

Dominic Arthur French (W76). 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1959 – 22th December, 2018

Dominic arrived in St Wilfreds in 1973 when Fr Dominic Milroy was Housemaster.

Dominic was always a great admirer of his namesake and they kept in touch over the years. When he married Miranda it was Fr Dominic who married them. Their sons are Richard and James. James has two children so Dominic became a proud grandfather before his death. By a strange coincidence Dominic and Father Dominic both died in the same week.

When Fr Dominic was Prior of St Anselmo in Rome, before becoming headmaster, he employed Dominic as the gardener. Dominic spent many years in East Africa. He spent some time in a remote Turkhana village helping the local natives. This village had been adopted by the explorer Wilfred Thessiger who asked Dominic to move on when he discovered that certain substances had been introduced to the locals. Dominic was a great builder and created some remarkable African huts in the wilds of Kenya. He lived there a number of years with the Kamba girl that he married in a village ceremony. They had two delightful daughters. It was them that Dominic was visiting in Uganda when he sadly died of a heart attack.

When, many years before, in Uganda he had been helping the villagers in a remote area with water problems. Idi Amin's police objected to his presence on a water tower and thought he was spying so locked him up for two weeks. That was most unpleasant. There are so many other stories of Dominics adventures but they can be found elsewhere.

At his Memorial Service in the Brompton Oratory his son Richard spoke lovingly about his father who, in spite of the many problems that had effected his life, should always be remembered as someone whose catholic faith had helped him conquer the many difficulties he encountered during his all too short life.