

St James News: Thought for the day – Friday 18th September 2020

F.F.Bruce – Rev John Marshall

When I went to Manchester University we had to choose some options (one of which had to be a language).

I chose Religious studies and had to have an interview. I was interviewed by FF Bruce (The Rylands Professor of Biblical Exegesis); he was offering a course on the history of the Bible in English. I spotted a badge on his lapel. “Are you a Crusader?” “Yes I am a vice president!”

He was one of the great Biblical scholars, but he showed great patience, especially when the group dwindled. But he read his book to us with great care, on one occasion to just two students.

At some point I must get round to reading his major works. But I do remember his kindness. Kindness is a very great witness; as is faithfulness. Phil persisted in making contact- until we joined the Heaton Moor branch of MIFCU (the Manchester Inter Faculty Christian Union).

The fruit of this was that the only exam I passed was in Religious Studies.

By the way the badge incorporated the Cross of Jesus, the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit, the helmet of salvation and the crown of life.