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**SPEAKERS**

**ID:** Iain Dale

**JW:** Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

**ID: Well we're ten days away from your enthronement, are you apprehensive about it at all?**

JW: Yes I think it's fair to say I am. I mean it's a huge event and I have quite a capacity for going in the wrong direction at the wrong time and looking a complete idiot.

**ID: Well you'll get more viewers on the television that way.**

JW: Oh yes it would certainly yes.

**ID: But what about the job in general because I mean it is a really, really big job isn't it?**

JW: It's a very challenging job. It's less big than it looks from outside really because it's not a papal job the weight is taken by the Bishops together, and it's not that I'm the only person doing stuff in fact it's quite the reverse I'm one of a very big team. So it's less than it looks but yes it has its pressures but it's huge fun.

**ID: But how would you compare yourself to your predecessor because I always thought of him as a little bit of a fence sitter, which I understood because he had to keep all those sorts of different parts of the church together, are you more of a sort of conviction leader?**

JW: That's a very fair question. I think that it's important to remember that the Anglican Communion is 80 million people around the world in 146 countries, of which one and a quarter million are in this country. So when you're doing things you're always thinking of the global as well as the local as well as the national. I don't think actually Rowan, I think he was anything but a fence sitter, I mean I think to be fair to him he was often extremely controversial. I'm a different kind of person but he was certainly less no less of a conviction Archbishop than I am, I think we're quite similar in that respect. We're probably different in the way we look at particular issues but no I mean he was going out on a limb quite often and very courageously.

**ID: And tell us what you're doing this weekend in London.**

JW: Well this weekend in London we're beginning the run up to the inauguration in Canterbury the following Thursday and so we've got a day of prayer in St Paul's Cathedral and then staggering across the millennium bridge which I hope will be relatively... I'm new back to London it's been built since I left 23 years ago.

**ID: It's pretty stable now; it's stable now you'll be okay.**

JW: It is you can promise me that.

**ID: You're not going to fall off.**

JW: I'm not going to fall off?

**ID: No, that would be a sight though wouldn't it?**

JW: It would certainly be amusing, for other people. But no so we go across the millennium bridge down to the Borough Market, there's some open air prayer there. And the aim is to say to people "Prayer is at the centre of Christian life, I'm going to be praying in various places around St Paul's Cathedral and across Southwick Cathedral and anyone who wants to come, whether they believe or not come along and just join for a few moments of quiet. It could be two minutes, it could be two hours, come along and join in and just spend some time reflecting on what life is about, what God's calling you to and bringing needs and worries and concerns and celebrations to God."

**ID: I've been rather fascinated with the fact that you come across very differently to previous Archbishops, you come across as a sort of... I hope you won't mind the expression, but as a sort of normal human being. You've got a bit of a different background to previous Archbishops of Canterbury do you think your background is going to help you do the job in a slightly different way? I'm not saying they've necessarily done it badly but you come across as more of a normal human being.**

JW: I can assure you they're very normal human beings; I mean I really wouldn't like to think... I mean Rowan is one of my heroes, I mean he's one of the most...

**ID: He's very academic though isn't he?**

JW: Oh he's a brilliant theologian and philosopher, that's absolutely right, but he's a very normal human being I can tell you that. The background certainly gives me a different perspective but every Archbishop comes with a different background and certainly I've spent years doing particular things before I was ordained in business and since I was ordained in Africa and places like that and that's different to other Archbishops. But each of us over the centuries now, I'm the 105<sup>th</sup>, have brought a particularly contribution that comes from our background.

**ID: I just can't imagine any of the others saying "I'm one of the thickest Bishops" which I gather you said in an interview in The Guardian.**

JW: Yes I did to Giles Fraser, yes I mean I think that's... you look around they're a very, very, very clever lot, it's a very... they're not intimidating at all, they're a lovely bunch, but it's a place where you are conscious that you're surrounded by people who've really thought and studied and understood and worked, and just a very exceptional bunch of people.

