evangelical Church/Fairfield Church ever since. He became an Elder in 1975 and continued as a leader of the Church (apart from when in the USA) until about seven years ago. He became a Trustee in the 1980s, only stepping down recently. He was a regular teacher and preacher until about eight years ago and he has led a Fairfield House Group for decades - until just before Christmas last year!

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Alastair is an example of someone rightly described and honoured as a 'pillar' of our Church having had such a great influence and role for so many years.

Alastair also modelled to us all the dedication and discipline of someone who had committed themselves to follow Jesus and to serve His people. Until health issues very recently, he was always at every Sunday service, every monthly prayer meeting and the evening breaking of bread service.

When he prayed, he prayed with faith, with intelligence and with sensitivity. Anca Ostas (who got married to Kevin from New York at Fairfield) said 'I will never forget how Alastair prayed for me before I left England and how Rosemary and Alastair opened their house to me and Kevin. It really feels like they respond when God is sending them to love others.'

Alastair Allcock was gifted by God to bless Fairfield Church with his leadership, his teaching, his heart for evangelism and his faithful service for more than 50 years!

Chris & Lucy Reveley

Our family have many fond memories of Alastair Allcock from the time we joined the church. For a while we were in the same homegroup before the Allcocks left for service in Washington DC. I even attended a football match with him when invited at the last minute. It was a 0-0 draw but gave me a good chance to chat with Alastair.

Whenever we returned to Fairfield from overseas, Alastair often asked about the family and expressed interest in whatever our current responsibilities were. We were glad that Alastair was one of the Elders at our sending church helping to lead the church with Biblical conviction. We were particularly struck by Alastair's example and emphasis on the sovereignty of God when Andrew died in 1999.

When we returned here in 2008, Alastair was always appreciative of the roles that we were playing in the church and was very encouraging about the ministry of the Word. We also enjoyed a few visits for tea and topical discussions.

The passing of Alastair has reminded us of the tremendous influence of the Brethren in the mid part of the last century. Alastair demonstrated how the Biblical foundations that come from consistent teaching and personal Bible reading formed a Godly character and a man of integrity who did what all believers are called to do – persevere until the end.

Chris and Susanne Wigram

Alastair and Rosemary were two of the first people we met when we arrived at Fairfield 22 years ago, no surprises there! I remember distinctly a conversation very early on when Alastair said he wanted to introduce us to 'two people in your street you are going to get along with very well' (Lee and Martin). He was right, as he was about a lot of things!

Alastair was a friend who I enjoyed many lovely chats with over the years, about all sorts of things. He was gracious and kind, resilient and steadfast and he had a lovely way of telling anecdotes and snippets of news.

It was through Alastair that I learned all about the history of Fairfield and the house it was named after. Despite a career across continents and many achievements he was humble and self-effacing and was generous with his interest and time.

I enjoyed some special pub lunches with Alastair during the past few years and have missed seeing him during these covid days. He is much loved by all of our family.

Rachie Ross

Alastair was a real gentleman. He treated everyone with great respect. He showed interest in our family, invariably wanting to hear the latest family news. His sensitive enquiries showed empathy and real care.

His preaching revealed a deep knowledge of the scriptures. Alastair was always eager to welcome new folk to the Church. His long service as an elder was greatly appreciated. He was instrumental in many developments in the life of the Church which have proved a great blessing to us all. We have always admired Alastair and his deep faith over many years through good and difficult times was a great example to us all.

Richard and Anne Carter

When trying to sum up the role Alastair played over many years at Fairfield, the two words 'Elder Statesman' come to mind.

He was a man of deep faith and high integrity, who served in the leadership of the Church with great wisdom and dignity. There was a calmness and stability about him which gave authority to whatever he said, and his opinions were always worth paying close attention to. His life was a testimony to his faith, and a great example to us all. Without a doubt, Fairfield has lost one of its most esteemed members, but he is assured of an honoured place in the Kingdom of his beloved Lord.

He is already greatly missed from our fellowship.

Derek Peters

The list of memories seems to be endless as I look back and reflect on the 60 years since our two families met, when they first came to Northwood.

Now I thank God for Alastair's life of service, leadership and wise council that touched every aspect of the life at NHEC. I have been privileged to know him, and to enjoy fellowship with him and Rosemary, through so many years.

As a fellow elder and trustee I was so grateful to know Alastair's wisdom, and to see his incredible skill at forging the right way forward, as well as his ability to draft Trust Deeds, Constitutions and other legal documents.

