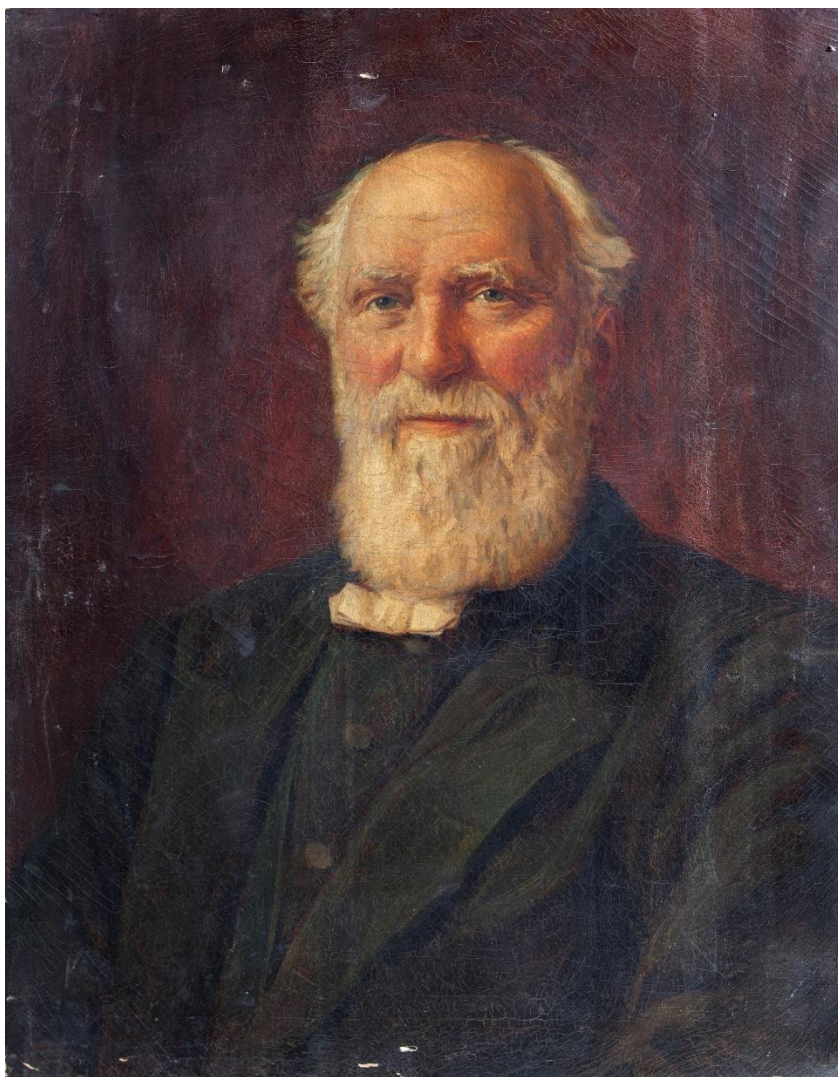# Portrait of the Month: October
Revd. David Fotheringham (1830-1918)

by John Peddie (c.1857-1925)

First minister to serve one church for 40 years - first Nonconformist minister to be a Justice of the Peace – and first student of the English Presbyterian College to be Moderator of Synod of the Church.

Revd. David Fotheringham, by John Peddie
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This portrait of David Fotheringham was commissioned to mark his fortieth anniversary as minister to the church at Tottenham: the longest time a London Presbyterian minister had ever served the same congregation. The painting was presented to the Presbyterian Historical Society by subscribers, and is now at Westminster College, Cambridge.

Born in 1830 in Forfarshire, David Fotheringham at first began work in the teaching profession; but began to study for ministry at the University of Edinburgh in 1849. When his tutor, Dr Thomas M'Crie, moved to London to take up a Professorship at the English Presbyterian College (which later became Westminster College), Fotheringham came with him, and studied for ministry at the English Presbyterian College. On the granting of his licence in 1859 he was called to Glanton in Northumberland, where he stayed until 1864; following the death of his wife Sybella in 1864, he accepted a call to Tottenham in London, and remained there until 1906.

He married again, to Jane Ross, in 1869; and became a Chairman of the Edmonton Board of Guardians, and a Member of the School Board, and in 1895 a Justice of the Peace – the first non-conformist minister on whom this distinction was conferred. He was elected Moderator of the Synod for the Presbyterian Church of England in 1902, and was the first student of the English Presbyterian College to be called to do so. He retired in 1906.

Portrait by John Peddie (c.1857-1925), in 1917
To see more of our paintings, visit the College page at [Art UK](#).

Helen Weller, Archivist
2021

Bibliography and Further Reading:
"Notes on Some Recent Acquisitions", *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*, May 1917, p112
"Obituary of David Fotheringham", by J Hay Colligan in *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*, May 1919, p203
With thanks to Diana Paulding for additional research.