



Women clergy join fight against poverty



Women clergy from Southwark Diocese (including those pictured left) were among hundreds who joined 'Vicar of Dibley', Dawn French, on Thursday 13 January to urge Tony Blair to support the Make Poverty History campaign.

Wearing their dog collars and the campaign symbol - a white band - the women met at St Martin in the Fields where they were welcomed by Dawn French and held prayers for the victims of the Asian Tsunami. Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square was dressed in a giant white band before the women made their way down Whitehall to Downing Street.

A delegation of ten including Dawn French, the Ven. Christine Hardman, Archdeacon of Lewisham, and former Southwark Cathedral Canon, Helen Cunliffe handed a white band card to the Prime Minister (photo top left).

Speaking of the morning the Ven. Christine Hardman said "It was a great privilege to join together with so many women clergy and to show how strongly we felt about the need to ensure that our government leads the way in helping to 'Make Poverty History'. Those of us - representatives of all the denominations - who went with Dawn French to No 10 were encouraged by the way in which Tony Blair engaged with us and the issues. I hope that this event, which was moving and optimistic in equal measures, will help to begin a really positive response to the campaign from within this Diocese and around the country".

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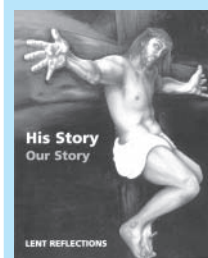
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From North to South

New Bishop of Woolwich

The Queen has appointed the Venerable Christopher Chessun to be the next Bishop of Woolwich succeeding the Rt Rev. Colin Buchanan who retired last year. He will be consecrated in Southwark Cathedral on Thursday 21 April.

Christopher Chessun, 48, who has an identical twin, has been the Archdeacon of Northolt, in the Diocese of London, since 2001. Previously he was Rector of Stepney, St Dunstan and All Saints, (London Diocese) and Area Dean of Tower Hamlets from 1997-2001. From 1989 to 1993 he was

Chaplain and Minor Canon at St Paul's Cathedral and London Episcopal Area Vocations' Adviser.

He served his title at St Michael and All Angels, Sandhurst in the Diocese of Oxford and was then Senior Curate at St Mary, Portsea (Diocese of Portsmouth). He is a Trustee of the North



Thames Ministerial Training Course and Tower Hamlets Mission and Chair of Trustees for St George's Chapel, Heathrow Airport. He has been a school governor and a

member of the London Diocesan Synod.

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