**14 February**

**Cyril and Methodius**

**Missionaries to the Slavs,**

**869 and 885**

Lord of all, who gave to your servants Cyril and Methodius the gift of tongues to proclaim the gospel to the Slavs: make your whole Church one as you are one that all Christians may honour one another, and east and west acknowledge one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and you, the God and Father of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

© The Archbishops’ Council of the

 Church of England

**14 February**

**Cyril and Methodius**

**Missionaries to the Slavs**

Cyril and his older brother Methodius were born in Thessalonica, both developing in their youth the ability to speak several languages, including Slavonic, a language not yet written down, at least in an alphabet understood by others. Cyril created the Slavonic alphabet and set about translating the Scriptures and other liturgical texts into the language. They established the Church in Moravia, but in so doing entered into the controversy between indigenous and centralised religious practices and worship. Cyril died on this day in the year 869, whilst the brothers were in Rome, there to obtain papal approval for their evangelistic work. Methodius returned to Moravia as Archbishop, where he completed the translation of the Bible and continued the missionary work. He died in the year 885. Today they are revered in both Christian East and West and, as such, are seen as patron saints of ecumenism between these two great branches of Christendom.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness’*

**17 February**

**Janani Luwum,**

**Archbishop, Martyr, 1977**

God of truth, whose servant Janani

Luwum walked in the light, and in his

death defied the powers of darkness:

free us from fear of those who kill the

body, that we too may walk as children

of light, through him who overcame

darkness by the power of the cross,

Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who

is alive and reigns with you, in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

© The Archbishops’ Council of the

 Church of England

**17 February**

**Janani Luwum**

**Archbishop of Uganda,**

**Martyr**

Janani Luwum was born in 1922 at Acholi in Uganda. His childhood and youth were spent as a goat-herd but he quickly showed an ability to learn and absorb knowledge when given the opportunity. Soon after he became a teacher, he was converted to Christianity and was eventually ordained in 1956, becoming Bishop of Northern Uganda in 1969 and Archbishop of Uganda in 1974. Idi Amin had come to power in Uganda in 1971 and the result of a military coup and his undemocratic and harsh rule was the subject of much criticism by the Church and others. After receiving a letter from the bishops protesting at the virtual institution of state murder, Janani and two of Amin’s own government ministers were stated as having been found dead following a car accident. It emerged quickly that they had in fact died on the implicit instructions of the president. Janani’s enthusiasm for the good news of Jesus, combined with his willingness to sacrifice even his own life for what he believed in, led him to his martyrdom on this day in 1977.

*Sourced from ‘Exciting Holiness*