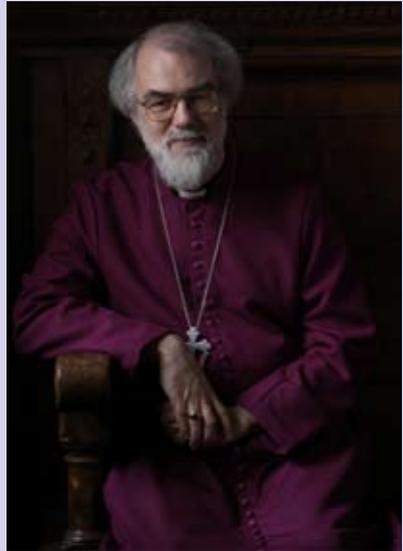


# Archbishop of Canterbury: Rowan Williams

*Rowan Douglas Williams was born in Swansea, south Wales, UK, and was educated at Dynevor School in Swansea and Christ's College Cambridge where he studied theology. He studied for his doctorate at Wadham College Oxford. From 1977, he spent nine years in academic and parish work in Cambridge before returning to Oxford.*

*In 1991 Professor Williams accepted election and consecration as Bishop of Monmouth and in 1999 he was elected Archbishop of Wales. Williams was confirmed on 2 December 2002 as the 104th Archbishop of the See of Canterbury.*



*Dr Williams is acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar and teacher. His interests include music, fiction and languages. Dr Williams is married to Jane Paul, a lecturer in theology, whom he met while living and working in Cambridge. They have a daughter and a son.*



# Arabic Class in the Refugee Camp (Islamabad, 2006)

One by one, the marks join up:  
easing their way through the broken soil,  
the green strands bend, twine,  
dip and curl and cast off little drops  
of rain. Nine months ago,  
the soil broke up, shouting,  
crushing its fist on houses, lives,  
crops and futures, opening its wordless mouth  
to say No. And the green strands  
stubbornly grow back. The broken bits  
of a lost harvest still let  
the precious wires push through  
to bind the pain, to join with knots and curls  
the small hurt worlds of each  
small life, to say another no: no,  
you are not abandoned. The rope of words  
is handed on, let down from a sky  
broken by God's voice, curling and wrapping  
each small life into the lines of grace,  
the new world of the text that maps  
our losses and our longings, so  
that we can read humanity again  
in one another's eyes, and hear  
that the broken soil is not all, after all,  
as the signs join up.



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