

Key to the door - After 21 years the Rev Charles Fox and wife Dorothy will be passing on the keys to St James's Church. Picture: Jim Tomlinson

Village rector says goodbye

PARISHIONERS living in Newbold Verdon said goodbye to their much-loved rector after 21 years.

The congregation of St James's Church has watched the Rev Charles Fox grow with his family since they moved to the area in 1982.

He moved with his wife, Dorothy, and young children, David and Helen, now 31 and 28, from North Yorkshire and has seen his children get older and get married in his church.

Mr Fox, 67, said: "It is very sad to be leaving but at least I will still be living in the parish.

By Jeanette Scott

"When we moved down from Yorkshire it was the first time we had been out of parishes in the Moors. People were so friendly and we settled here very well.

Golf practice

"The children went to school locally and I married my daughter, Helen, here in 2000 and David last summer.

"I think he realised he had better get married quickly so I could marry him and his wife before I retired."

Mr Fox hopes to help out in the parish. He also hopes to make the most of his retirement with plenty of golf practice.

He said: "I used to play quite a bit of golf but I have not been able to recently so I shall start going with my wife.

"As for the rest of my time, I haven't really thought about it because I've been so busy but I'm sure I will be keeping myself active."