

Visiting Speaker Series

The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies is
pleased to present a talk by esteemed academic

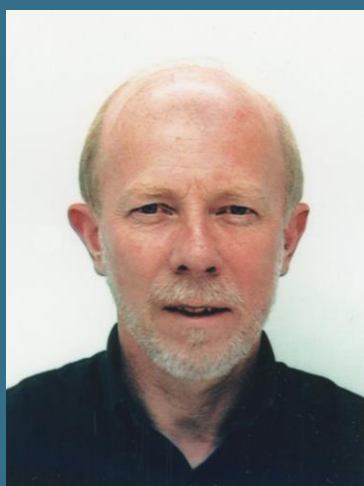
Professor David Thomas University of Birmingham

'The Minimalisation of Christianity under Early Islamic Rule'

Wednesday, 2 March 2016, 5.15 pm

LT1, IAIS Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter, EX4 4ND,
Tea & Coffee to be served from 4.30 pm in the Common Room,
Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies.

All are welcome



Christians living under early Islamic rule often enjoyed considerable social freedom, but they were also constrained by a sense of increasing inequality. In addition to discriminatory legal measures, Muslim religious writings frequently ignored Christianity as a full faith tradition. Religious experts routinely stripped it down into a series of individual teachings which they proved were weak by contrast with the strength of their own Islamic doctrines. Christianity as a tradition of faith was gradually erased from the picture and Christians were silenced as partners in religious debate.

Professor Thomas has been a specialist in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations for many years. After undergraduate work at Oxford, he worked in the northern Sudan, where his interest in Islam was kindled. He took this further in theological studies at Cambridge and in PhD research at Lancaster. In 1993 he was appointed Lecturer at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Selly Oak. In 2007 he was appointed Professor of Christianity and Islam. In 2011 he was made Nadir Dinshaw Professor of Interreligious Relations.