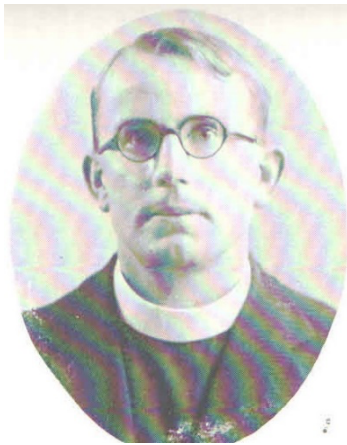


27 May

Fr WILLIAM BUTLER 25 June 1911 – 27 May 1982



Born in Norbury, London, Bill Butler studied at Westminster City School where he shone in Mathematics. He entered the Society in 1929 and enjoyed the questions posed by philosophy. He went on to do a four-year course in pure mathematics winning a prize for a paper on 'Twisted Cubic Curves'. He taught at Beaumont and in Sunderland and was ordained in 1942.

In 1949 he came to St George's where he 'candidly admitted he was useless with weak students as he could not see their difficulties.' He helped with games, especially cricket, though he was no good as a player. He became a chess expert introducing it to the boys and was passionate about scouting. Though hopeless at as a singer at camp fires, he could amuse the scouts by his ability to tie knots with his toes. An old boy later spoke of 'the inspiration Bill gave by his maths teaching to many engineers, actuaries, scientists and teachers, etc.' He also taught religion and was involved in the Chismatic Movement.

In 1960 he was invited to teach at the University of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (UZ today) and became the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Senior lecturer in 1970, though he urged the authorities to choose a slightly junior lecturer who had a young family he was trying to educate.

By 1974 the altitude was affecting his heart and he went to Cape Town where he did some more teaching before returning to England where he died at Westcliff-on-Sea.