

BISHOP WILTON
01759 368140
14th November 2023.

BUGTHORPE HOUSE,
BUGTHORPE,
YORK,
YO41 IQG

Mons. Luc Terlinden, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels,
Wollemarkt 15,
2800 Mechelen,
Belgium.

Dear Archbishop,

I was delighted to hear of your installation as the Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, and wanted to send my very warmest greetings to you as you begin this important ministry.

Your predecessor Cardinal Mercier was a personal friend of my Great-Grandfather, who was a leading member of the group of Catholics and Anglicans convened at Malines between 1921-1925 for the Malines Conversations. Lord Halifax was at the Cardinal's deathbed, and received the treasured gift of His Eminence's Episcopal Ring. This Ring is now set into a much-loved chalice at York Minster, where it is regularly used for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Since 2013, I have been delighted to support and engage with the work of the renewed Malines Conversations Group. I have followed the progress of the Group, under the excellent chairmanship of Fr Thomas Pott OSB, who works with Dr James Hawkey of Westminster Abbey, and Fr Keith Pecklers SJ of the Gregorian University, in seeking to address some of the main issues which remain between our two churches. They have often visited York for meetings, including with your predecessor Cardinal de Kesel. My wife and I have entertained them to dinner on several occasions, and we were delighted to host a major celebration with Archbishop Rowan Williams in December 2021.

I do hope there may be a moment to welcome you to York when your diary allows. In the meantime, allow me to quote, in prayer and hope, my Great-Grandfather, who would often conclude with the words of Christ, 'Ut unum sint.'

*Yours Sincerely,
Peter Halifax*

The Earl of Halifax