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B B C Worldwide



Series 3

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4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

The divine Dawn French returns as the most irreverent reverend in Richard Curtis's heavenly, Emmy-winning comedy

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Introduction

Dawn French dons her cassock once more to play the Reverend Geraldine Granger, faithfully leading the parishioners of Dibley through a year of ups and downs, surprises and disappointments, chocolates and love affairs in a special series of this enormously popular comedy – the Christmas episodes were rated No 2 in the British TV charts. Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer team up again for the new series, Richard's first since box-office hit *Notting Hill*.

The feisty female vicar of Dibley caused quite a few raised eyebrows when she first arrived; many people were against a female vicar, but she soon changed their opinions. Now an integral part of village life, Geraldine has transformed Dibley from a sleepy village into a funky village.

The last series saw adorably dippy Alice – resplendent in a wedding dress adorned by fairy-lights – marry her perfect match Hugo, not forgetting, of course, the Teletubby bridesmaids. Now the newlyweds are home from an extended honeymoon with an extra package. Of course, it's up to Geraldine to break the news to Alice, who is blissfully unaware that she is pregnant and not her simply putting on weight.

Romance is also in the air for Geraldine. Devilishly handsome Simon, David Horton's brother, is back in the village and later in the year she gets a proposition from an unexpected quarter.

Life in the village of Dibley is full of fun and festivities and each season there is plenty to occupy the vicar of Dibley. There's the nativity play to organise (though perhaps it is tempting fate to cast a heavily pregnant Alice as Mary?), and a christening, and – perhaps most importantly of all – a campaign to save Dibley from the flood...

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Cast List

The Reverend Geraldine Granger	Dawn French
Alice Horton	Emma Chambers
Hugo Horton	James Fleet
David Horton	Gary Waldhorn
Frank Pickle	John Bluthal
Jim Trott	Trevor Peacock
Owen Newitt	Roger Lloyd-Pack
Simon Horton	Clive Mantle (<i>Casualty, Holby City 2</i>)
Bishop of Mulberry	Richard Griffiths (<i>Pie in the Sky, Gormenghast</i>)
Miss Carr	Nina Wadia (<i>Goodness Gracious Me</i>)

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Production Credits

Written by **Richard Curtis**
Paul Mayhew Archer

Director **Gareth Carrivick**

Producers **Jon Plowman**
Margot Gavan Duffy

A **Tiger Aspect** production for BBC-TV

Entertainment

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Series 3

Characterisations

Dawn French (Reverend Geraldine Granger)

Dawn French stars as the Reverend Geraldine Granger, the Vicar of Dibley, who surprised everyone when she first arrived: "You were expecting a bloke with a beard, a bible and bad breath. You got a babe with a bob cut and magnificent bosom."

Dawn is one of the most popular comediennees in Britain today. She was born on October 11, 1957 in Holyhead, Wales. She trained to be a drama teacher at London's Central School of Speech and Drama, where she met Jennifer Saunders. This led onto one of the most successful partnerships in British comedy today. French and Saunders began life on the comedy club circuit, but have had their own show on BBC television since 1987 and are especially noted for their movie parodies. *Absolutely Fabulous* originated from their show. In 1999, they also wrote and starred in a comedy series loosely based on the French Revolution, *Let Them Eat Cake*

In addition to *French and Saunders* and *The Vicar of Dibley*, Dawn is also well-known for *Murder Most Horrid*, a series written specially for her, which is now in its fourth season. She has also starred in the two very different TV movies: *Tender Loving Care*, in which she featured as a psychiatric nurse prone to knocking off the awkward patients; and *Sex and Chocolate*, in which she played a housewife tempted by a glamorous old flame. Other TV credits include *Maybe Baby*, *David Copperfield*, *Ted and Alice*, *Milk*, *Girls on Top* and *Happy Families*.

