

# TRIBUTES TO A PARISH PRIEST

## Rev. R. J. A. Jary's Retirement PRESENTATION SPEECHES

A LARGE number of members of St. John's Church, Hills Road, gathered in the Parish Hall, Blinco Grove, on Wednesday evening to make a presentation and bid farewell to the Rev. R. J. A. Jary, who has just retired after being vicar of the church for the past 8½ years.

The presentation was in the form of a cheque for £228 19s. 3d. and a beautiful hand-printed book, the work of Miss Marie L. Doe, containing the names of all the donors.

Mr. F. W. Elworthy (vice-chairman of the P.C.C.) was in the chair, supported by Mr. P. A. French (church treasurer), Mr. A. E. Coleman and Mr. A. E. Yarrow (churchwardens), Mr. F. F. Doggett (retired churchwarden), Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Thomas (Ladies' Committee), Mr. A. G. Freeman (curate) and Mr. A. H. Cross (secretary, P.C.C.).

It was fitting, began Mr. Elworthy, that as he had presided at the meeting which had welcomed Mr. Jary, 8½ years ago, he should be in the same position on this day to say au revoir.

"Everyone of us feels," he went on, "that during the period Mr. Jary has been here he has won our affection, esteem and regard. I feel certain in my own heart of hearts that God has blessed his work in this parish of ours. He has not spared himself, and in fact, in my opinion, he has worked too hard."

Continuing, the chairman observed: "Not only has he done work as vicar of this very large parish, but during the war he found time to be an air raid warden, never missing one call, which is a record to be proud of."

Concluding, Mr. Elworthy said they would not be saying "Goodbye" to Mr. Jary, but "au revoir," as he had accepted the post of Assistant Chaplain of Addenbrooke's Hospital and



Rev. R. J. A. Jary.

had also decided to remain, on the Bishop's suggestion, as the Rural Dean. (Mr. Jary took over this post on the retirement of Canon E. C. Essex about a year ago).

### "WORDS OF WISDOM."

Mr. Frank F. Doggett (late vicar's warden) making the presentation, spoke of the spiritual work which the Rev. Jary had accomplished, and thanked him for the Bible studies which he had carried out for several years in his own house. "Those who have been able to attend have appreciated them and will not forget the words of wisdom which we heard there," he added.

Giving an instance of one of the vicar's Sunday's, Mr. Doggett said he would take the early Communion service, then address the cadets and come back to the church to take the morning service, sometimes followed by a Communion service. In the afternoon he looked after the Sunday School and besides all this there were generally a good many baptisms as well, and before evening service he frequently went to the Old People's Home on Hills Road and conducted a service for them.

The speaker went on to refer to the great appreciation of the sick of his ministrations and ended by saying: "His consistent life and example have commended the gospel which he has preached and we rejoice that he will still be near us."

### "SEED FAITHFULLY SOWN."

Mrs. Smith, on behalf of the Ladies' Committee and collectors of the money, endorsed the previous speaker's remarks and added: "All here have appreciated your work and I trust that the seed which has been sown so faithfully for all these years will bring forth much fruit."

In reply, Mr. Jary said that he had had a good many difficult tasks in his time, but his dear friends had made it very much harder for him to say one tithe of what was in his mind.

"No man," he said, "could have had a better opportunity for doing his work than I have had in St. John's these 8½ years, and it is no mock modesty or hypocrisy when I say I have been deeply conscious of so many shortcomings and that I have not been able to do all that I wanted."

He had been 46 years in the diocese, but these last few had been the best. "It has been a great joy to be among you, and the kindness, consideration and forbearance you have shown will be with me until the end of my days. Thank you, dear friends, not only for the magnificent sum of money you have given me, but the affection, generosity and goodwill that lies beyond that little bit of paper."

Mr. Jary concluded by appealing to the members of the church to give a warm welcome and strong support to their new vicar, the Rev. John Needham, who would be inducted on July 23rd.

The Rev. A. G. Freeman (curate) made a short speech of thanks for the presentation to him by the churchwardens of the £33 4s. 7d. Whitsun offertory.

During the evening a concert was given, in which the following took part:—The Vicar, Mr. Yarrow, Mrs. Holt, Mr. Pearson and Mrs. Emery, who all sang solos; Mrs. Shelton, who played the violin, and Mr. Noble, the church organist, who provided selections on the piano.