



## **In Memory of Revd Alun Glyn-Jones**

**Former Headmaster at Archbishop Tenison's School, 1976 - 1987**



We are very sad to report the recent death of our former Headmaster, Revd Alun Glyn-Jones in February 2025. In sending our sincerest condolences to Alun's wife and family, we also want to remember with much gratitude the inspirational leadership he gave to Archbishop Tenison's over 11 and a half years from 1976-1987.

Alun's funeral is to be held at St. Mary's, Twickenham on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 11am. This is where Alun was Vicar after he left Archbishop Tenison's.

As a school we are also planning to hold a short service to remember Alun at St. Matthew's at 6pm on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, to recognise the moment of his passing and offer our thanks for his life and contribution here. It will be brief, but appropriate to this significant occasion in the life of our school community, past and present. We also realise that not everyone who knew him here in Croydon will be able to attend the funeral in Twickenham in person.

## Tributes

Revd Alun Glyn-Jones, JP was the Headmaster of Archbishop Tenison's from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1976 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1987. Having previously been Head of Lower School at Hampton School in Middlesex, Alun was already a much-respected teacher and educational leader. His years at Tenison's were to prove highly significant for the future development of the school.

Alun oversaw the change of the school from Grammar to Comprehensive in 1978. He was personally instrumental in persuading the then Secretary of State for Education and Science, Rt. Hon Shirley Williams, MP, of the case for this school (and its then sister school, St. Andrew's) having a future as a Church of England comprehensive school with its own entry criteria related to its Christian calling. At a time when some criticised these new entry criteria, Alun was a champion for Church schools, in his own words, "pioneering curriculum developments in science and mathematics", taking a lead in work with pupils with Special Educational Needs, before this was as recognised as it is now, "setting standards for systematic Christian teaching" and "practising standards of honesty and truth in a materialistic age".

Alun pressed hard for the increase and development of the Sixth Form, reintroduced prize giving, oversaw rising pupil numbers and increasing demand for places, made timely changes to the uniform and secured a continued good record of academic achievement. David Smith's history of the school records how under Alun's leadership it was valued for "its good quality education of a high standard, delivered by teachers who were competent, conscientious and caring, carried out in a caring community environment, which aids the development of the whole person."

Alun embodied this himself, as the tributes from those who were in the school at the time well testify. I am very grateful to Peter and Clare Wickert for their moving tributes which they have kindly agreed for us to publish here on the school website and hope that others may soon be added.

I had the considerable privilege of meeting Alun on several occasions. He spoke at our 295<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day in 2009 and was present for the 300<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Service and subsequent Festival and Reunion in 2014. He also spoke again in the school Hall at the Reunion we held in 2022. Alun's generosity of spirit, practical wisdom and ability to see the bigger picture made conversations with him memorable. His care for this school continued throughout his life, and for that, too, we give much thanks. At this time, we hold to the faith in Christ which with him we share, and in which he died. Our deepest sympathy at this time is with his wife, Chris, and his daughters, Fiona and Sarah and his son, David, and with all the grandchildren who delighted him so much.

***Richard Parrish***

Alun Glyn-Jones joined Tenison's in 1976, the year before I started there as a pupil and I therefore knew him firstly as a headmaster, later as an A Level RS teacher and later still as a friend. As a headmaster he had a natural, relaxed authority, which made him an object of respect rather than fear, even to a nervous eleven-year-old. He was loved by the staff, especially those like my father, who had worked under his sterner predecessor, for his warmth and kindness and collegiality. In fact, Tenison's with Alun at the helm was such an enjoyable place to work that staff tended to stay for years longer than they intended, sometimes for entire careers. For the pupils the school was certainly a happy and academically stimulating place to grow up.

Our A Level RS lessons resembled convivial university tutorials, in which we were encouraged to think and discuss and disagree. On the last day at the school, it was not uncommon to get notebooks signed with farewell messages from friends and teachers. Alun wrote in mine (in his distinctive, neat and yet barely legible handwriting) *non sum qualis eram* – 'I am not what I was', which still strikes me as the best summary of an education that you could ask for.

Some years later he conducted my wedding to Peter Wickert at St Mary's Twickenham and we remained in touch with Alun over the many years since. The extent of his influence over us and surely the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of pupils and teachers who experienced his example of Christian leadership and service is immeasurable.

### **Clare Wickert**

Alun Glyn-Jones influenced and changed my life in so many ways. Firstly, by employing me as a Head of Geography at Archbishop Tenison's School, and secondly, by introducing me to a whole new world of friends, experiences and Christian beliefs. He was truly loved by all the staff and his quiet, humorous but profound leadership was present in all he did.

There are no headteachers I have known who not only supported me wholeheartedly in the school productions I directed, but also were willing to take on a major singing role, as Arbide Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls*. His natural acting ability, singing and stage presence were outstanding. What other headteacher would do that?

All leaders need followers and Alun certainly had that. I know that when I eventually became a headteacher of the Holy Trinity School in Crawley I often thought, 'What would Alun have said or done in this situation?' He was truly an inspiration, a special and rare leader.

He performed the wedding service for Clare and me at St Mary's in Twickenham in 1990 and remained a good friend down the years, always interested in our news, life's joys and life's trials. He was always ready to listen, sympathise and advise. Alun is a great loss to me and his influence was and still is life-changing and profound in every way.

### **Peter Wickert**