

International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue

Communiqué

Canterbury, 10–17 October 2019



In the name of the Triune God, and with the blessing and guidance of our Churches, the International Commission for Anglican–Orthodox Theological Dialogue met in Canterbury, England from 10 to 17 October 2019 to continue consideration of ecology and end-of-life issues. The meeting was hosted by The Very Revd Robert Willis, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Canterbury, on behalf of the Anglican Communion. The Commission is deeply grateful to the Dean for his generous and warm hospitality.

As ever, the **Commission's** work was undergirded by daily prayer and worship. The Commission attended the Sunday Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral, and the celebration of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy at the parish of the Archangel Michael, Margate, presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium, Co-Chairman of the Commission. On this occasion Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain (Ecumenical Patriarchate) made his first visit to the parish and greeted members of the Commission. The Archbishop generously hosted a lunch, provided by the parish community and Archimandrite Vissarion Kokliotis.

Visits were made to holy and historic sites, including a tour of St **Augustine's** Abbey and the ancient church of St Martin, and to the Cathedral archives and library, and the Eastbridge Hospital. One of the highlights of the **Commission's** meeting was a meditative candlelit walk of prayer led by the Dean around the Cathedral, including the site of the martyrdom of St Thomas Becket.

The Commission completed its work on issues surrounding the environment and ecology according to principles established in its agreed statement, *In the Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology* (Buffalo 2015). The text of a statement, entitled *Stewards of Creation – A Hope-Filled Ecology*, was finalized and will be prepared for publication as part of a projected series. Further consideration was then given to the proposed statement on the end of human life, now provisionally entitled *Good Dying: the Christian Approach to Life and Death*. This work will continue at the **Commission's** next meeting in October 2020 hosted by the Church of Greece.

Members of the Commission present at the meeting

The Most Revd Dr Richard Clarke of Armagh

Anglican Co-Chairman

His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras of Belgium

Ecumenical Patriarchate

Orthodox Co-Chairman

Representatives of the Orthodox Church

His Eminence Metropolitan Serafim of Zimbabwe

Patriarchate of Alexandria

The Revd Fr Jonathan A. Hemmings

Patriarchate of Antioch

The Very Revd Professor Dr Protopresbyter George Dion Dragas

Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Professor Dr Bogdan Lubardic

Patriarchate of Serbia

His Eminence Metropolitan Nifon of Târgoviște

Patriarchate of Romania

The Very Revd Professor Dr Protopresbyter Giorgi Zviadadze

Patriarchate of Georgia

His Eminence Chrysostomos, former Metropolitan of Kition

Church of Cyprus

Emeritus Professor Dr Miltiadis Konstantinou

Church of Greece

Professor Nathan Hoppe

Church of Albania

The Very Revd Dr Protopresbyter Christos B Christakis

Ecumenical Patriarchate

Co-Secretary

Representatives of the Anglican Communion

The Most Revd Dr Phillip Aspinall

The Anglican Church of Australia

The Rt Revd Dr Humberto Maiztegui Gonçalves

The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil

The Rt Revd Graham Usher

The Church of England

The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce

The Church of England

The Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones

The Church in Wales

The Rt Revd Michael Lewis

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East

The Revd Marc Billimoria

Church of Ceylon

The Revd Gcebile Phumzile Gina

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Anglican Communion Office

The Revd Neil Vigers Co-Secretary

Ms Lucy Cowpland

The Revd Dr William Adam