His preaching was always so much appreciated, as was his pastoral care, with Rosemary, of so many, in their Housegroup as well as in the wider fellowship at Fairfield.

But I have also valued so much his prayerful concern for us all as a family. Now our prayers are for Rosemary, Philip and Rebekah in their great loss. Alastair will be so greatly missed by them, but also by us, and I find it hard to imagine life at Fairfield without him there with us. His strong faith and dedicated witness will remain as an example to us all.

Jeffery Wilson

Alastair was there to welcome and encourage us from the moment we were introduced to Windsor Hall! He and Rosemary were friends and mentors from the start and we so much appreciated Alastair's sincere and wise counsel, his support and his humour. We went on to share so much in times of challenging and major changes in the church's life, in parenting experiences, in hospitality and relaxation, but also in family tragedy. We praise the Lord for all Alastair did to build up the life of Fairfield, for his being a rock when things were testing, and for the many years of faithful service & ministry.

Roger and Frances Pearce

When we think of Alistair we remember a godly gentleman who always stopped to have a chat. He always encouraged us and had a kind word of wisdom to push us forward in our walk with God. We praise God for His life, knowing that He impacted many people by His dignified love for God and his gentle humour. He was a true blessing who we remember with much affection. Remembering Rosemary, Rebekah, and Philip at this time.
Much love

Gill and Mark Newham

I have so many memories of the Allcock family going way back to the days of Frank Allcock his father and their home in Davenham Avenue in the 1960's. Alastair and I would often have chats about aircraft and compare notes on different planes and he shared with me some great stories.

God had given Alastair many gifts which he so freely shared. His time on the Eldership at NHEC was such a huge blessing. His knowledge of the Bible and devotion to prayer were always his go to place for guidance and teaching. I well remember his ring binder file which would come to the lectern on a Sunday morning with his teaching, knowing full well that a lot of time had been given in research and preparation.

12 St Lawrence Drive was the house where Erika first hit the shores of England from Switzerland as au-pair to the Lewis family but I know well that the Allcock home has been the source of untold hospitality, love, compassion – where do I stop?

I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent organising the church House-parties, sitting round the dining room table and planning. It was not a burden, but fun doing this together. The Lord blessed this abundantly. ...(contd on next page)

I must now turn to the men's work and share my true appreciation for all that Alastair did in this ministry. His work with CVM (the Christian Viewpoint for Men) and the endless times he chased along different men so they could hear the gospel. Having asked me to continue this part of that ministry he was always there to encourage, pray and one of the first to buy or book a ticket to each event.

For a few years now Alastair health has not been so good, and he succumbed to a red chair at Fairfield (my time will come). Once a month in the days I used to put the chairs out on a Saturday for the Sunday service I would pray over that chair and certain others knowing the name of who would sit there and ask God to bless them. *He did!*

To a man who was always sharply dressed, had a firm but sincere handshake, BUT more so, accompanied with a delightful smile. I know the Lord will welcome him home with a sincere....

'Well done, my good and faithful servant!'

Philip Watson

I got to know Alastair since I started going to Fairfield in 1994. I cannot outline here all the practical ways in which Alastair and Rosemary have shown their love for my family and I. One of our abiding memories of Alastair will be his dedication of our twins, Ezra and Charis. My children, Jo and myself remember him with fondness and are deeply saddened by his death. We pray for comfort and strength for Rosemary, Rebekah, and Philip and his family.

For me, as an Ethiopian, Alastair embodied all that I would expect from a British gentleman. But the memory that will live with me is his ministry of encouragement to me. Alastair – often with very few words – encouraged me to grow, to be strong, to persevere, to remain faithful.

I knew Alastair was genuinely interested in me as a person. He would speak to me on Sundays after the service. He would ask me about my studies, my family and my country. His interest and ministry of encouragement continued even after I returned to Ethiopia. He kindly accepted my request for him to serve as a trustee of the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology... (contd on next page).

From very early on, Alastair and Rosemary would invite me to their house for Sunday lunches. After lunches, I would offer to wash the dishes, but I was a slow dish-washer. Alastair would persevere with me in the kitchen answering my questions (even if they were sometimes culturally insensitive) and listening to my stories. Sunday lunches enabled me to be close to the whole family.

Alastair and his family set an example for me through the ways in which they handled the tragic loss of their son and brother. A few years later, I myself lost my younger sister. He was one of the first people to arrive at my flat. And this was the passage he read:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Co 1:3-4 ESV).

