

Rowan Williams
Tokens of Trust
An Introduction to Christian Belief
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In the introduction, Archbishop Rowan explains the title of this book, which is based on the phrases of the Apostles' Creed: "Basic to everything is the idea that Christian belief is really about knowing who and what to trust" (p.viii). A recurring theme is God's love - in chapter one he says, "God can't have a selfish agenda in creating the world or humankind ... the love God shows us, in creating us as much as in saving us, is completely free" (p.13). Chapter two, on creation, is entitled the Risk of Love. Jesus is to be trusted as "embodying, making visible, the purpose of God and the action of God" (p.65). The Spirit "sets up a chain of human contact, coming down to our own day... voices and faces in which Jesus is active", a strong challenge to the church to point more clearly to Jesus. There is a theology of the Eucharist and of the Bible, both of which depend on the community of the Church for their authenticity. At the end, we come back to the life of God, Love, Actually.

This book is, as my review indicates, full of quotable quotes about the faith we profess; complex theology is unpacked gently and carefully, back-tracking frequently to address the reader's possible mental interactions with "what about ...?" It would be a valuable help for beginners in the faith as well as a refresher for those who are older. The illustrations and photographs enhance its presentation and its message.

Maureen CSF