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## SEPTEMBER 2017



By [Elise Harris](#)

Pope Francis met with a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, saying their journey toward full communion is one that ought to respect their unique traditions – rather than a uniformity that would, in the end, make the Church more boring.

“Peter and Paul, as disciples and apostles of Jesus Christ, served the Lord in very different ways,” the Pope said.

“Yet in their diversity, both bore witness to the merciful love of God our Father, which each in his own fashion profoundly experienced, even to the sacrifice of his own life.”

Because of this, since ancient times the Church in the East and in the West has celebrated the feast of the two Apostles together, he said, adding that it is right to jointly commemorate “their self-sacrifice for love of the Lord, for it is at the same time a commemoration of unity and diversity.”

Pope Francis spoke to a delegation from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, who were in Rome for the June 29 celebration of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. The Pope is particularly close to the Orthodox Church of Constantinople, and has met with their Patriarch, Bartholomew I, several times since his election in 2013.

In his address to the delegation, Francis said the traditional exchange of delegations on the feast of their patrons is something that “increases our desire for the full restoration of communion between Catholics and Orthodox.”

This, he said, is something “which we already have a foretaste in fraternal encounter, shared prayer and common service to the Gospel.”

He noted how in the first millennium, Christians of both the East and West were able to share the same Eucharist and preserve the essential truths of the faith while at the same time cultivating and exchanging a variety of theological, canonical and spiritual traditions founded on the teaching of the apostles and the ecumenical councils.

“That experience,” Francis said, “is a necessary point of reference and a source of inspiration for our efforts to restore full communion in our own day, a communion that must not be a bland uniformity.”

Francis then noted how this year marks 50 years since Blessed Pope Paul VI visited Istanbul's Phanar district in July 1967, where the seat of the ecumenical patriarchate is located, to visit Patriarch Athenagoras, as well as the visit of Athenagoras to Rome in October of the same year.

“The example of these courageous and farsighted pastors, moved solely by love for Christ and his Church, encourages us to press forward in our journey towards full unity,” Francis said.

The Pope then expressed his gratitude for the many occasions on which he has been able to meet with Patriarch Bartholomew, which have taken place largely during his various trips and ecumenical prayer events.

At the end of his speech, Pope Francis noted that in September, a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church will take place in Leros, Greece.

He voiced his hope that the event “will take place in a spiritual climate of attentiveness to the Lord’s will and in a clear recognition of the journey already being made together by many Catholic and Orthodox faithful in various parts of the world, and that it will prove most fruitful for the future of ecumenical dialogue.”

The Pope closed by voicing his hope that with the intercession of Saints Peter, Paul and Andrew, through mutual prayer they would become “instruments of communion and peace.”

## National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress Liverpool 2018

The Catholic bishops of England and Wales will hold a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool next year (7-9 September 2018). Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church.

The last Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908

### Young people following Jesus.

The latest research commissioned by HOPE Revolution, shows that 13 per cent of 11 to 18 year olds are actively following Jesus, praying regularly and attending church at least once a month.

### Resources.

Many asylum seekers worship in our churches and join in the life of the local church. As part of an asylum hearing, church ministers may be called to testify as to the genuineness of an applicant's Christian faith. A briefing from the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) offers general guidance and, although the example refers to a URC congregation, it is intended to be used by all denominations and to be adapted as required. Download [Asylum applications and Christian belief](#) from the JPIT website.

More resources on **prayer and evangelism** on the Great Commission website: The summer is a great opportunity for mission - from holiday clubs and community festivals to sports days there are so many ways to engage creatively with the people in your community. Summer mission has the potential to leave our communities with a better understanding of who Jesus is, and the difference he can make in our lives today. [link here](#)



Hope 2018 - Words and Action to make Jesus known **HOPE Together** is asking churches to sign up for HOPE 2018 and plan mission together in your area. *HOPE the Heartbeat of Mission* is 220 pages packed full of tried-and-tested mission ideas, resources and funding links for food banks and village fairs; Passion plays and parenting courses and more. Copies are free – you just pay p&p. [Click here to order your copies](#)

