

## The Loyal Address by Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, on behalf of the General Synod of the Church of England

WE, YOUR MAJESTY'S FAITHFUL SUBJECTS, the Archbishops, Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Church of England, together with the representatives of other churches, assembled in the General Synod, assure Your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty and to your Throne.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Your Majesty on the Diamond Jubilee of your Accession to the Throne. We give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings we have enjoyed during your reign. We pledge ourselves to continue to work under your leadership for the common good in this Nation and for justice and peace throughout the world.

We recall that at your Coronation, having taken the Coronation Oath, you were anointed with Oil and consecrated Queen. Your faithfulness throughout six decades to the vocation that you accepted at your Accession has set an important example to successive generations. Your witness to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and to the Christian values of love of God and neighbour, and your selfless devotion to the service of Commonwealth and Nation, have been an inspiration to many. We and all your people are deeply in your debt.

For our part we reaffirm the Church of England's commitment to serve all the people of England who seek its ministry, wherever possible in co-operation with other Christian churches. We shall endeavour to maintain a Christian presence in every community, through our congregations, our ordained and lay ministers, and our church buildings, and to contribute to the education of the next generation through our church schools. We shall continue to strive for greater cohesion in local communities, for better understanding between Christians and people of other faiths, and for the improvement of relations between all peoples.

Finally we give especial thanks for the particular care and attention which, as our Supreme Governor, you give us, and most of all for the example you have set of faithfulness to God in both your public and your private life. May His blessing rest now and always upon Your Majesty, upon Prince Philip and upon every member of the Royal Family.

