

The Ecumenical Patriarch awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Chichester



On Wednesday, 16 September, the University of Chichester conferred the degree of Honorary Doctor of Divinity upon His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in recognition of his many years of service to theology, inter-Christian and interreligious dialogue, the protection of the environment, and the promotion of peace and human dignity.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has been undertaking an official visit to Great Britain since Monday, 14 September.

The University of Chichester, located in West Sussex, England, decided to honour His All-Holiness, who, since his election to the Ecumenical Throne in 1991, has worked to strengthen relations among the Orthodox Churches, as well as to develop closer dialogue between the different Christian denominations. Particular reference was also made to his initiatives aimed at bringing together people of different religious traditions, with an emphasis on mutual respect, understanding and peaceful coexistence.

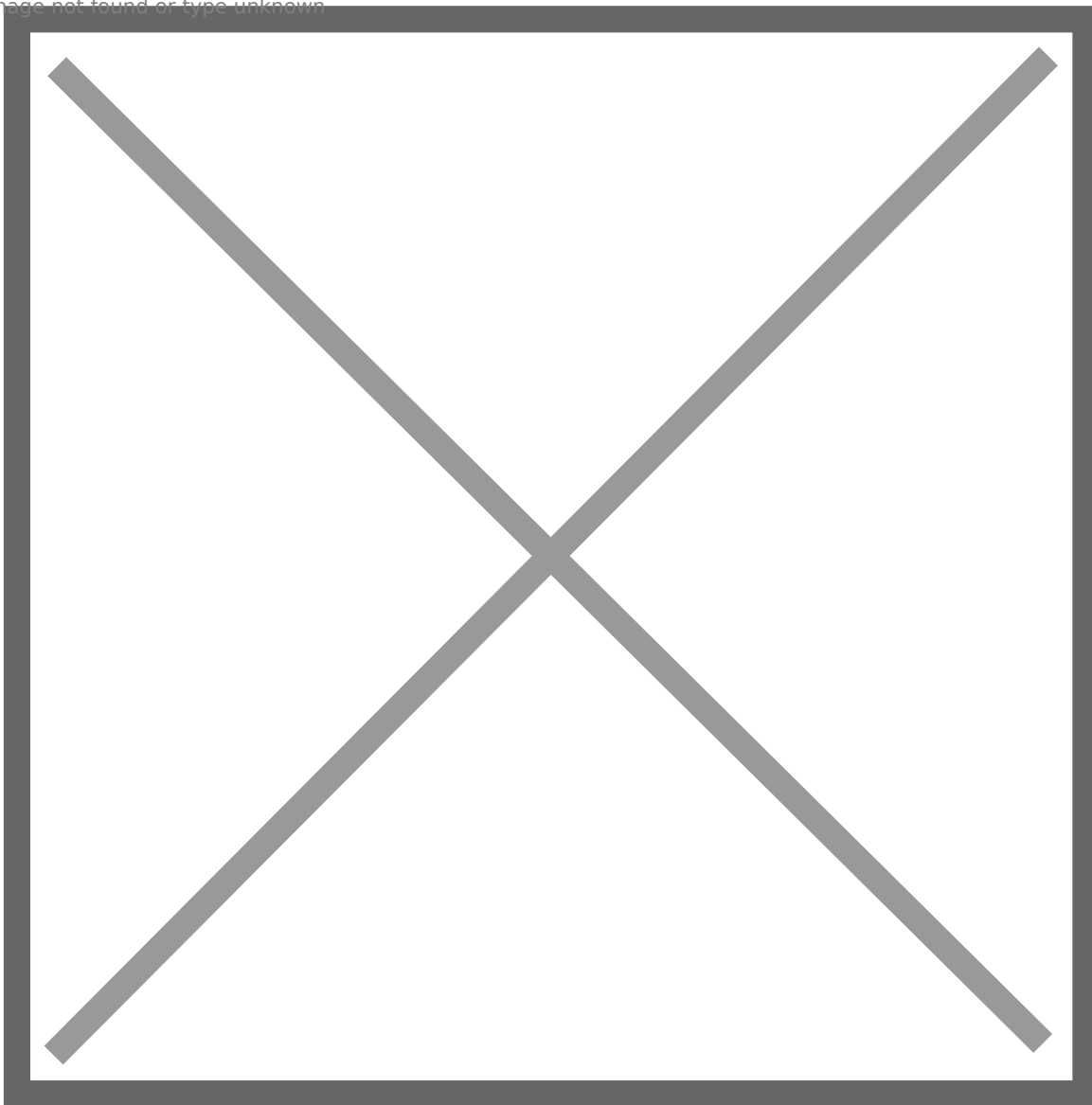
The University also praised the internationally recognised environmental work of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who has become known as the “Green Patriarch”. As was noted, he was one of the first prominent religious leaders

to highlight the moral dimension of environmental protection through international conferences, cooperation with scientists and public interventions.

At the same time, emphasis was placed on his consistent advocacy for human rights, religious freedom and the dignity of every human person, as well as his contribution to promoting dialogue in societies affected by divisions and conflicts.

Reference was also made to the academic background of the Ecumenical Patriarch, who pursued studies in Turkey, Rome, Switzerland and Germany and has been honoured with numerous international distinctions and honorary academic degrees.

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