

4 March

Fr WILLIAM SANDIFORD 11 December 1879 – 4 March 1970



Born in Barton, near Manchester, William Sandiford joined the novitiate in 1901 and became an army chaplain during the Great War. He was invalided out twice.

The record tells us he was at St Aidan's from 1920 till his return to England in 1927, but it says nothing more about his time in Africa.

He had various tasks in the home country but the one that received much attention in his obituary was his years as part of the Mission Band. He had a talent for acting and his preaching and instructions were laced with light moments when he would mimic, for instance, a housewife ironing and gossiping at the same time. His actual sermons and instructions were 'logical and cogent' and his attractive delivery, with comic interludes, drew the crowds. In those days – the 1930s – huge crowds would queue up for confession.