

RETIREMENT of REVEREND GRAHAM CANNING

St Mary's Church, Shipton under Wychwood, was packed to capacity for the morning service on Sunday May 31st, the last service taken by the Reverend Graham Canning before his retirement. Parishioners of the United Benefice of Shipton under Wychwood, Milton under Wychwood and Fifield with Idbury joined together in a service of Holy Communion. A special anthem and choral blessing were sung by the choir under the leadership of organist and choirmaster Stewart Taylor and the choir children and Junior Church contributed their own special hymn.

After the service over 250 people attended a buffet lunch and farewell party in Shipton under Wychwood's New Beaconsfield Hall, which was recently completed after much local fund-raising and a lottery grant, and a beautiful sunny day showed off the magnificent new hall to full effect.

Warm tributes were paid to their popular vicar and his wife Pat by all present, and a presentation was made of a handsome cheque, also a picture from the churchwardens of the United Benefice, and a bouquet of flowers for Mrs. Canning.

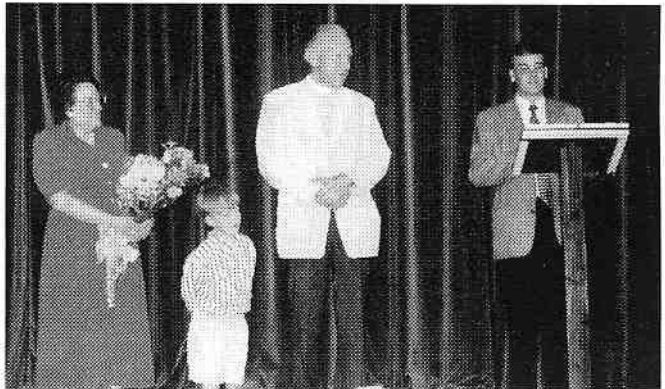
At a Teddy Bears' Picnic the previous week the children of the Junior Church had presented their own tributes of scrapbooks of their activities

The Reverend Graham is to continue as Rural Dean of Chipping Norton, and he and Pat are to make their home in Charlbury, so it is good to know that they are not going to be too far away.

Dear friends,

Pat and I would like to thank all who so generously contributed to the wonderful gifts made to us on my retirement as Vicar of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Milton-under-Wychwood, Fifield with Idbury.

We take with us, too, all your good wishes and a host of memories of the joys and sorrows we have shared with you in the Wychwoods over the past thirteen years of our being here. In all this we have been enriched beyond words can express, and not least within the love of God, for friendships true and stable.



With our prayers and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely, Graham Canning.