

Wheatley 1996

Village farewell as vicar retires

Parishioners said farewell to their vicar, the Rev Michael Farthing, who has retired after 13 years in the village. He also had responsibility for Stanton-St-John and Forest Hill.

The church organised a parish tea at the Merry Bells public house on Sunday during which Mr Farthing was presented with a standard lamp.

Later, St Mary's Church was packed for evensong, after which he and his wife, Mrs Jenny Farthing, were given a cheque for £1,250, flowers, and a cake decorated with a picture of the church in icing.

A churchwarden, Mr David John, said: "Michael Farthing has achieved a tre-

The recent appeal for work on the spire raised £133,000 in just 14 weeks.

Mr and Mrs Farthing, who were at Standlake in West Oxfordshire for 13 years before moving to Wheatley, will move to Eynsham in September.

Ian Meyrick, 11 Tarrant Avenue, Witney



■ **Rev Michael Farthing**

mendous amount in his very quiet way. On the pastoral side, he has made a major contribution to the ecumenical movement in Wheatley, and has done a great deal of work with young people in the parish."

Much work has also been carried out on the building itself during Mr Farthing's time in Wheatley. The church has been redecorated, new heating and public address systems have been installed, and a major renovation on the exterior stonework is now in progress.