Dawn is an original member of the award-winning *Comic Strip* team, and writes and performs in their productions. She also was a series writer for *Girls on Top*, and has presented two series of programmes for Channel 4 – *Swank* and *Scoff* – which respectively looked at various aspects of the fashion and food industry. She has also appeared on a number of chat shows, and guest-starred in a variety of programmes including *The Young Ones*, *Harry Enfield & Chums*, *The Full Wax* and *The Lenny Henry Show*. She also regularly contributes to fund-raising events, such as the BBC's *Comic Relief* night. She has also starred in a number of theatre productions.

She has also worked on a variety of advertising campaigns and is the face of television advertisements for Terry's Chocolate Orange. She features on a number of spoken-word audio cassettes reading children's stories, notably for Mick Inkpen's *Kipper* series.

Dawn has been interested in promoting the issue of Big Being Beautiful and has produced two knitting pattern books with designer Sylvie Soudan. She now has a significant role in the managing of her fashion business for 'big girls', *Sixteen47*, and their designer range, *French and Teague*.

Dawn is married to comedian Lenny Henry.

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Characterisations

Emma Chambers (Alice Horton)

Emma Chambers plays newlywed and unsuspecting mother-to-be Alice Horton, née Tinker. The dizzy verger is so very, very, very keen, but a little short on brain cells – remember the fairy lights on her wedding dress and the Teletubby bridesmaids?

Emma played Charity Pecksniff in BBC Television's award-winning production of *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Her other tv credits include *Skulduggery*, *The Rainbow* and *The Secret Garden* for the BBC and *The Mixer* (YTV) and *Drop The Dead Donkey* (Hat Trick Productions). She also plays a leading role in *How Do You Want Me?* a comedy drama for BBC-2.

Her film credits include the role of Honey in Richard Curtis's movie blockbuster, *Notting Hill*.

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Characterisations

Gary Waldhorn (David Horton)

Gary Waldhorn plays David Horton, the self-appointed "managing director" of Dibley.

Gary is perhaps best known for his role as Lionel in four series of BBC-TV's hit comedy, *Brush Strokes*. But since coming to England in 1967, after training at Yale University, he has had a distinguished career in television and theatre.

His television credits include the series *Campaign*, TV movies *After Pilkington* and *Chinese Whispers*, the mini series *Gallowglass* and episodes of *French and Saunders* and *Lovejoy*, all for the BBC. His other television work includes *Outside Edge* (LWT), *The Chief* (Anglia), *Rumpole Of The Bailey* (Thames), *Missing Persons* and *Heartbeat* (Yorkshire TV).

Gary's films include *Zeppelin*, *Hanover Street*, *Escape To Victory* and *The Chain*.

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Characterisations

James Fleet (Hugo Horton)

James Fleet plays Hugo Horton, David Horton's son, the shyest of men and as foolish as his new wife, Alice.

James is well-known for his role as Tom in Richard Curtis's *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Most recently he starred as a forty-something bachelor in the BBC comedy series, **Spark**, and in Channel 4's comedy thriller, *Underworld*. Other BBC credits include *Harry Enfield & Chums* (another Tiger Aspect production), *Murder Most Horrid* with Dawn French, *Femme Fatale*, *They Never Slept*, *Running Late*, *The Common Pursuit*, *Eskimo Day*, *Crossing the Floor*, *Chambers* and *Lord of Misrule* (Hat Trick Productions). Other television credits include *Underworld*, *A Dance To The Music Of Time* and *Cows* (Ch 4), and *Cracker* (Granada). His films include *Remember Me*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Three Steps to Heaven*, *Defence of the Realm*, *El Efecto Mariposa* (*The Butterfly Effect*) and *Blue Black Permenant*.

Ever since he played Tom in *Four Weddings and A Funeral*, James has been best known for his foppish, posh, dimwit kind of roles, but he yearns to be a gun-toting, womanising, beefed-up, fist-fighting action hero. In fact, his dream role would have been Brad Pitt's part in *Fight Club*.

"If only they'd asked me first. I could have made that part my own. Actually, come to think of it, I don't think my pot belly would look too great on the big screen," says James. "I'd love to do an action movie though, they're so exciting. I'd like to have Harrison Ford's career and do a big film in America chasing baddies and being unnecessarily violent and bothersome."