**ID: Now you sat on the Banking Commission and you've decided to continue with it even after your appointment, the report is out today, do you think the Government have gone far enough in reforming the banking regulations?**

JW: I think you'll find the report is saying that as a Commission we don't think they've gone far enough, I mean that's an agreed report by all ten of us. I think

there are particular things, I mean to put it in simple terms the big question of which everyone's discussing in that world is how we can make sure that the crisis of 2008 and it's knock on effect on the economy and people's jobs and the things we're still suffering from, Government finances being very constrained all kinds of things, Governments having to make very tough choices; how can we make sure that really doesn't happen again for a very, very long time indeed. And there are two things about that, one is to make sure that banks' conduct and way of doing things, their culture, is improved and the second is to make sure that the regulatory environment means that when things do go wrong in a bank it's not going to cost the taxpayer a fortune.

**ID: The European Parliament has come up with this proposal to have bonuses at a maximum of a years' salary what's your view on that?**

JW: To be honest I think it's quite a blunt instrument that, what you then do of course is you up the base salary. When it works a bonus system where you can take away the bonus, or claw it back in future years is quite a good thing and so quite a low basic salary and then people get more when they do a brilliant job and if they do a bad job they get it clawed back it does give banks more control of the cost of employing their senior staff. I think there is a fundamental question though which I've been asking on the Banking Commission, together with loads of other people including people you wouldn't describe as exactly left wing like Nigel Lawson and people like that, just questions about the overall level of pay in the banking world compared to the level of pay in other sectors of life. And there seems to be a big gap that we should be rather cautious about.

**ID: It seems to me that the church is a little bit about political parties in that their haemorrhaging members, the church is haemorrhaging congregations, how are you going to reverse that trend?**

JW: That's a fair question. I think it's a huge challenge, funnily enough in many parts of the country the church is not haemorrhaging it's quite the reverse it's going up rather a lot, and for that reason I'm extremely optimistic. How is it going to be reversed? It's reversed in the Parish, there are 16,000 Parishes, 9,000 Parish Priests who are doing an absolutely superb job on the ground every day of the week, they are the people who will lead the church into growth. At its heart will be prayer, which is why we've got this prayer journey in five cities at the end of this week, and at the beginning of next week. As we trust the power of the good news about Jesus Christ we will see the number of people coming to church growing and growing in their own faith and in finding the hope that Jesus brings.

**ID: You said once that you're always averse to the language of exclusion and what we're called to do is love in the same way as Jesus Christ loves us, how do you reconcile that with the church's attitude on gay marriage?**

JW: I think that the problem with the gay marriage proposals is that they don't actually include people equally, it's called equal marriage but the proposals in the Bill don't do that. I think that where there is... I mean I know plenty of gay couples whose relationships are an example to plenty of other people and that's

something that's very important, I'm not saying that gay relationships are in some way... you know that the love that there is is less than the love there is between straight couples, that would be a completely absurd thing to say. And civil partnership is a pretty... I understand why people want that to be strengthened and made more dignified, somehow more honourable in a good way, it's not the same as marriage...

**ID: But if it could be made to work in a way that's acceptable to the church you would be open to discussions on that?**

JW: We are always open to discussions, we've been open to discussion, we're discussing at the moment. The historic teaching of the church around the world, and this is where I remember that I've got 80 million people round the world who are Anglicans, not just the one million in this country, has been that marriage in the traditional sense is between a man and woman for life. And it's such a radical change to change that I think we need to find ways of affirming the value of the love that is in other relationships without taking away from the value of marriage as an institution.

**ID: Final quick question, what do you do to relax, I gather you're a bit of a gadget freak?**

JW: Oh do you I don't know who told you that?

**ID: I'm told you're iPads, iPhones all that sort of thing.**

JW: Oh well I've got those but they're a necessity to work, I relax by putting them away that's the first thing I do. All sorts of things, I mean I've got a wonderful family and I spend time with them and that's great. I read a lot to relax, go for walks, just the normal things people do. I love going to the theatre, when I can I love going sailing, that's one of the things I've always done all my life, I rarely relax and I do that, but unfortunately quite a lot of the rest of the family don't find that relaxing so I'm only allowed to do that from time to time.

**ID: Thank you very much.**

JW: Thank you.

**ID: Well done for not sort of gesticulating.**

JW: It's a very noisy process gesticulating...

**END OF TRANSCRIPT**