**Change the World** - small group course. The Evangelical Alliance has just produced this 4-week course to help you and your small group to understand God's call to public leadership. It is intended for anyone who is interested in playing a role in transforming society, whether through starting a job skills club for young offenders or becoming the national media spokesperson for a disability campaign. [Click here to find out more.](#)

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018

The material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 has been produced in the Caribbean. The themes of the daily material raise some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean - Abuses of human rights, Human trafficking and modern-day slavery, addiction to pornography and drugs and the debt crisis has a negative impact upon the nations and upon individuals.

An English pamphlet, large print pamphlet, bilingual Welsh/English pamphlet and multilingual poster will be available as a free download in early September 2017.

Printed versions will be available to purchase by phone or post from Norwich Books and Music, and online via Church House Bookshop. More details in September.

The latest version of the monthly mailing of news from **Churches Together in England** is now available at: [www.cte.org.uk/news](http://www.cte.org.uk/news). CTE have also published its [review of 2016](#)

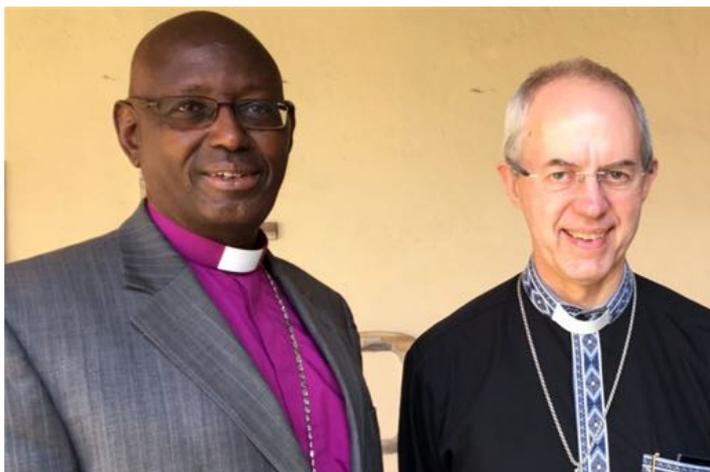
### Education Sunday

Sunday 10 September. It is a national day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world of education, at the beginning of the new academic year. Resources on the theme of 'Gathered in my name' are developed by an ecumenical steering group coordinated by Churches Together in England. [Click here for more information and resources.](#)

Along with the Evangelical Alliance, Churches Together in England are one of the many partners of **MOVEMENT DAY** 6-7 October 2017 at Methodist Central Hall, London. For more details [click here](#) or go to the website [www.movementday.uk](http://www.movementday.uk)

Dear Lord,  
I pray for  
Your strength today  
As I step into the world.  
Your eyes today  
As I see all that there is to see.  
Your ears today as I listen intently  
For every morsel of instruction.  
Your heart today as I lean  
Into you to be compassionate.  
Your grace extended and given freely  
As I communicate.  
Your mercy handed out  
As I encounter all the circumstances.  
You in me, more of you and  
Less of me today Lord.

## New Director for the Anglican Centre in Rome



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Governors of the Anglican Centre in Rome are very pleased to announce the appointment of Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi from 2005 until 2016 as the Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. He succeeds Archbishop David Moxon who retired in June.

Born in 1948, Archbishop Ntahoturi grew up in a small village in Matana, Southern Burundi, the son of a poor farming family. After training at Bishop Tucker Theological College in Mukono, Uganda, he was ordained in 1973.

He came to England to further his theological training at Ridley Hall and St John's in Cambridge, where he is now an honorary Fellow, and then at Lincoln College, Oxford.

After his studies, he returned to Burundi where he joined the civil service, becoming chief of staff to President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. After the overthrowing of President Bagaza in 1987, in a military coup, he was jailed from 1987 to 1990. In 1992, he became Provincial Secretary of the Anglican Church of Burundi until 1997.

In 1997, Bernard Ntahoturi was consecrated Bishop of Matana Diocese and became Archbishop Primate of the Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi in 2005.

