

Call to unite Anglicans and Catholics under Pope

PLANS to reunite Anglicans with Roman Catholics under the leadership of the Pope are to be published this year.

The proposal, revealed today, is designed to encourage Christian unity. It has been discussed by senior bishops of both Churches and is being reviewed by the Vatican.

If agreed, it would see Anglicans reunited with the Roman Catholic Church just under five centuries after the Protestant split from Rome.

In a document titled *Growing Together In Unity And Mission*, the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission, set up in 2000 to try to bring both Churches together, outlines how they could unite and calls for a "full, ecclesial union". Such a historic reunion is

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seen as highly unlikely, not least because of turmoil among Anglicans themselves over gay ordination.

Divisions have erupted on that issue as archbishops of the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion meet in Tanzania, with primates at the conference sending a message of support to orthodox members of the US Episcopal Church who are opposed to its ordination of gay bishop Gene Robinson.

Seven of the conservative primates have refused to share communion with Episcopal Church leader Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. But the

Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission claims that there is enough common ground between the two Churches to make a "call for action" to unite them.

It also outlines ways in which the two sides could be amalgamated.

These include Anglicans accepting the Pope as universal primate, inviting lay and ordained members of both denominations to attend each other's gatherings, and inviting Anglican bishops to accompany Catholic ones on visits to Rome.

It has also suggested that special protocols be drawn up to handle the movement of clergy from one Church to another and it lays out the common teachings for children at the Sunday schools of both churches.

The free-spending British heir to The aristo, a workers' revolt and the missing millions

TO HIS many friends on the polo circuit, the Hon Rhodri Philipps is the consummate owner-player. His team, Prodigal, often includes leading professional Jack Kidd, whose sister Jodie, the model, is an enthusiastic supporter. Philipps, heir to an ancient title and said to be a descendant of Richard the Lionheart, plays with attacking verve and, win or lose, is always dazzlingly generous with his hospitality.

Indeed, his free-spending has been noted far from the polo field. In the German town of Nuremberg a large number of unemployed workers have followed Philipps's exploits very closely. There was the polo tournament on snow at Klosters last year, where Philipps fielded his team against world-class players, including Kidd. Jodie presented the trophy. Then there were the celebrity matches at Cowdray Park where Philipps played with some of polo's stars including his friend Lucas White, who inherited £70 million from his father, the legendary entrepreneur Lord (Gordon) White. Led by Philipps, Prodigal won the Daniele de Winter cup. Lucas's wife, Normandie Keith, was among the first to offer her congratulations.

Alas, Philipps's sporting successes prompted a quite different reaction in Nuremberg. It was here, not so long ago, that a group of angry men stormed Philipps's office, apparently intent on a confrontation. Only when the police arrived and Philipps was able to escape the scene in his car was calm restored.

Those who know him as the debonair 40-year-old heir to Viscount St Davids and the title Baron Strange de Knokyn (which dates from 1299) might be perplexed by the Nuremberg incident. Philipps is a popular figure in London, a regular at the Walbrook Club in the City and frequent patron of some of the capital's finest restaurants and shops. James Purdey and Sons, the celebrated gunmaker in Mayfair, has done several thousand pounds worth of business with him recently. His Wikipedia entry lists his hobbies as "polo, exclusive shopping".

This has also been noted in Nuremberg. Workers at the old-established construction company Hans Brochier, which was taken over in a deal done by Philipps, claim his lavish spending habits have been financed by money that was meant to benefit them.

It seems an extraordinary thing to allege about a member of one of Britain's noble families. The full title of Rhodri Philipps's father is Viscount St Davids of Lydstep

KEITH DOVKANTS AND ADRIAN GATTON

Haven in the County of Pembroke. The title was created in 1918 for Sir John Wynford Philipps, 13th baronet of Picton Castle. The castle, once the family seat, is now managed by a trust and is a popular tourist attraction.

Viscount St Davids was a deputy speaker in the Lords for the Conservatives, but was among hereditary peers who lost their seat in changes announced by the Government in 1999. Rhodri is one of two sons and he attended Worth School, a Roman Catholic public school in Sussex.

He launched an entrepreneurial career at an early age and in his twenties was a key player in a bold venture to set up a stainless-steel enterprise in Wales. It subsequently failed. He has worked in other fields, including film-making, although the great success he had hoped for eluded him here, too.

The allegation that he misused money from the Brochier company in Germany is currently being investigated by the public prosecutor's office in Nuremberg.

According to a well-placed source, Rhodri Philipps learned about a possible deal with the Hans Brochier group in 2004. The company, established in the 19th century, was one of Germany's most respected old firms, specialising in the production of heavy pipes and tubes. Brochier had a tradition of excellence, but its owners, the AGR waste management group based in Essen, wanted to sell it to concentrate on their core business.

Brochier had debts, but AGR was prepared to let the firm go for a nominal price of one euro. It included in the deal €11 million — £7.3 million — of working capital. According to union sources in Nuremberg, the idea was that this money would allow a new owner to put the old firm back on its feet and guarantee the jobs of its 800 workers.

On 1 January 2005, Hans Brochier was duly acquired by subsidiaries of Aurbach Capital Partners Ltd, registered in the British Virgin Islands, with Rhodri Philipps acting for the purchaser. He is now a director of another Aurbach company which operates from an office in West Halkin Street, Belgravia, close to his London flat.

He also has a house in Sussex, bought after the Brochier takeover. Workers at Brochier, who had lived through anxious times as they saw their company failing, welcomed him with bouquets. Philipps's precise role in the deal was never spelled out but Brochier's workforce believed him

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