

Vicar comes home with refugees

A LEAMINGTON vicar, the Rev Roy Clarke, has returned home from a fact-finding mission to Thailand, with four refugees from Cambodia.

Mrs Var Hong, her children aged six and 10, and her sister, Viyada, have been granted sanctuary in this country, thanks to the Project Vietnam Orphans group.

The Leamington - based group arranged for 40 orphans to be adopted by British families during the Vietnamese war. They also found homes for a further 54 airlifted out just before the communist take-over.

Now the effort of PVO is concentrated on two refuge camps in Thailand, which Mr Clarke, Vicar of St Mary's, Leamington, visited during his four-week mission.

Mr Clarke, vice-chairman of PVO, said that conditions in the refugee camps were heartbreaking and the Thais, faced with severe political and economic difficulties, were now returning thousands of refugees across the border to Cambodia.

Impressed

"My mission was to gain first-hand knowledge of our work in the camps and I was impressed with the magnificent job our people are doing and the wonderful co-operation which exists between all the international relief agencies."

At the weekend Mrs Hong, her children and sister, who are staying at a PVO house at Godalming, Surrey, were guests at a reunion at the Coventry Diocesan Retreat House at Offchurch, near Leamington, for Midland families who adopted Vietnamese orphans.

They were accompanied by Mr Clarke's predecessor at St Mary's, the Rev. Pat Ashe, founder and chairman of PVO, who now lives in Godalming.



All smiles from Mrs Var Hong (left) with her two children six-year-old Panita and Somaly, aged 10, and her sister Miss Viyada Hong.