

# Runcie's Anglicans, AIDS, and the Devil

by Mark Burdman

The unwashed Orthodox monks of Mount Athos and the Church of England hierarchy under Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie have two things in common. Both are convinced of the superiority of mystical irrationalism over Western Christianity; both face an epidemic of AIDS in their midst.

On Nov. 10, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* claimed that there have been three AIDS cases reported on Mount Athos, causing "preoccupation" at the monasteries there. The paper claims that the "etiology" of the AIDS spread is not known, and health authorities have begun an investigation. Sources on Mount Athos are denying that homosexuality is the cause. Those familiar with conditions on the peninsula would point to some combination of filth and buggery, as the place to begin any AIDS investigation.

*EIR* has meanwhile learned from individuals in a position to know, that the Church of England is sitting on an AIDS timebomb.

The church will not have helped matters with the attitude taken toward homosexuality on Nov. 11, during a session of the Church General Synod. In the face of pressure from growing sections of the lay membership to assert moral leadership, the synod passed a resolution, by a vote of 403-8, that placed homosexuality at a lesser level of moral condemnation than adultery and fornication, and which simply omitted reference to, and thereby rejected, a call by a small minority of clergy, for expelling "gay" clergy.

The resolution began by stating "that sexual intercourse is an act of total commitment which belongs properly within a permanent married relationship," and went on that "fornication and adultery are sins against this ideal and are to be met by a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion." Only after this, did it say "that homosexual genital acts also fall short of this ideal and are likewise to be met by a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion." Homosexuality is not even formally classified as a "sin"!

This resolution was overwhelmingly passed in spite of, or because of, reams of evidence of the spread of homosexual activism among the Anglican clergy, particularly among a core of 400 or so members of the Gay and Lesbian Christian Movement, headed by the Rev. Richard Kirker. Synod participants were presented with dossiers of evidence of churches being used to distribute homosexual pornography, and

clergy engaging in promiscuous homosexual activity. One organization, Childwatch, is demanding a probe into homosexual clergy molesting children.

The Sunday *Telegraph's* lead front-page story Nov. 15 carried the banner headline, "The Church would collapse without us, says gay vicar." "It is because I am homosexual that I have been called to the priesthood," East London vicar Rev. X, preferring to remain anonymous, tells the weekly. Without any apparent reference to Christianity, he says, "There are more gays in the Church than in most professions. I remember the principal at my college saying that if it weren't for gays, the whole thing would collapse. . . . [T]here's a very close relationship between spirituality and sexuality. They are both fundamental things. They are both about creation. People are created homosexual."

The article reported the Gay Christian Movement's estimate that up to 30% of Britain's clergy are either homosexual or heterosexual with homosexual leanings. There is no estimate about which "leanings" are "created homosexual."

## 'An epistle to Sodom and Gomorrah'

On Nov. 12, the conservative *Daily Telegraph* of London, under the heading, "Moral Compromise," attacked the "present distressing state" of the Church of England. Also writing in the *Daily Telegraph* Nov. 12, "Synod Sketch" commentator Godfrey Barker began, "The Archbishop of Canterbury gloomily opined yesterday: 'If St. Paul were to write an Epistle to the Church of England, we might well ask what sort of letter it might be.'"

"An epistle to Sodom and Gomorrah is the answer. . . ." Barker sketched Runcie sitting "as frozen as Lot's wife," as one clergyman, Rev. Tony Higton, "lifted a corner on Anglicanism and sin," and his collaborator, Rev. D.R.J. Holloway, accused the Church of being guilty of the "Gnostic heresy on sex." Barker added that the formulation that "homosexual genital acts fall short of God's ideal" is a noticeable departure from St. Paul's language: "an abomination and perversion." He concluded that, as a result of the 403-8 vote, "the Church survives. So, by large majorities, does sin."

On Nov. 14, the *Daily Express* published a compelling "message," under the heading, "A devilish trick on the Archbishop," which stated, "As the General Synod continues to debate theological questions beyond the comprehension or moral understanding of much of its Flock, there are those who wonder whether the Devil has invaded the Anglican Church."

He has. He is inside the Archbishop of Canterbury's head. The article reported that, at Church headquarters, Lambeth Palace, there is a bust of "the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Robert Runcie, 102nd Primate of All England," inside of which there is a "small and fiendish figurine," implanted by sculptor Nigel Boonham. Boonham calls this figurine an imp, "a child of the Devil." Runcie "just smiled" when he learned of this, Boonham told the paper.