In the meantime, James has to content himself with less macho pursuits, like playing Hugo. The last series saw nice Hugo marry, and now he is about to become a father. "I think Hugo will make an adorable dad. He'll be very good at playing with the baby because he's got that childlike, cuddly, fluffy bunny personality. It's rather sickening really isn't it? I should think Alice and Hugo will make disastrously dangerous parents with a complete disregard for the child's safety. They'll give it a lot of love, but then the wrong food. Probably dog food."

Born in Wolverhampton, James was brought up in Aberdeenshire and attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. With a Scottish mother and English father the actor has always felt a bit of a hybrid. "I get very torn when I have to watch England playing Scotland at football," he says, shrugging. "I'm never quite sure who I want to win. I live in England now and I've got lots of ex-pat Scottish friends here in London. They work very hard at being Scottish, slipping into a kilt at the slightest opportunity, but I haven't got the legs for it. They're a bit pale.."

"These days, I suppose my voice is now a sort of posh Northern accent. It only goes Scottish when I'm angry and end up shouting at Hamish (his son) because he's doing something he shouldn't."

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Characterisations

Roger Lloyd Pack (Owen Newitt)

Roger Lloyd Pack plays Owen Newitt, a man with plenty of opinions and plenty of trouble with his lower intestine.

Roger is known to everyone in Britain as the brain-dead Trigger, which he played for eight series of the tremendously popular, award-winning BBC comedy, *Only Fools and Horses*. His other TV work for the BBC includes *Tom Jones*, *The Missing Postman*, *Trust Me* and *Health & Efficiency* (three series), and, earlier in his career, *Private Schultz*, *Softly Softly* and *Dixon of Dock Green*.

His other tv credits include *The Vanishing Man* (ITV), *Heartbeat* (YTV), *The Chief* (Anglia), *Mr Bean* (Thames), *The Gravy Train* (Ch4) and *Hitler's Diaries* (ITV).

His films include *The Avengers*, *Young Poisoner's Handbook*, *American Friends*, *Wilt*, *The Cook*, *The Thief*, *His Wife and Her Lover*, *The Go Between* and *The Virgin Soldiers*.

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Characterisations

John Bluthal (Frank Pickle)

John Bluthal, who plays Frank Pickle, Dibley Parish Council's pedantic minute taker, has a career which covers theatre, TV, films, opera and musicals.

His television credits include 56 episodes of *Never Mind The Quality – Feel The Width* (Thames), *Inspector Morse*, *Taggart*, 52 episodes as the lead character in ABC Australia's *Home Sweet Home*, *Q* (Spike Milligan's comedy series), *A View From The Bridge*, *Design For Living* and *The Life And Loves Of A She Devil*, all for the BBC, and *Minder* and *Reilly Ace Of Spies* both for Euston films. His early tv work includes: *The Avengers*, *The Saint*, *Pathfinder* and *Man In A Suitcase*.

John's films include *The Fifth Element*, *Dark City*, *The Return Of The Pink Panther*, *Superman 111*, *Help* and *Leapin' Leprechauns*. He also appeared in *Carry On Spying*, *Follow That Camel* and *The Knack*.

His musicals include more than four hundred performances as Fagin in *Oliver*. His opera work includes *Orpheus In The Underworld* and *La Perichole*.

John has done many radio voice-overs for the BBC and in Australia. His characters have included Commander Zero in Gerry Anderson's *Fireball XL5*.

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Characterisations

Trevor Peacock (Jim Trott)

Trevor Peacock plays Dibley's oldest resident, the indecisive Jim Trott.

Trevor's television work includes the forthcoming BBC production of *Madame Bovary*, Old Joe in *A Christmas Carol*, Dad Middlemas in Andy Hamilton's black comedy thriller *Underworld* for Ch4, the father in Lucy Gannon's harrowing BBC TV movie, *The Gift*, Old Bailey in the BBC series *Neverwhere*, and the title role in the BBC's acclaimed dramatisation of Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*. He has also made numerous guest appearances in popular dramas and comedies, including *Heartbeat*, *Where the Heart Is* and *The Thin Blue Line*.

