



Monsignor Luc Terlinden
Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Halifax,
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Mechelen, 27 November 2023

Dear Lord Halifax,

Many thanks indeed for your kind letter of 14th November 2023. I very much appreciate your taking the time to write to me and your amiable greeting in regard to my installation as Archbishop.

Thank you too for your reminder of the very important role your great grandfather played in the initiation and start of the Malines Conversations and for relating how he was present at Cardinal Mercier's deathbed and of the precious gift the latter bestowed on him. This certainly testifies to a deep friendship and the bond forged, not only personally, but also across the Catholic - Anglican divide!

I must also thank you for your gracious invitation to meet you in York. I would certainly enjoy the opportunity to make your acquaintance personally and I will indeed keep your invitation in mind for the future.

At present, in light of an overflowing agenda and the many responsibilities, engagements and appointments at the beginning of my term as archbishop, I will regrettably not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting in London in December. I have asked one of my colleagues here in the archdiocese, deacon Koen Jacobs to represent me at that time. He is very much involved in ecumenical initiatives and is a close acquaintance of Father Thomas Potts. I hope he will have the opportunity to meet you while attending the book presentation.

Thank you once again for taking the time and trouble to write to me. I hope and look forward to a future meeting 'in the flesh!'

Ut unum sint.

Respectfully yours,

+ Msgr Luc Terlinden
Archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels