

# His sermons were always thoughtful and challenging

DERRICK Chamberlain was born in 1941 in St Helen Auckland, County Durham. His father was away at war and didn't return from the conflict until 1948. A bright lad at school, Derrick particularly shone at his favourite subject, maths. He also excelled in sport, twice being tennis county champion for County Durham. He loved playing and watching tennis all his life.

While studying maths at Manchester University, he gave his life to Christ and he often said it was the greatest decision in his life. Ever after he was a man of great faith and integrity.

In 1964 he started working at ICI Dyestuffs Division (now Astra-Zeneca), a science facility located in Blackley, north Manchester. Taking early retirement in 1992 he began lecturing at BNFL, Sellafield, on a part-time basis.

## Leader

From university he had moved to Rochdale and become a Sunday school teacher and youth club leader at Spotland church. It was an open youth club with very large numbers but there was always an epilogue, even if the young people played up and didn't want to hear. He championed a project for a Christian coffee bar called "Kerygma" in the church cellar with the young people doing all the building, painting and electrical work. At the circuit monthly teenage get together Derrick was the life and soul of the event, his fun and deep faith infectious.

At ICI he met Carol. They

## Obituary: Derrick Chamberlain



Derrick Chamberlain: he was a man of "great faith and integrity".

married in 1974 at Southbank Road church in Southport, bought a house there and ministered together with a united Christian commitment central in all they did. Carol and Derrick were blessed with two wonderful children, David and Helen. As a dad he was not the most domesticated - once, doing the ironing he managed to melt Helen's shorts to the iron! He was a dad of great fun and

creativity. He made birthday parties exciting and hilarious with his own games and magic tricks.

Derrick became a local preacher in 1976 and, when taking his children youth hosting, their soft toys came to life in his imagination.

Carol and Derrick opened their home to young people. Derrick as youth club and youth fellowship leader was always approachable. He was

excellent in imaginative talks and discussions. From this group, and the groups in Rochdale, came seven local preachers, four of whom are now Methodist ministers and two now Anglican vicars. Derrick was a great preacher himself and his sermons were always thoughtful, well-prepared and challenging. For 24 years he was local preachers' secretary.

## Distinction

During the years this humble, patient and servant-hearted man served Methodism in many ways. He was a keen JMA circuit secretary, served with distinction as voluntary lay worker in the circuit at St Mark's and then Russell Road churches and for a number of years was MHA lay chaplain at Connell Court. Because of his genius for maths he was treasurer for Summer Fire (Southport Methodist Holiness Convention) and the local Bible Society action group. He took fortnightly assemblies at Bishop David Sheppard primary school in the High Park area of Southport.

In many different ways he was dependable, kind and faithful, both in his work for the Lord in the circuit and in the wider world. He was generous with his many gifts, helping youngsters with maths on a voluntary basis. He was a supporter of persecuted Christians and there are people with Bibles now in China, the Middle East and Southern Africa because of his support.

After a short spell in hospital Derrick died, aged 79. - Steve Wild