Devotion to church is rewarded

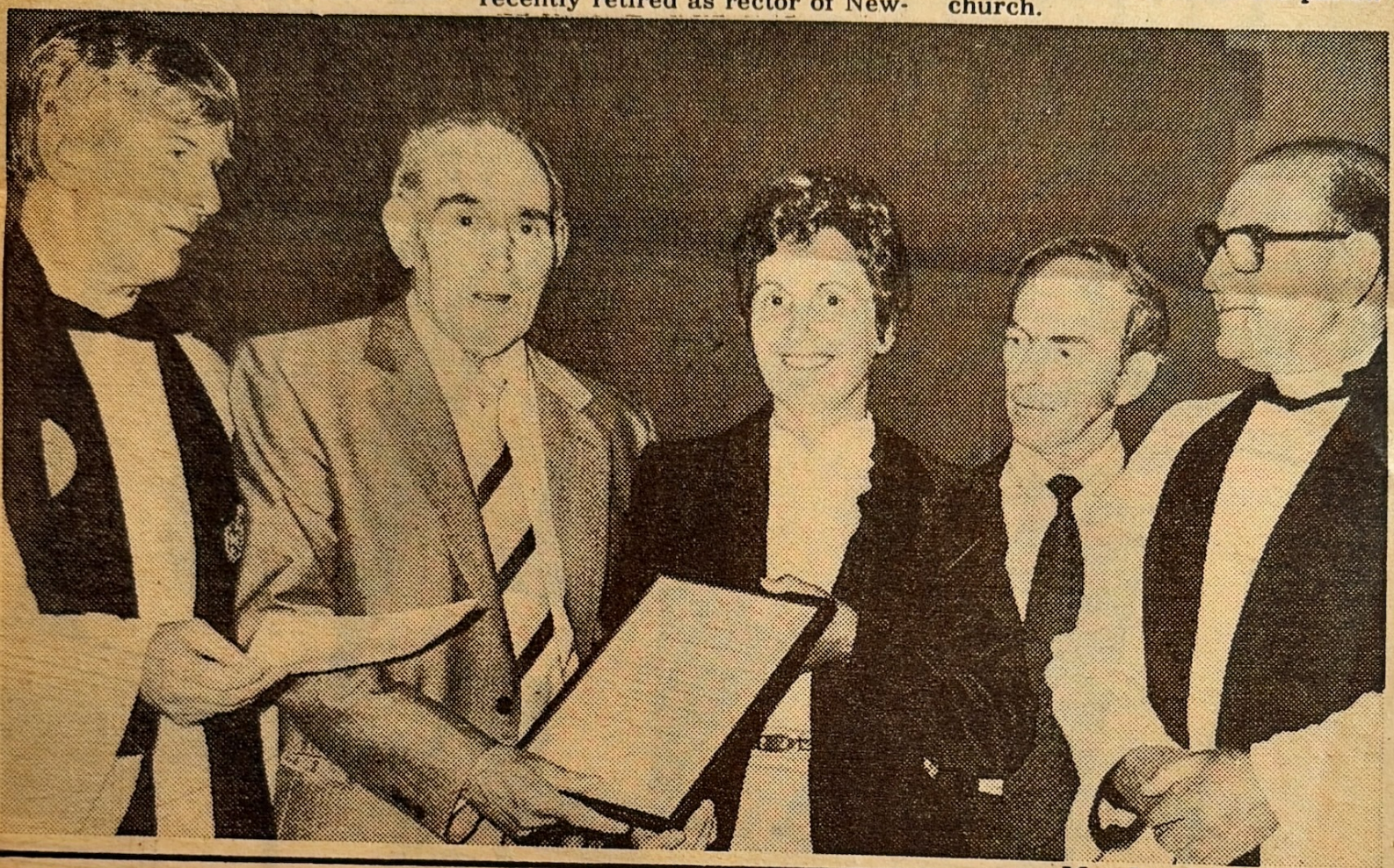
Fifty years of devoted service to the Parish Church of Newbold Verdon has resulted in 77-year-old Mr. Joe Johnson being given the rare award of Church Warden Emeritus.

Mr. Johnson has been church warden at the church since 1931 and was closely involved in a project to restore the church tower.

He was presented with his award at a Mothers' Union deanery festival service at the church conducted by the Rural Dean, the Rev. Neil Robinson, of Market Bosworth.

Among the clergy present was the Rev. Charles Hall, who recently retired as rector of Newbold Verdon and who now lives at Sapcote.

Mr. Johnson also received a letter of congratulation from the Bishop of Leicester, the Right Rev. Richard Rutt, who said that the award was a heart-warming way of expressing affection and gratitude to man who had given a long devoted service to the parish church.



Mr. Joe Johnson (second from the left) who received the title Church Warden Emeritus at a service at Newbold Verdon Parish Church, pictured with (left to right), Canon Neil Robinson, Mrs. Nancy Argyle and Mr. Rod Astill, church wardens, and the Rev. Charles Hall, former Rector of Newbold Verdon.