He has been nominated for Olivier Awards three times for his theatre work.

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Series 3

Production Biographies

Richard Curtis (Creator and Writer)

Richard Curtis' first work for television was four series of the award-winning and slightly topical *Not The Nine O'Clock News*. His next, *Blackadder*, another award-winner, was definitely slightly historical. *Blackadder* brought Richard and Rowan Atkinson together again (they worked together while they were at Oxford University). The last three series of *Blackadder* were written with Ben Elton. Rowan, Richard and Ben went on to stage two West End revues.

Also for television, Rowan and Richard began work on the saga of the man of very few words, *Mr Bean*. (Richard's film of *Mr Bean*, co-written with Robin Driscoll, later made a highly successful move from television to the big screen.) And in 1993, the year he wrote the Christmas fantasy, *Bernard And The Genie*, Richard was awarded the Writer's Guild of Great Britain Comedy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Richard's first film screenplay was *The Tall Guy*, and his second film was, of course, the multi-award-winning and Oscar-nominated *Four Weddings and A Funeral*. The film was released in 1994, the same year that Richard was awarded an MBE and wrote the first series of *The Vicar of Dibley*.

Richard's latest film is *Notting Hill*, starring Julia Roberts and Hugh Grant – also a box-office blockbuster.

Richard is co-founder and vice-chair of *British Comic Relief*, the charity fund-raising organisation behind Red Nose Day. He has co-produced the six nights of *Comic Relief* for the BBC.

Paul Mayhew-Archer (Writer)

Paul Mayhew-Archer was originally a BBC Radio producer, responsible for such successful shows as *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, *Radio Active*, *WeekEnding* and *Delve Special*.

Moving to BBC Television, he produced a TV version of *Delve* called *This Is David Lander*, which starred Stephen Fry. Paul was consultant for comedy at Channel 4 for five years and now does a similar job at the BBC.

As a writer, he wrote three radio series of *An Actor's Life For Me*, which transferred to television, and the sequel, *Nelson's Column*, for BBC-1. He also contributed episodes to the BBC comedy series, *Pilgrim's Rest*, starring Gary Olsen and Gwen Taylor.

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Production Biographies

Jon Plowman (Producer)

Jon Plowman started his career in theatre where he directed many shows, including Rowan Atkinson in *Revue* in London and on national tour. His first BBC productions included *Harty*, *Pop Quiz* and *Every Second Counts*. He produced the long-running chat show, *Wogan*, and, with Richard Curtis, the seven-hour telethon, *Comic Relief*. Since then, Jon's productions have included *Murder Most Horrid*, *French and Saunders*, *Fry and Laurie*, *Smith & Jones*, *Bottom* and *Absolutely Fabulous*.

In 1994, Jon was made Head of Comedy Entertainment at the BBC, yet has still managed to find time to produce series of *French and Saunders*, *Fry and Laurie* and *The Vicar of Dibley*.

Margot Gavan Duffy (Producer)

Margot was script editor on the popular series, *Frank Stubbs Promotes*. She also produced the cult BBC comedy series, *How Do You Want Me?*

Gareth Carrivick (Director)

Gareth was production manager on series of *French and Saunders* and *Absolutely Fabulous* before he became a director. His directorial credits include *Lee and Herring in This Morning with Richard Not Judy*, *Comedy Nation*, *Pilgrim's Rest* and *French and Saunders*.

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Series 3

Episode Synopses

1. Autumn

Back home after an extended honeymoon, newlyweds Alice and Hugo are now in a perpetual state of bliss...as only they know how. However, they are in for a huge shock. Alice is worried that is getting fat and losing her sexual allure. She has put on four pounds in a month!. Of course, neither of them has any idea that her expanding belly contains a baby Horton. Geraldine has to explain to Alice what's happened. Alice's father-in-law, David Horton, is stunned into silence when he hears about the news and even more so when he hears the suggestions for the baby's name.

