

28 August

Fr ALFRED CONNELL

22 May 1906 – 28 August 1951



He smiles down at you as you pass by the headmaster's office at St George's a young good looking-man, but Alfred Connell died of cancer aged 45 two years after being appointed rector. Born in Johannesburg he was educated at St Aidan's where he was consistently first in class and excelled in cricket. He worked briefly in a bank before entering the Society in 1924.

He did a degree in Afrikaans at Rhodes University and taught at his old college for regency. He was ordained in 1939. In 1942 he went to St George's where he soon became minister and had the difficult task of feeding the boys during war time when food was short but appetites were long, as always with teenagers. He worked without fuss, growing potatoes and starting poultry to provide the boys with eggs. He was also coaching cricket – and repairing watches in his spare time.

On becoming rector he set about starting a preparatory school but cancer intervened. He was an attractive character and kept his 'even keel' even when dying.

Fr Condell, who knew him at St Aidan's, said 'he was universally loved. The last time I saw him he was struggling for breath and his gentle patience and cheerful resignation were very beautiful. I only hope, when my turn comes, I will do half as well.