

9 February

Fr EDWARD BUCKLAND 2 March 1864 – 9 February 1935



Born in King William's Town, Edward Buckland, Stephen Buckland's great uncle, was at St Aidan's the day eleven Jesuits and the wagons of the Zambezi Mission set out in April 1879. He was a renowned cricketer, 'the best left-hand bowler in South Africa'. After qualifying as a lawyer he practiced in Kimberley.

In 1888, he left for England to join the Zambezi Mission (not the English province!) This meant doing his novitiate in Slough with the exiled French and philosophy on the isle of Jersey. He only joined the English province when it took over the mission in 1893.

In 1900 he was teaching at St Aidan's but four years later he was at Mount St Mary's in the UK. The next year he moved to Stonyhurst as minister and while there he helped Charles Plater, with legal advice, to set up a retreat house at Oakwood Hall, the former 'luxurious repose of a Cotton Prince'.

In 1920, he was back in South Africa because of ill health and in 1927 he became superior of Dunbrody. He made strenuous efforts to build it up. He was surely aware the Mariannhills had abandoned it as hopeless but he tried to develop the citrus plantation, with an irrigation scheme. But there were floods and droughts and a costly lawsuit. They were sued for not paying irrigation rates and eventually had to pay out £2,000 – a huge sum in those days. Buckland was dismayed at the outcome. He had strongly urged paying at the beginning – a much smaller amount - and then suing the government for damages and demanding re-imbusement. But he was not listened to.

In 1933, he left South Africa for health reasons and died two years later in Clitheroe, NW England.