The parish is all aspin when David Horton's hunky brother, Simon, returns to darken the vicarage doorstep again. But is he back to light up Geraldine's life – or break her heart?

Meanwhile, an emergency meeting is called by Parish Council Chairman David Horton when Geraldine reveals some shocking news. Foul-mouthed and foul-smelling Owen Newitt, Dibley's decisive no-no-no-yes man Jim Trott and pedantic minute-taker Frank Pickle are all present and correct and ready to lend a helping hand.

2. Winter

As the nights draw in and autumn turns to winter, the parishioners of Dibley get busy planning their Christmas nativity play. Having been left in charge of organising the show, dippy Hugo has compiled an agenda that runs well past Christmas and into the New Year. So it is left to Geraldine to draw on all her creative talents and hastily mastermind a Christmas nativity to make Dibley the shining star of the district.

After a series of unusual auditions, nativity "director" Geraldine casts the indecisive Jim Trott, pedantic Frank Pickle and foul-mouthed and foul-smelling Owen Newitt in the rather dubious roles of the three wise men. David Horton is unhappy about his role as Herod and decides he should make his character a bit nicer, and Hugo has taken to method acting to perfect his role as Joseph.

A heavily pregnant Alice arrives at the inn on the back of Owen's tractor and when Geraldine spreads her wings as the Angel Gabriel, Dibley is blissfully unaware of just how remarkable this evening's nativity will turn out to be.

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4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Episode Synopses

3. Spring

As winter melts away, the first flowers of Spring are blooming, as is the new edition to the Horton family.

Alice is busy arranging the forthcoming christening for her and Hugo's new baby girl. However, to grandfather David's horror, there is still much deliberation over the baby's full name. The Bishop of Mulberry has been summoned to do the baptism and the god-parents chosen.

Geraldine appears to be getting a little broody and when a surprise proposition comes her way, it leaves her quite flustered and bewildered.

This episode features a guest appearance by **Sean Bean** (*Sharpe, Anna Karenina, GoldenEye, Patriot Games*).

4. Summer

Summer in Dibley is a scorcher, but this year, the water company are not only putting a hose-pipe ban on Dibley, they want to put a reservoir on it.

The water shortage is proving difficult for all the villagers, especially poor Alice, who, unable to wash her clothes, is forced to wear her Wonder Woman outfit. Of course, this isn't too much of a hardship for Alice, but for Geraldine, it's quite another matter when her wardrobe dwindles and she is left with a selection of outrageous attire.

With the water company putting pressure on the residents by offering large sums of compensation, the parish becomes divided. Geraldine decides to take drastic action and chains herself to the church railings, under a banner that says: 'Save St Barnabus from the flood'.

Will her actions be successful, and can she persuade the water authority to pull the plug on the whole reservoir idea? If not, it could be the end of Dibley.

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Ratings

Episode	UK Txn Date	Channel	Time On	Viewers	Audience Share
1	24.12.99	BBC1	21.35	13.1 million	50%
2	25.12.99	BBC1	21.00	14.1 million	47%
3	27.12.99	BBC1	21.00	14.4 million	51.6%
4	01.01.00	BBC1	21.05	11.6 million	40%

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

Awards

International Emmy Awards, 1998
Best of Category: Popular Arts

Royal Television Society, 1998
Best Situation Comedy and Comedy Drama

National Television Awards, 1998
Most Popular Comedy Programme

British Comedy Awards, 1997
Top Television Comedy Actress: Dawn French
(for 1997 Christmas Special)

British Comedy Awards, 1998
Top TV Comedy Actress: Emma Chambers

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes

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Series 3

What the Papers Say

"The Christmas Eve episode was quite brilliant. The smut was first-rate, her love scenes with David gave the stick a good slapping, and Emma Chambers as dippy verger Alice was a masterpiece of comic timing. But the best bit was when Dawn came downstairs after a bit of nooky looking just like Jo Brand." *Sunday Mirror*