Archbishop Ntahoturi has served as chair of the Council of Anglican provinces in Africa from 2011-2016, and as a member of the Anglican Consultative Council Standing Committee from ACC 9-ACC 11 (1993-2012).

He has extensive ecumenical experience having served as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of churches since 1998, and co-moderator of the Permanent Committee on Collaboration and Consensus which brings together representatives of the Orthodox, Anglicans and Reformed Churches.

He has also served on the Executive Committee of ACT (Action of Churches Together) International and participated in the creation of the new ACT Alliance which is the ecumenical branch of the WCC for Relief and Development.

Archbishop Ntahoturi has been active in seeking peace in war-torn Burundi and the great Lakes region of Africa, and has represented the protestant churches of Burundi during the peace and reconciliation negotiations in Tanzania, which were instrumental in bringing peace to Burundi.

He is Vice Chair on the Burundi Truth and Reconciliation Commission., and Chair of the Inter-Anglican Standing Committee on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO) as well as being a serving Bishop in Burundi.

Archbishop Ntahoturi already speaks French, English, Kirundi and Swahili and is looking forward to learning Italian! He will take over from Archbishop Moxon in September 2017.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said:

*'I am personally delighted that Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi has agreed to take up the joint post of Archbishop's Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.'*

*The appointment of a former Primate to this post for the second time running demonstrates the importance I attach to developing the increasingly close relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church.*

*Archbishop Bernard has played an immensely valuable role in the life of the Anglican Communion for many years both as a bishop and more recently as a Primate. He also brings extensive ecumenical experience in Burundi, in the Anglican Communion and in the life of the World Council of Churches.*

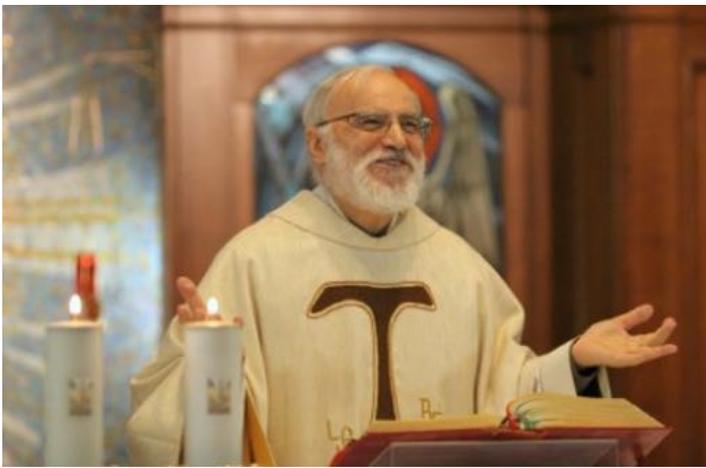
*I wish him every blessing in his new role.'*

Archbishop Ntahoturi said:

*'I am honoured and delighted to be chosen for this role, and am looking forward to continuing the work of the dedicated men who have held this post before me.'*

*I would like to strengthen those areas, especially in peace building, where the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church can work together for a common witness so that the world may believe and God glorified'.*





Father Raniero Cantalamessa is a Franciscan Capuchin Catholic Priest. Born in Ascoli Piceno, Italy, 22 July 1934, ordained priest in 1958. Divinity Doctor (Fribourg 1962) and Doctor in classical literature (Milan 1966). Former Ordinary Professor of History of Ancient Christianity and Director of the Department of Religious Sciences at the Catholic University of Milan. Member of the International Theological Commission (1975-1981) and for 12 years member of the Catholic Delegation for the dialogue with the Pentecostal Churches.

Unity is not a simple matter. One has to start with the big Churches, those that are well structured, putting together that which unites them, which is vastly more important than what divides them; not imposing uniformity but aiming at what pope Francis calls “reconciled diversities”. Nothing is more important than to fulfil Christ’s heart desire for unity expressed in today’s gospel. In many parts of the world people are killed and churches burned not because they are Catholic, or Anglican, or Pentecostals, but because they are Christians. In their eyes we are already one! Let us be one also in our eyes and in the eyes of God.

