

12 September

Fr EDMUND TURNER

7 May 1896 – 12 September 1960



Edmund Turner came from Claughton-on-Brock, near Preston, NW England. He was the seventh of twelve children, seven of whom became religious. He lost an eye, aged twelve, when playing with other children with catapults. He entered the Society in 1915 and was ordained in 1928. From 1930 to 1960 he was at St Aidan's and during those thirty years he went home just once. He was first prefect, led the choir and

coached hockey, acquiring the nick name of 'the worm' in reference to his ability to 'worm' his way through the opposition when he was playing.

He was meticulous with himself and with the boys 'without great imagination or flexibility'. He insisted on high standards and was strict in pursuing them though he would turn a blind eye to infringements from students who he felt were under the weather, a judgement of his contemporaries that seems to contradict their saying that he was 'without flexibility'. 'His strictness certainly left no deep scars (mentally) on the boys'. The word in brackets says something. But old boys used to ask after him with affection.

His choir was often broadcast and he was well known in Grahamstown circles. He was also a weather prophet in that he would give a forecast and people learnt that the opposite was likely to happen.

He developed cancer of the kidney and when he was dying, he hoped his sister, a Good Shepherd sister in Cape Town, would be given permission to visit him before he died. She wasn't.