

24 January

## Fr LEO McQUILLAN

23 April 1889 – 24 January 1967



Leo McQuillan's obituary passes over his time at St George's (1927-34) without a word and is scarcely more informative about his time at St Aidan's (1934-48).

He was born in Gainsborough, Nottingham, and educated at the nearby Jesuit boarding school, Mount St Mary's. He joined the Society in 1908.

Besides being a teacher he produced plays and ran the choir. Hardly able to swim himself, he was an excellent swimming coach. (See photo of him with the water polo team).

He was quick to defend any boy who he felt was being unfairly treated.

He returned to the UK in 1948, aged 60, and started a new life as a pastor in Edinburgh. Despite his bronchitis and rheumatism, he was 'up and down the stairs of every close and wynd in his district' and knew everyone. Many came to his confessional and his choir practices, while producing results, were also social events where people mixed and learnt a great deal about their faith.

'The style of his sermons revealed the man. Emphatic, almost aggressively dogmatic about what he held, yet coming from a heart like marshmallow' (James Christie).