

9 August

## Fr DAVID BRAND

24 July 1877 – 9 August 1950



David Brand entered the Society in 1897 and was ordained in 1910. Basically he spent his whole life in two places: Bulawayo and Gweru. From 1912 to 1930 he was at St George's while it was in Bulawayo and briefly after it moved to Salisbury. He also worked in the parish in Bulawayo. The second half of his life was in Gwelo (Gweru).

Archbishop Chichester wrote the obituary of David Brand. David was a Scotsman, born in Glasgow, and was slow to change his opinion and slow to part with a penny if a halfpenny would do. He contracted asthma early on and would spend the night coughing if he did not get up and sit in a chair with his legs up. This is how he got his sleep for years.

But he did not allow his health to interfere with his work in the school or prevent him going camping with the students – and those of other schools – in the Matopos. He took a keen interest in games and athletics and, while no one accused him of fabricating the outstanding records, it was noticed that he did not have a stop watch.

In 1917 influenza reached the school and he devoted himself to the students and staff and nearly died himself if it were not for the Dominican sisters who helped him and so many others. In caring for the sick, everyone helped and 'colour prejudice disappeared like dew before the morning sun.' The boys remembered him long after he left the school and always called on him for their events.

When he moved to Gweru, he developed the parish and during the war there were a number of RAF camps in the vicinity and he would visit them and care for the sick and the new-borns, many of whom were christened 'David'.