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Priest says his farewells

PARISHIONERS from three South Holland villages have said farewell to their vicar of six years at a special weekend celebration.

The Rev John Furst has served churches in Gosberton, Gosberton Clough and Quadring since 1999 but has now left the district to join a new parish in Gloucestershire.

Churchwardens from the three villages organised a farewell for Mr Furst, including a social evening at Gosberton Church Hall and a special service at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, which attracted a full congregation.

Gosberton churchwarden Hilary Burt said Mr Furst would be greatly missed in all three villages and thanked him for his work over the last six years.

He added: "He was very caring and looked after the sick and house-bound, holding healing services once a month.

"He was a very good preacher and always encouraged young people, particularly those involved with the village schools. He will be missed but after six years these things happen. We hope to have a new vicar in place next year."

The celebration was also attended by Methodist minister the Rev Maurice Perry and the Rev David



▲ THE Rev John Furst bids farewell to life in Gosberton, Quadring and Gosberton Clough after six years in the district. From left - Norman Featherstone, Myra Featherstone, Hilary Burt, Canon Tim Barker, Mr Furst, the Rev Maurice Perry, Sandra Furst, Diane Ralph, the Rev David Hughes, Mary Burton and Judy Berridge. (2122a05)

Hughes, of the Baptist church.

The Sunday service was conducted by Rt Rev Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby, who was instrumental in bringing Mr Furst to the district during his time as Bishop of Grantham.

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