I am sure these same words of Paul have resonance for his grieving family. May our Lord comfort each of you!

Desta & Family

Alastair's deep-rooted faith and wisdom in our Saviour Jesus Christ laid the foundation for the wonderful relationship we were privileged to have with Alastair, both as a dear friend to the Petrovic family and mentor to David. We will never forget the key role he played in David's journey to accepting Jesus as our Saviour.

We rejoice in knowing that Alastair is with our Lord and we hold close to us the fond memories of such a faithful, caring, loving and compassionate man. Alastair will be deeply missed by us all.

David, Emma, Luke, Jacob & Samuel Petrovic



Alastair always seemed to me to be a true gentleman. He was "old school" and reminded me very much of my father - he always dressed impeccably and was seldom seen without a tie!

He always showed an interest in me and my family. Together with Rosemary, he was part of the fabric of the church.

Alastair was someone to emulate, and I will always remember him as a charming, Godly and rooted man. He will be greatly missed.

Wendy Holdsworth

I agree with Wendy, Alastair was a true gentleman – he was very debonair and I could not imagine him being anything other than well dressed. He was of the generation that dressed smartly every day, even for a walk to the shops. His daily walk to the shops always passed our house and if either David or I bumped into him he always would stop for a chat.

I was in a house group for a while (at the Wigrams) many years ago and he spoke with great clarity when explaining any biblical passages. He was a devout Christian who I respected and greatly admired. He always had time for a chat and every Sunday would ask after my family. I will miss seeing him in Eastcote and my thoughts and prayers go out to Rosemary and the family.

Debbie Crossan

Alistair has been a dear friend for almost 50 years.

As our family grew up in Northwood, we appreciated how much Alastair stayed informed and interested about each of our children. We are so grateful for his ongoing prayerful concern as they moved into adulthood and married life.

We valued Alastair's eldership within the church as he led us through significant changes. The progression of the church from its Brethren origins to its current shape is founded on the changes he, along with his fellow elders, instituted in the 1980's.

Later, working alongside Alastair on the eldership team, his wisdom, patience, calmness and comprehensive knowledge of the Word were key in his contribution to every decision. He was a man who would prepare discussion papers when the spiritual direction of the church was being considered; we could rely on him to provide a balanced view using as his basis the various relevant Bible passages. Observing his approach was a lesson in how to be a godly man whilst keeping earthly feet on the ground.

As well as guiding the sheep along the path, he also cared for them and encouraged prayer and intercession as the priority for all who had leadership responsibilities. Alastair and Rosemary were an example to us of Christian marriage, parenting and hospitality. Together, their faith and trust in the Lord were a demonstration to us of what it meant to be followers of Jesus and to have our hope in Him, and especially so when going through the darkest of hours... (continued on next page)

Alistair's feet were also sometimes in the air...and Alec enjoyed conversations with him at different times about current developments in aeronautical and computer technologies. His expertise and diplomacy were no doubt the reason why HM Government decided he would be one of our men in Washington...

A confident, counsellor and fellow-worker for Christ – an example to us all. Fairfield has lost a statesman, and we have lost a dear friend...but it will be for only a short time.

Alec & Ikey Absalom

Alastair has always been a part of Fairfield for us, he and Rosemary made us feel so welcome from the first time we attended all those years ago. He was a great man of God and a shining example to all in his walk with the Lord. He was always interested in all our family and always wanted to know how everyone near and far was getting on. He served the church for many years as an elder and used his godliness and wisdom to do so.

He will be greatly missed by everyone and our love goes out to Rosemary and all the family.

Love Olive and Ruth Newham

Alastair became a Trustee in the 1980's and his diligence and wisdom were immediately apparent. He joined the team at a time of great expansion in the church when we were blessed with new responsibilities for several properties including construction of the new building in 1992.

Alastair's skill at keeping a clear focus was hugely appreciated after the Government passed new legislation on charity governance and trustee accountability in the early 2000's. He played a leading role in drafting Fairfield's Constitution and the Trust Deed which were required by the Charity Commission. These remain the basis upon which the church acts within the law.

Alastair was adept at providing accurate summaries of complex issues and wrote the official minutes of Trustee meetings highlighting actions and decisions.

His concern for others and, above all, for God's glory have been so appreciated, and, as a church fellowship we are deeply indebted for his life of service and selfless giving throughout his time as a Trustee.

On behalf of the Trustees



Alastair & Rosemary