



# News Release

Monday 7 October 2002  
17.00hrs. For immediate release.

## **Williams called to change or go.**

An emergency meeting of the Council of Church Society was held today in response to grass roots misgivings at the appointment of Rowan Williams as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Following a meeting of members of the Council with Dr Williams it is clear that he prefers his private judgement to the voice of scripture, to the voice of tradition and to the common mind of the Church. As such he can only be a focus of disunity in this country and the world-wide Anglican communion.

Evangelicals are also disturbed that Dr Williams is a member of the editorial board of a journal (Theology and Sexuality) which has recently published articles in which homosexual pornography and behaviour are commended (March 2002 issue).

In responding to the appointment the Council acknowledged and repented of its own failures and called upon loyal Anglicans to pray specifically that Rowan Williams would see the error in his teaching, change his views, or stand down.

The Council drew up an plan of action which includes:

- Calling on Bishops in the Church of England and the Primates of the Anglican Communion to distance themselves from his doctrinal and ethical position.
- Liaising with and advising parish clergy on how to respond to the appointment in appropriate ways.
- Taking steps towards appropriate direct action.

*For further information please contact:*

*Revd David Phillips, General Secretary (01923-235111 / 07801-265049)*

*Revd George Curry, Chairman (0191-273-4680 / 0775-287-2550)*

*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.*