

About Ken Costa

Ken Costa was born in South Africa and studied philosophy and law at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, where he became President of the Students' Union and was active in the student protest movements against apartheid. He went on to study law and theology at the University of Cambridge.



Following university, he went to work for an investment bank in the City of London, where he has worked for over 30 years. After serving as Vice-Chairman of UBS Investment Bank, a global financial institution, where he advised international corporations, Mr Costa was named as the Chairman of Lazard International and a Deputy Chairman of Lazard, joining the bank in October 2007.

Ken Costa is the Chairman of Alpha International, which promotes the Alpha course - an introduction to the Christian faith which has been attended by over 2 million in the UK and 10 million worldwide. He is Church Warden of Holy Trinity Brompton, a church in Central London. At other moments in his busy life he serves as Chairman of the Tick Tock Club appeal on behalf of Great Ormond Street Hospital; a member of the Advisory Council of the London Symphony Orchestra; and a Trustee of the UK arm of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

He and his wife, Fi, live in London. They have two sons and two daughters.

We have been in communication with Ken for a couple of years now about his coming up to Edinburgh. During one round of negotiations there was a long silence. It turned out he had literally been incommunicado: he was at the time heavily involved in arranging the coming together of Banco Santander and Abbey. So we are all the more grateful that he has cleared his diary to be with us on Thursday 25 September. We are hoping another big deal does not come up...

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