

Town goes crazy as Wanderers get promoted to Division 2

Blues are in seventh heaven

VICAR Nigel Stowe stood up in his pulpit on Sunday and bellowed the result thousands of Wycombe Wanderers fans had been praying to hear.

Mr Stowe is better known to his congregation as the Des Lynam of the parish for revealing Wanderers match results to his flock every Sunday.

The Vicar of Penn Street and Holmer Green, broadcast Saturday's historic Wembley victory to his parishioners as they gathered for a service at Christ Church, Holmer Green.

Mr Stowe wore his blue scarf in church. He travelled to see the team beat Preston 4-2 in the third division play-off final. He has been a fan for four years and was among a record-breaking 40,000 crowd which saw the team win promotion at Wembley.

"I am very enthusiastic when they win. I usually announce at the service every Sunday what the score has been," he said.

He revealed the parents of Blues' chairman Ivor Becks look forward to hearing the result when they

By STEVE WARREN

attend his services. "They beam when they win," Mr Stowe said of Les and Joan Becks, of Wycombe Road, Holmer Green.

He denied praying to God to help Wycombe win on Saturday, but believed a few clergymen in Preston might have looked to the Lord for divine intervention.

Promotion is particularly sweet for manager Martin O'Neill, who last year turned down an offer to manage Nottingham Forest.



Let us play: Vicar Nigel Stowe is a keen Blues supporter and announces the team's score from the pulpit

One fan, who had a particularly special day thanks to the Bucks Free Press, was Geraldine Aldridge. The 19-year-old was unable to see her favourite team play as she has been bedridden since being struck down by a mystery virus last year.

So we arranged for players Keith Ryan and Steve Guppy to visit her at her home.

The only disappointment to mark this historic day was a delay in trains coming back from Wembley.

- Full stories: Page 3
- Match reports: Sport (Fourth section) Pages 30 and 32
- Wembley supplement: Fourth section