

## OBITUARIES

# Canon Peter Wansey

CANON PETER WANSEY, who has died aged 81, was one of the five children of an Anglican missionary in Japan who provided the Church of England with four priests and a wife of a Dean.

All the sons went to Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Westcott House; and two of them, Peter and Paul, won Military Crosses in the Second World War.

Canon Wansey joined the Army in 1940 and became chaplain of the 2nd Battalion Goldstream Guards. His MC was awarded in North Africa for gallantry in continuing to rescue wounded men under fire, in spite of having been wounded himself.

After returning to England in an American hospital ship he became the chaplain at Sandhurst and then landed in Normandy on D-Day plus-six as chaplain to Gen Miles Dempsey of the 2nd Army in the North-West Europe campaign.

Wansey was present at the German surrender on Luneburg Heath, where, among his other duties, he had to confirm the death of Himmler. He was

also mentioned in despatches in 1945.

Peter Nottidge Wansey was born in Japan on Sept 28, 1908, and educated at Cambridge. He became curate of Putney and then moved to York as chaplain and tutor of St John's College, where from 1936 until 1940 he was involved in the training of teachers.

On demobilisation he returned to York as director of youth work in the diocese and as assistant chaplain to Archbishop Cyril Garbett. Tall, handsome and with a fine war record, Wansey was typical of Garbett's chaplains, some of whom became bishops and deans.

In his old age the unmarried bishop, who had been a formidable, inhuman martinet for the greater part of his life, surprised and delighted everyone by forming a tender and beautiful relationship with Wansey's infant daughter.

In 1949 Wansey became Vicar of Eston with Normanby, a large and rapidly expanding parish near Middlesbrough, where his pastoral leadership gained impressive results in terms of church

attendance and impact on the community.

In 1955 he was appointed Vicar of Darlington — where his father had been curate more than half a century earlier — and became Rural Dean a year later. Bar a three-month sabbatical in the mid-1960s, which he spent as chaplain with the Royal Horse Guards during the Aden campaign, he remained in this parish for almost 20 years.

He was ideally suited to it, playing a leading part in the life of the town as well as the diocese.

Wansey was in no sense an innovator but, schooled by Garbett, he brought traditional standards to life through his sheer hard work. He was appointed an honorary Canon of Durham in 1958.

By 1974 he was ready for a change and less arduous responsibility, and accordingly moved a few miles along the Tees to the attractive parish of Coniscliffe where he spent seven happy years, before retiring to Guildford.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, two sons and three daughters.