

Parish farewells to Rev Pharoah

THREE local villages are to lose their vicar at the end of this month.

For at the end of the month, the Rev Douglas Pharoah who is vicar of Grandborough Willoughby and Flecknoe, will be retiring. His last Sunday in the three parishes will be on June 26. He officially retires on June 30.

Mr Pharoah (64) , who has been in charge of the parishes for the past three years, is retiring early because of his wife's uncertain health.

A Londoner by birth, Mr Pharoah's first career was as a male nurse and he spent the war years in the Royal Army medical corps He was then a hearing aid consultant in Bristol for eight years before being admitted as a congregational church minister in 1959.

In 1968 Mr Pharoah attended the Worcester Ordination College (Church of England) and was ordained a year later.

He had been vicar of two parishes before moving to the Rugby area in 1980.

EXCHANGE

Last year he was appointed secretary to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and Mr Pharoah says he hopes to continue with this work in his retirement.

He and his wife, Mary, who will be moving to Kenilworth, are hoping to travel widely as members of "Experiment for Living" --- an international organisation which promotes understanding between people of different nationalities by arranging exchange visits.

They have a married daughter who is a nurse at Shrewsbury Hospital, and during their retirement Mr and Mrs Pharoah hope to visit her more often. Villagers from the three parishes will be making a farewell presentation to Mr Pharoah on June 27 at Willoughby village hall, (S)