

## Ivy Emery's 100th Birthday Party

*By Jane Bennett, Northolt*

Ivy has been a member of Northolt Church for many, many years and has held various roles at church. She was persuaded to come to church by a friend and later she committed her life to Christ. On 10th January, Ivy celebrated her 100th Birthday at Sweetcroft Care Home in Uxbridge where she is now a resident. She had two celebrations – first a special lunch with all the residents, and then Northolt Church and her closest friends were invited to celebrate with her.

Some of our congregation and Ivy's friends attended for an afternoon of happiness, laughter and tributes. The staff at 'Sweetcroft' had kept our visit a secret from Ivy, so after we had all assembled they brought her to us, while we sang, 'For she's a jolly good fellow'. Ivy was of course very surprised and touched by the welcome she received. She chatted to her guests whilst some drank champagne and we tucked into the food provided by the staff.

Ivy received gifts and 49 cards, but her special gift was her 100th Birthday Card from the King Charles and Queen Camilla! Two of the staff dressed up as crusaders bringing the card to Ivy! Ivy was overwhelmed and we could tell how precious this was to Ivy to receive this. Ivy was born in the same year as the late Queen Elizabeth II. We had a special cake brought in by Ivy's friends and sang Happy Birthday.

We were all honoured to be with Ivy who means so much to us at Northolt Church. Ivy is still walking around with her walker and her brain is as sharp as ever! We know that she prays for us all regularly by name and she still has the most positive, encouraging outlook on life. Her Christian faith is evident in all she says and does and she is a source of inspiration to us all.



May God continue to bless Ivy and may she know God holding her close.

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*For those of you who use Facebook there are plenty of videos and photos of Ivy's celebrations - just search for 'Sweetcroft Residential Care Home'. The posts are dated 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January.*