



His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew today concluded a two-day visit to the Archbishop of Canterbury, during which the two leaders celebrated worship, prayed together and discussed challenging issues facing the Anglican and Orthodox Churches and the wider world.

Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Bartholomew prayed for those caught up in the refugee crisis, and held a joint vigil in the chapel at Lambeth Palace to pray for those fleeing violence, persecution and poverty.

His All-Holiness led a lecture and debate on the environment, describing global warming as a 'moral crisis'. The response was given by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Reverend Nicholas Holtam, who is the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, and the Revd Archdeacon John Chryssavgis, who spoke ahead of the UN conference on climate change in Paris next month.

The Archbishop praised Patriarch Bartholomew for his committed ministry to the environment and said it was a "great privilege and joy to have you with us".

During one-on-one discussions the Archbishop and the Patriarch spoke of key issues facing their churches including marriage, sexuality and the beginning of life.

The visit concluded with an invitation from the Ecumenical Patriarch to the Archbishop, inviting him to join a conference on trafficking at the Phanar next year.

*Archbishop Justin and Patriarch Bartholomew today issued a joint communique, which follows below:*

## **JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

### **Visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch to the Archbishop of Canterbury**

At the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew paid a formal visit to Lambeth Palace from November 2-4, 2015. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is based in Istanbul, Turkey, is Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, and occupies the First Throne of the Orthodox Christian Church worldwide. The occasion was in response to Archbishop Justin's visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate last year.

The two leaders presided over ecumenical services filled with symbolic significance, participated in formal functions organized by the Nikaeen Club and the Greek Community, and shared private conversations. A service was held at Lambeth Chapel, where the Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed His All-Holiness and congratulated him on the twenty-fourth anniversary of his enthronement.

The two leaders prayed for those affected by conflict, persecution, climate change and the refugee crisis. In light of this, they agreed to undertake the joint organization of an international conference in Istanbul next year on overcoming modern slavery and human trafficking.

A choral evensong took place in Westminster Abbey, where the two leaders visited the Shrine of St. Edward the Confessor and blessed the congregation. During the service, the co-chairmen of the International Commission for the Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue presented the Archbishop and the Ecumenical Patriarch with a copy of the latest Agreed Statement, entitled *In The Image and Likeness of God: A Hope-Filled Anthropology*.

The text celebrates what Anglicans and Orthodox affirm together about the human person, created in 'the Image and Likeness of God' and will form the theological foundation for forthcoming discussions on the practical consequences of these theological presuppositions for addressing the key themes, including the protection of the environment, medical interventions, and questions around family life and ethics.

The programme also included two formal addresses by the Ecumenical Patriarch on the ethical concerns imposed by the ecological plight of the planet and on the current state of relations between the Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion.

The visit concluded with the recognition that the Common Statement of the two leaders at their first meeting at the Phanar in January 2014 continued to provide the necessary basis and vision for witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ today, and with an invitation extended by His All-Holiness for a joint pilgrimage with the Archbishop of Canterbury to Nicaea and Cappadocia in 2016.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/visit-archbishop-canterbury-ecumenical-patriarch-joint-communique>