

# Rowan Revealed

## The Archbishop of Canterbury in conversation with Canon John Young of York Courses

**I21** *Archbishop, we're sitting in Lambeth Palace, where you work and where you live with your wife, Jane - who is also a theologian - and your two children. First, a word about this job called 'Archbishop of Canterbury'. How many days each year do you work here in Lambeth? And for how much of your time are you out and about in Britain and overseas?*

**RW:** I did work out a couple of years ago that I'd been abroad for nearly two months - the equivalent of nearly two months - that was a very heavy travelling year. And I assume that I'm going to be out and about part of most weeks: diocesan visits, meetings in other parts of the country - that kind of thing. And then trying to get to Canterbury every other weekend.

**JY:** *That's important to you?*

**RW:** It's very important, yes, and we spend a fortnight there at Christmas and Easter, and a bit of time in the summer. And I try to be there when I can on Sundays to go and visit the parishes.

**JY:** *Where you can relate to your diocese.*

**RW:** Absolutely.

**JY:** *Lambeth Palace is a very busy place. Shoals of letters and emails from all over the world - and everyone wanting a slice of the Archbishop. How big is your team?*

**RW:** I suppose it's about fifteen core people. That's people dealing with different aspects of the ministry: ecumenical, world-wide Anglican public affairs, and also dealing with the running of the house, and the running of the on-going business of the Church of England.

**JY:** *Bigger than it was in Wales?*

**RW:** A good deal bigger than it was in Wales, yes. About seven times bigger [laughing].

**JY:** *What would a day in the office, and in your chapel, look like?*

**RW:** The day always starts in the chapel. 7.30 is Morning Prayer and Holy Communion - every day, apart from Saturdays. And I try to get down a bit earlier and be quiet for a bit before that. And then into the office by about 8.30 / 8.40 - deal with a few letters, if I can, before the business of the day starts - the interviews and the meetings. But every day is different. Sometimes it's a day of chairing meetings - it might be Archbishops' Council, it might be a Crown Nominations Commission - or it might be a smaller group. We've got tomorrow a group looking at issues in the Sudan, where we've convened people from Sudan and the United States, Britain, to talk about how we respond to the urgent needs on the ground there. So - very diverse.