



In this issue we continue our occasional series of personal reflections about the Institute, its mission and what it means to different people. Between now and our 25th anniversary next year we will include the voices of many current and past members of the Institute. This week, Cedric Dowe, alumnus of the Woolf Institute talks about how much the institute has meant to him.

Dear Woolf Friends,

On my retirement from the Civil Service towards the end of 1998 I looked back on a lifetime of Christian thought including some theological study. From 1992 this was enriched by my wife Barbara's and my membership of the newly-formed Staines and District Branch of the Council of Christians and Jews (she had grown up and been educated alongside Jewish girls in the East End). I had also begun to be challenged by the negative stereotyping of the Jews and Judaism up to the time of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. So I embarked with eager anticipation on the MA course with the Centre for Jewish Christian Relations (as 'Woolf' then was) in January 2001.

I enjoyed every part of the course which concluded in 2004. If I am to highlight one particular experience it was perhaps the Polish Summer School in 2001. Here history leapt to life vividly in countless ways, never more so than when our tutor was treating a piece of Holocaust history in a Jewish cemetery and a very agitated Polish lady shouted over the wall that she watched with horror 60 years before as Nazi soldiers gunned down a collection of Jews on that very spot.

It has been a great pleasure to see what strides have been made since those days by the Woolf Institute, to have attended, often with Barbara (also a keen supporter), a good number of its events and be

amazed at its increasingly global reach. All this while retaining the friendly spirit and human touch it showed at the outset. My study experience enriched my role as Chairman of my Branch of the Council of Christians and Jews (2008-2018). And though my studies were confined to Jewish-Christian issues they offered a useful structure on which to 'piggyback' a good deal of subsequent reading on Islam. All this fed in to articles on varied themes I have supplied to my church magazine nearly every month from 2006 till now.

I was struck by how little the 'man in the pew' understood of the Jews and our debt to our Jewish friends. I still am.

Best wishes,

Cedric Dowe
Alumnus, Woolf Institute

Upcoming Events

23 May @17:00

Invitation and
Belonging in a
Christian Ashram



29 May @17:30

The 50th
Anniversary Beshara
Lecture



30 May @17:00

Online
Antisemitism: From
Words to Actions



1 - 5 June

Patrons' Tour -
Istanbul
(By invitation only)



6 June @17:00

Populism and
Antisemitism



7 June @14:00

Jubilee Garden
Party
(By invitation only)



7 June @17:00

Archives and
record-keeping in
medieval Eastern
Mediterranean



12 June @14:00

The Written Word:
Timeless Arabic &
Hebrew Calligraphy





READ OUR LATEST BLOG

**RESEARCH DAY SPRING 2022 AT
THE HOUSE OF LORDS**



BLOG POST: RESEARCH DAY AT THE HOUSE OF LORDS

On Thursday 12 May members of the Institute went to the House of Lords for the annual Research Evening and dinner. This was a hugely successful and enjoyable occasion, attended by many of our trustees, patrons and Lord and Lady Woolf.

CLICK HERE TO READ THE BLOG

BOOK LAUNCH 23 MAY @17:00

**INVITATION AND BELONGING IN A CHRISTIAN
ASHRAM - BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN INDIA**

DR NADYA POHRAN



**BOOK LAUNCH: INVITATION AND BELONGING IN A CHRISTIAN ASHRAM
- BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN INDIA**

MONDAY 23 MAY @17:00

We are delighted to host a book launch for one of our postdoctoral visiting research fellows of the Woolf Institute, Nadya Pohran.

How do we build, experience, and nurture a sense of mutual respect, trust, friendship, and even deep belonging when we hold onto different beliefs and worldviews than others in our midst? What are the challenges, and benefits, of striving to form a community in such an environment? Spurred on by these questions, Nadya Pohran pursued ethnographic fieldwork at Sat Tal Christian Ashram (STA), an ashram established in 1930 with the aim to build interreligious community with its Hindu and Muslim neighbours, and which has experienced several challenges in creating and maintaining a sense of welcome for all.

Nadya will provide a summary of the book's contents and situate it within the field of Hindu-Christian studies more broadly. She will then discuss some of her findings related to the negotiations and tensions of belonging through presenting a case study of World Amrita and Sat Tal Christian ashram. There will be time for Q&A as well as guided group discussion.

The event is scheduled to take place in-person. The event will not be recorded but there will be an option to attend virtually.

PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN-PERSON

[CLICK HERE IF YOU WANT TO JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)

WEBINAR 29 MAY @17:30

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal

Unity in Humanity? Where Two Hands Meet



WEBINAR: 50TH ANNIVERSARY BESHARA LECTURE

SUNDAY 29 MAY @17:30

We are honoured to present the 50th Anniversary lecture of the Beshara Trust: **UNITY IN HUMANITY? Where Two Hands Meet.**


Given by our patron **His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan** Truth should be adhered to in presenting historical facts, while at the same time concentrating on the values of love, peace and respect, so that we can raise a generation that believes in coexistence with others and respect of their values. This is a project that requires our concerted efforts in order to contribute to the making of our history based on dialogue, cooperation and integration, rather than on conflict and clashes.

A statesman and peacemaker, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan has worked for decades to promote peace, interfaith dialogue and

humanitarian justice.

The Beshara Lecture is held for the furtherance of the knowledge of the unity of existence and its ramifications in areas of human development. Sponsored by the Beshara Trust.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



THE WRITTEN WORD: TIMELESS ARABIC & HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY

SUNDAY 12 JUNE @14:00

Three award-winning calligraphy artists come together to showcase the beauty of the written word. Featuring Arabic and Hebrew text in a range of styles, these original masterpieces present modern works inspired by the classical calligraphic tradition. As an institute dedicated to educating the public about the heritage of the Abrahamic faiths, this exhibition offers an exciting event that explores some of the creative, artistic productions developed across various Abrahamic communities over time.

Featuring works by Joumana Medlej, Michel D'Anastasio, and Maaida Noor, all of whom will join us on the opening day to share their insights working as calligraphy artists over the years. See back page for artist biographies.

Please join us in the Shasha Suite for a reception at the Woolf Institute on Sunday 12 June 2022 from 14:00 - 17:00 to meet the artists and browse the collection of the original works. There will be an opportunity for attendees to purchase these originals. The artwork will be reproduced and featured in the building in an exhibition until the end of the year.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

THE F WORD

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IS THERE A SCIENCE OF FORGIVENESS?



PODCAST: THE F WORD

Is there a science of forgiveness?

"Without forgiveness there is no future." So said the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. But do we have it in us to forgive the most egregious sins? Some think that is in God's realm. Kitty O'One and Justin Lane tackle the F word...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

BELIEVING AND BELONGING

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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