The Anglican Church has a special role in all of this. It has often defined itself as a “*via media*” (a Middle Way) between Roman Catholicism and Reformed Christianity. From being a “*via media*” in a static sense, it must now become more and more a *via media* in a dynamic sense, exercising an active function as a bridge between the Churches. The presence among you of a priest of the Catholic Church, in circumstances of such special significance, is a sign that something of the kind is already happening.

### **The Presidents of Churches Together in England**

encourage all churches in England to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation during this 2017 year with sensitivity as we acknowledge our unity in Christ. We have learnt over the past century that unity is achieved by walking together, and we have grown in communion, friendship, reconciliation and healing. During this anniversary time we want to be able to listen to the truth that is in each other, to hear our different stories, and build bridges of deeper understanding and respect.

We acknowledge with sorrow that during the years of the English reformation our ancestors in the faith inflicted unspeakable violence on each other. We rejoice, however, that by the grace of God we have learnt to look at that history through the eyes of each other’s martyrs, to appreciate their integrity, courage and self-sacrifice, and above all their faithful witness to God. During this time of commemoration, we acknowledge both the good that came out of this period of our history, and also the pain inflicted and the scars that remain.

**We therefore urge the churches in England to keep this anniversary together in the spirit of five ‘Rs’**

- **Rejoicing** – because of the joy in the gospel which we share, and because what we have in common is greater than that which divides; and that God is patient with our divisions, that we are coming back together and can learn from each other.
- **Remembering** – because all three streams of the Reformation have their witnesses and one church’s celebration could be another’s painful memory; and yet all believed they acted in the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ for their time
- **Reforming** – because the Church needs always to grow closer to Christ, and therefore closer to all who proclaim him Lord, and it is by the mutual witness of faith that we will approach the unity for which Christ prayed for his followers.
- **Repenting** – because the splintering of our unity led us to formulate stereotypes and prejudices about each other’s traditions which have too often diverted our attention from our calling as witnesses together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.
- **Reconciling** – because the call to oneness in Christ begins from the perspective of unity not division, strengthening what is held in common, even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

In national and local events, whether together or separately, we pray that our churches may honour each other and give thanks for our growing friendship and fellowship in the Gospel.

### **Prayer of Unity**

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

In faith let us pray to God our Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

For the Church of God throughout the world, **let us invoke the Spirit.**

For the leaders of the nations, that they may establish and defend justice and peace, **let us pray for the wisdom of God.**

For those who suffer oppression or violence, **let us invoke the power of the Deliverer.**

That the churches may discover again their visible unity in the one baptism which incorporates them in Christ, **let us pray for the love of Christ.**

That the churches may attain communion in the eucharist around one table, **let us pray for the strength of Christ.**

That the churches may recognize each other’s ministries in the service of their one Lord, **let us pray for the peace of Christ.**

# National Prayer Weekend

**29<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

Your street. Your community. Your prayers.  
The National Prayer Weekend is an opportunity for Christians to show God's love to those around them in a real and tangible way, as churches and communities unite in prayer for their local area.

The idea is simple. Ask people in your community area whether they would like prayer. Gather prayer requests together and pray for them during the National Prayer Weekend 29 September – 1 October 2017. For more information go to the [National Prayer Weekend website](http://National Prayer Weekend website).



**MESSY CHURCH NETWORK DAY**  
WITH LUCY MOORE

**Messy CHURCH**

Saturday 10 - 3pm  
Donation £5

7 OCTOBER 2017  
TRURO METHODIST CHURCH  
BOOK THROUGH <https://www.goo.gl/s1qqsg>

DIocese of Truro  
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM  
GROWING THE CHURCH

CALL US ON 01872 274351 OR GO ONLINE [WWW.TRURODIOCESE.ORG.UK/EVENTS](http://WWW.TRURODIOCESE.ORG.UK/EVENTS)

**NUMBERS 6: 24-26**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you;**

**May the Lord make his face to shine upon,  
and be gracious unto you;**

**The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you His peace.**

**EVER THOUGHT OF A PERSONAL PILGRIMAGE TO A BENEDICTINE MONASTERY IN BRITTANY FRANCE?**



**DISCOVER THE 'ABBAYE' OF LANDEVENNEC ALONG WITH OTHER ECUMENICAL PILGRIMS AND CORNISH CHURCH LEADERS**

**Dates for next Pilgrimage  
22<sup>nd</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Many have said that "had they known the dates of previous pilgrimages, they would have like to have gone."

