

Letter of Support re. Jeffrey John

Date : June 2003

Source : Not known

Letter from Diocesan Bishops to Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury

"Dear Rowan

We write in order to assure you that Canon Jeffrey John has our full support for him in his preparation for the work he has been called upon to undertake, and in the context of the serious and unwarranted pressure to which he and his partner have been subject.

We write also in order that you and the Bishop of Oxford should know of our loyalty to the decision he reached after consulting you in the matter of the appointment of the Bishop of Reading and of our full confidence in your and his ability to discern the needs of the Church.

We would also want to add that although Dr John's appointment was related to the needs of the Diocese of Oxford and the Reading Episcopal Area, his arrival in the Bishops' Meeting will enable our attentive listening to the experience of gay Christians to be in our midst rather than at second hand, and for his willingness to bear the cost of enriching our life in this way we are grateful.

Our belief is that the proper, and traditional, response of bishops to the announcement of the appointment of a new bishop is prayer and thankfulness, hope and expectation.

The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev John Oliver
The Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Rev Timothy Stevens
The Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt Rev Martin Wharton
The Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, the Rt Rev John Packer
The Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the Rt Rev Richard Lewis
The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stancliffe
The Bishop of Truro, the Rt Rev John Ind
The Bishop of Worcester, the Rt Rev Dr Peter Selby"