



## ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

### **Message from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Sikh community**

It gives me great pleasure to offer Sikhs my warmest congratulations on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration by Guru Gobind Singh that the Guru Granth Sahib would be the Guru or future guidance for all Sikhs.

This event is being commemorated by Sikhs across the world as well as in this country, marking as it does, a vital moment in the development of Sikhism. I have been honoured to receive a number of invitations to take part in the celebrations and I am grateful to those who have demonstrated by this their openness and hospitality.

Sikhism brings a distinctive voice to the religious life of this country, emphasising as it does, the equality of all under God, the importance of shared life in community and an openness to other religious paths. The strong support of the Sikh and other Faith communities for the Millennium Development Goals on 24<sup>th</sup> July in the presence of the Prime Minister was a clear and welcome sign of these values.

I am clear that many aspects of British society have been very well served by Sikh men and women who have made such a distinctive contribution to our common life. I am very pleased indeed to have this opportunity to acknowledge this contribution and especially to congratulate the Sikh community on this important commemoration and I wish you joy in your celebrations.

The Church of England looks forward to further companionship and to working together with Sikh communities locally and nationally in the years to come.

*+ Rowan Cantuar:*

September 2008

Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU