

REVD RICHARD HANNAH 1924-2005

Richard came to the parish from Holy Trinity, Shenington on 5 January 1979 as Priest-in-charge of Deddington with Clifton and Hempton. He was eventually inducted as Vicar when the reorganisation of the Deanery brought the Barfords into the Benefice.

His speedy transfer to Deddington was interesting. The writer and his then fellow churchwarden Maurice Renwick, at the time of the Revd Canon George Palmer's retirement, knew that Richard was keen to come to Deddington. An audience was obtained by telephone with Canon Derek Eastman, Canon of St George's Windsor. (The Dean and Chapter of Windsor and the Bishop of Oxford are the joint patrons.) Canon Eastman had been Vicar of Banbury and knew Richard well. While entertaining two wily churchwardens over a cup of tea he quickly approved the appointment and recommended it to the Bishop of Oxford. All very simple, unlike subsequent appointments.

Richard was a Welshman born in Tredegar and was educated at Cranleigh School (where Bishop Loveday, a past Suffragan Bishop of Dorchester was Headmaster), and Oxford, where he read Philosophy and Ancient History at Corpus Christi College. He trained for the Ministry at St Michael's College, Llandaff, and was ordained Deacon in 1951. Prior to coming to the Diocese of Oxford as Rector of Shenington with Alkerton and Shutford, his appointments were all in his native South Wales. While at Shenington he was appointed Rural Dean of Deddington Deanery, a post he held until 1984. He retired as Vicar of Deddington with Barford, Clifton and Hempton in 1989 and returned to his beloved Wales to live at Lliswen near Brecon, where he was kept busy in the local churches. In 2000 he and his dear wife Pat moved to Bridgenorth to live nearer his daughter Mary. There he died on the 26 January 2005 having had two severe strokes.

Richard had war service as an Infantry officer with the Royal Sussex Regiment and saw active service in 4 Indian Division in Italy and Greece. He was a keen hockey player representing his school and later playing senior hockey for his Oxford College, St Michael's Llandaff and Newport Athletic Club. I was privileged to know Richard from the time he was Rural Dean of Deddington and to serve him as his PCC secretary when he came to this Parish. Nothing seemed to faze him and he brought a calmness to situations that appeared to build up to crisis levels. Those of us who knew him will remember him with love and wish to pass our sympathy to his wife Pat and children, Mary, Timothy and Tom, and their nine grandchildren.

Ted Johnson

