

Lord Rowan Williams
Hon LLD (11am)

Lord Rowan Williams is an Anglican bishop, poet and theologian, and is currently Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. Born in Swansea, he was educated at Dynevor School in Swansea and Christ's College Cambridge, where he studied theology. He went on to study for a doctorate in the theology of Vladimir Lossky (a leading figure in Russian 20th-century religious thought) at Wadham College Oxford, gaining a DPhil in 1975.

He began his career as a lecturer at the College of the Resurrection, near Leeds, before returning to Cambridgeshire where he was ordained Deacon in Ely Cathedral.

From 1977, he spent nine years in academic and parish work in Cambridge: first at Westcott House, being ordained priest in 1978, and from 1980 as curate at St George's, Chesterton. In 1983 he was appointed as a lecturer in Divinity at Cambridge, and the following year became Dean and Chaplain of Clare College. In 1986, he returned to Oxford as Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity and Canon of Christ Church; he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1989, and became a British Academy Fellow in 1990.

In 1991, he accepted election and consecration as Bishop of Monmouth, a diocese on the Welsh borders, and in 1999 he was elected Archbishop of Wales.

In 2002, Archbishop Williams was confirmed as the 104th Bishop of the See of Canterbury: the first Welsh successor to St Augustine of Canterbury and the first since the mid-13th century to be appointed from beyond the English Church. In 2012, he stepped down from his position as the Archbishop of Canterbury and took up the role of Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

He is also an accomplished poet and translator of poetry. He speaks or reads 11 languages, including Russian which he learned in order to read the original works of Dostoevsky. Lord Williams is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar and teacher, and he has written extensively across a wide range of theological, historical and political themes.

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Orator: **Reverend Kate Pearson**
University Anglican Chaplain