Father Aelred was born in Sunderland in 1930. While he was still young the family moved to Wealdstone in Middlesex where he was educated at the Salvatorian College. On leaving school he worked at Kodak and at the age of 17 he offered himself to the Society of the Divine Saviour "The Salvatorians" to be considered for the priesthood. After theological training at the English College in Rome he was ordained priest in 1956. After years of Parish work, a decade of teaching and nine years as an army chaplain, serving in Northern Ireland, England and Germany he arrived here in 1980. He quickly settled into the local community as Parish Priest at Holy Cross and Chaplain to Leyhill Prison. He oversaw the reconstruction of the church to the one you see today. He forged strong ecumenical links with other clergy in the area and was liberal and inclusive in outlook. He endeared himself to his congregation and will long be remembered for his dry wit and neighbourliness.

Father Aelred Dobson

He died on 3rd February 2010, a month before his 80th birthday. As was his wish, he was interred in Wotton cemetery within the community that loved him and became his home. R.I.P.

Information kindly supplied by Pamela Smith

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