

June 13

## Fr THOMAS COCKETT

18 October 1902 – 13 June 1983

Born in Rishton, Lancashire, England, Tommy Cockett started life working in the cotton industry for four years before going to Osterley to prepare for entering the Society in 1921. He did regency in Malta, was ordained in 1933 and two years later he was at St George's College, Salisbury.

He is described as 'plodding but strict' as a teacher and his great interest was swimming though he could hardly swim himself. He learnt about the sport from observation, conversation and books. He earned a reputation as a coach and his team won many trophies competing against other schools. The picture shows him with the 1943 team.



He was also a gardener and lay the foundations for the display that always greets the visitor to St George's.

After 34 years at the college he moved to Mount Pleasant to be the first Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Way. He lived at Prestage House

to begin with, until the priest's house was built, and had all his meals there, even breakfast. The legend is that he would drive up and down from the house to the church never moving beyond third gear. David Dryden was his assistant for a while and remembers he had bundles of sermons, some in short hand, which he wrote over the years and which he would repeat each year. The trouble was that he would muddle up the Sundays sometimes but perhaps the parishioners, who learned to have great affection for him as a person, never noticed. He kept going for 23 years and retired to St George's in 1982 when his health began to fail. He died in the following year.