Well, now is your chance. A "Discover Landevennec" Day has been arranged at

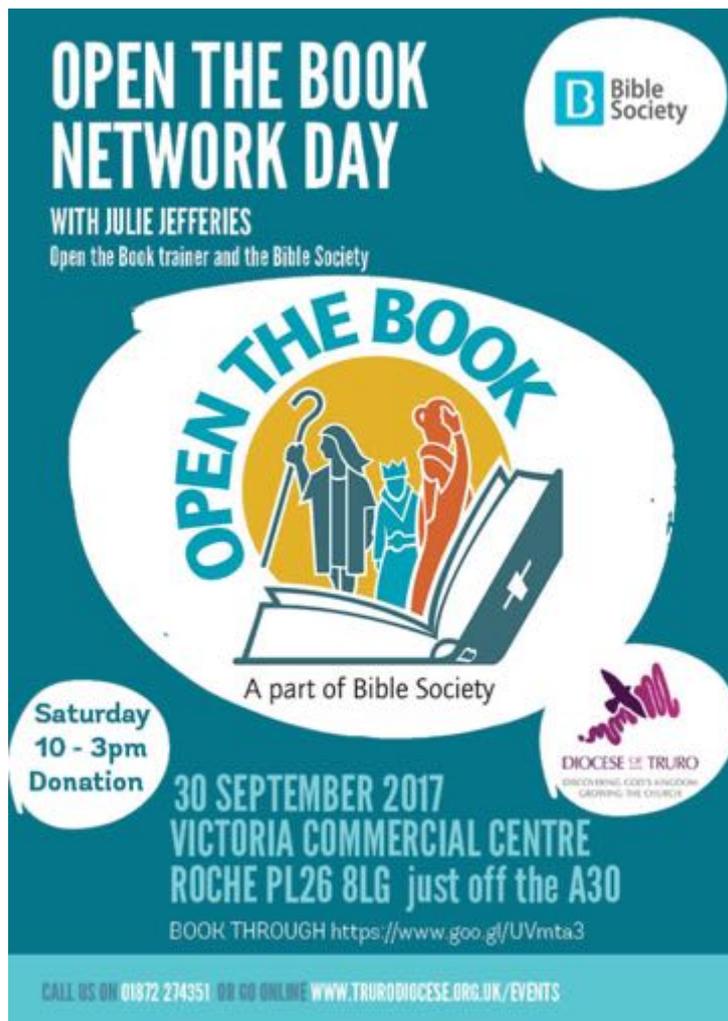
**Epiphany House, Truro on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
from 11am till 3pm**

with a soup or pasty lunch.

This 'Day' is designed for you to experience (through audio and visual presentations) more about this special time together and to ask all the questions you may wish which might lead you to register to be one of 30 pilgrims.

Should the dates above not suit your schedule, the date for 2019 will be soon available.

If you would like to attend this "Discover Landevennec Day", please register your attendance by phoning David H Smith on 01736 719432 or emailing me at [ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ses.dhs@hotmail.co.uk)



**OPEN THE BOOK NETWORK DAY**  
WITH JULIE JEFFERIES  
Open the Book trainer and the Bible Society

**OPEN THE BOOK**

A part of Bible Society

Saturday 10 - 3pm  
Donation

30 SEPTEMBER 2017  
VICTORIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE  
ROCHE PL26 8LG just off the A30  
BOOK THROUGH <https://www.goo.gl/UVmta3>

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