"The Vicar Of Dibley is not without its saucy moments, but it has a winning charm that always carries it through – and it can be very funny indeed. The high point is, fittingly, *Winter*, the Christmas Day episode, which centres on the village's nativity play." *Daily Mail*

"Dawn French's vicar combines laughter with a hint of religion (though not enough to notice)." *Independent*

"This gentle comedy has established itself as a favourite in the schedules." *Western Daily Mail*

"Without a doubt, one of the most delightful programmes on the telly." *Sydney Morning Herald*

"Dawn French as the Reverend Geraldine is the best thing to happen to the Anglican Church since Anne Boleyn." *Canberra Times*

"I love *The Vicar of Dibley* and Dawn French's vicar, Geraldine Granger." *The Age, Australia*

"An amusing diversion." *Sun-Herald, Australia*

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Series 3

What the Papers Say

Mirror – December 24, 1999

As Dawn French Gets Set To Top Christmas Ratings, Meet The . . . Real Vicar Of Dibley

Verily she behaves, dresses and even laughs like the Vicar of Dibley. Indeed the jolly Rev Joy Carroll was the model for the hilarious clergywoman played on TV by Dawn French. And today – as Dawn is poised to top the Christmas ratings with a new series – Joy talks of her fun-loving style and her links to the hit BBC comedy show.

Joy, who wears dangly silver crucifix earrings, once went on her parish rounds wearing a short skirt and knee-high black boots with her dog collar. When Dawn turns up as TV's Rev Geraldine Granger in a sloppy jumper covered with religious icons, Joy is not surprised. She did it first.

Joy, 39, was drafted in as a consultant for the show after scriptwriter Richard Curtis spotted her at a Church of England General Synod debate. "I'm not what people would call a conventional vicar," she says with an air of understatement. "Most people envisage an old man who is stuck in his ways, not a young woman with a sense of humour. Although my beliefs are just as deep, my approach is probably seen as a little radical."

The actress and the parson met over tea and chocolate cake at the vicarage in Streatham, south London, when Joy was a minister at the church of Immanuel with St Andrew. "Dawn was very intuitive," recalls Joy. "She didn't ask me the obvious questions like how I did my hair, what clothes I wore, what make-up I liked. She was more interested in finding out what made me tick. She got right under my cassock, if you like.

"She was asking things like, 'Why should a young, attractive woman want to be a Christian and a vicar?' She wanted to know what motivated me and inspired me. She really got to the heart of me and I didn't think she was paying much attention to my mannerisms or even dress sense.

"So when I sat down to watch the first show I just cringed with embarrassment when I saw myself coming back at me. Little things like when Geraldine ends sentences with 'did you?' or 'have you?' and her voice goes up. The over-the-top earrings, blouses and jumpers are me as well but I think they've drawn the line at short skirts."

Since the series began five years ago, Dawn and Joy have become good friends and still keep in touch, even though Joy now lives in the United States. Dawn and her comic husband Lenny Henry were wedding guests two years ago when Joy married Jim Wallis, a renowned American cleric and advocate of human rights. The showbiz couple gave the newlyweds a specially-designed plate as a present.

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Series 3

What the Papers Say

Mirror (continued)

Later Dawn was thrilled to learn that Joy had given birth to a son, Luke, now 14 months old. "She sent me a beautiful blanket with Luke's name embroidered on it," says Joy. "It was a lovely gesture." Joy, daughter of the Rev John Carroll, became one of Britain's first women priests after working as a teacher and a ground hostess at Gatwick Airport.

She was made associate rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown, Washington, following her move to America. And, with the *Vicar Of Dibley* a big success in the US, locals are delighted to have her in the neighbourhood.

Joy hopes that the show's popularity will help her to bring her own style of preaching to the largely black population. She says: "The wonderful thing about the series is the way it portrays the vicar as human with all the failings. Geraldine is not just a vicar, she's a woman who often lets her heart rule her head.

"I use my connections with the show as an ice-breaker. It does my street credibility a world of good. I'll know I've arrived when I'm greeted on the streets of Washington with the call, Yo, vicar!"

Entertainment

4 x 40 minutes