EXCLUSIVE: GET TO KNOW FATHER SIMON! Fr. Simon has kindly agreed to share a little information on himself with some other things already being surprising and a tiny bit impressive!

1. Where were you born?
In a beautiful part of South West London best known for the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. Stan Smith and Billie Jean King were the Men’s and Women's Champions that year.

2. Where did you grow up as a child? (and what was your church?)
All my formative years were spent living in Ewell, Surrey, attending St. Clement’s Primary School and attending the Parish Church of St. Clement.

3. Do you come from a large family?
Just my parents, myself and a wonderful extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

4. What is your favourite passage from scripture and why is that?
The invitation of Jesus 'come to me all you who labour and our overburdened and I shall give you rest, shoulder my yoke and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart'. It is both challenging and consoling and one day I hope to live it!

   Matthew 11:28-30

5. How old were you when you were called to the priesthood?
Did you listen straightaway?
I’m not always a great listener, so the Lord had to be patient with me. The seed was sown aged 17 and I began formation for the priesthood aged 25.
6. What is your favourite food?
   Depending on my mood, either Italian or Chinese.

7. Are you keen on sport? If so, do you play any particular sport? Which? (Golf is very popular in our parish!)
   I enjoy most sports and would be happiest listening to a Test Match on BBC Radio. For many years I used to go running but have fallen out of the habit recently.

8. Do you have any hobbies? If so, what are they?
   Yes, my main hobbies and pastimes would be music, reading, cinema and walking.

9. What was your favourite subject at school?
   The subject that really caught my imagination and interest at school was History. I still enjoy reading history and at the moment am racing through the third volume of the History of England by Peter Ackroyd.

10. How do you like your coffee?
    I drink too much coffee the preferred formulae being strong with just a little milk and sugar.

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE: Fr Simon with his father on a recent trip speeding down the Thames!