

Introduction

Holiness in an unholy world....

This years FK study paper is a new departure in that we have papers written especially for us by a number of very prominent individuals such as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams and the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks. Each of our authors was asked to answer the question ‘What does holiness mean today?’ Holiness is one of those words that we all think we know but is actually quite difficult to define precisely. Is holiness about what you are or what you do and how much does it matter what you believe? The authors of the study papers come from across a wide spectrum. In presenting this paper to you it is the hope of the FK committee that groups and individuals will clarify their thinking about holiness as they wrestle with what the authors have provided for us.

John Butterfield

FK Bulletin and Study Paper editor.

PS. The Orthodox monk asked to write paper 5 was unable to meet our deadline. In order that there were six papers, I pulled something together at the last minute on the traditional Orthodox understanding of holiness after an afternoon researching on the Internet. Unfortunately, as this was a rushed job, I did not keep a proper record of my sources and I therefore apologise for any unintentional plagiarism that may have occurred! (editor)