



News Release

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Concern over new Archbishop

The decision to appoint Dr Rowan Williams as the next Archbishop of Canterbury has caused deep concern amongst Evangelicals within the Church of England.

It is recognised that Dr Williams has many personal and intellectual qualities. However, these alone are never sufficient in Christian leaders.

The Revd David Phillips, General Secretary of Church Society, the senior evangelical body in the Church of England said today: "Leaders in the Church must uphold the teaching of the Bible and the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion. But on some important issues facing the Church Dr Williams holds views which are unscriptural and divisive."

Dr Williams has stated that in certain circumstances homosexual behaviour may be acceptable. This violates the Church of England's teaching that homosexual practice falls short of God's standards. Moreover, he opposed the position of the vast majority of Anglican Bishops at the Lambeth Conference in 1998. There are already signs from North America that this issue will split the Communion of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is the historic leader.

Evangelicals are heartened that Dr Williams holds to foundational truths such as the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, his decision to take part in a pagan Druidic festival, with prayers to pagan deities, calls into question his commitment to the exclusive truth of the Christian faith.

Mr Phillips commented "We have written to Dr Williams in the hope of arranging an early meeting to clarify these issues of fundamental concern."

For further information please contact:

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Church Society exists to uphold biblical teaching and to promote and defend the character of the Church of England as a reformed and national Church.

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