

To reserve a place on:

Christians Living Amongst Muslims

Please return your completed booking form (overleaf) to ensure your place to:

Beth Harper
The Mirfield Centre
College of the Resurrection
Stocks Bank Road
Mirfield
WF14 0BW

Tel: 01924 481920

Bookings must be accompanied by payment. Please make cheques payable to **The Mirfield Centre**. You may also pay over the phone using a credit or debit card. Please book by Friday 21st April 2017

Please feel free to photocopy this form as many times as you wish and distribute it to friends and colleagues.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Mirfield Centre.

Please note: If you would like a paper receipt for your booking, please **enclose a stamped addressed envelope**. If you provide an email address we will confirm your booking on receipt. We will contact you approximately one week before the event, when you will receive a reminder of the date and time, as well as any other relevant information.

About the course leader:

Bill Schwartz is originally from Omaha, Nebraska and is married to Edith, they have 4 grown children & 1 granddaughter. Before ordination in 1993, Bill served with various



Christian organisations in Cyprus. From 1989-1999 he worked as administrator for the Anglican Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf. During 1999-2007 he ministered as Rector with the Canterbury Group in

Saudi Arabia and then pastored the Anglican congregations in Qatar until the end of 2014. Currently Bill serves as Treasurer in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East. He is presently the Archdeacon in Iraq and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, in the Diocese of Cyprus and The Gulf.

He was made an honorary OBE in 2006. He is also an honorary Canon of St Christopher's Cathedral, Bahrain, and holds a Doctorate in Ministry from Nashotah House Seminary in the USA.

Bill's book, 'Islam: A Religion, a Culture, a Society,' will be available on the day.



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Christians Living Amongst Muslims



The Lord's Prayer in Arabic Calligraphy

Saturday 29th April 2017

Led by

Fr Bill Schwartz

**Archdeacon in Iraq & the countries of The
Arabian Peninsula**

£20.00 (including lunch and refreshments)

10.00am-3.30pm

In partnership with Christians Aware



Programme

9.45am	Arrivals
10.00am	Welcome.
10.05am	Introduction to Islam
11.00am	Coffee
11.15am	Islam: a religion, a culture and a society
12.10pm	Eucharist (optional)
1.00pm	Lunch
1.45pm	Nationality neutral Christianity
2.30pm	Witness among Muslims
3.25pm	Closing prayer

About the Day

A day for those interested in learning about the life of the Church in the Arabian peninsula. The peninsula is the heartland of Islam, which affects both Christians who live there and Muslims throughout the world. Islam in this area is quite different from Islam as encountered in the West, and even as it is encountered in the Levant (see map). However, an insight into Islam and the Muslim communities in the Arabian peninsula will provide an excellent resource for a wider and deeper understanding of Islam than is normally possible for non-Muslims. Our day with Bill Schwartz will provide the opportunity for participants to understand Islam in a new way, and to develop closer relationships with their Muslim neighbours.

Further, the migration of labourers on all levels of the economy has created a multinational church expression unlike anywhere else in the world, prompting an approach to worship and Christian identity that can be separated from specific national heritages and traditions. Could it be that this is a glimpse of what heaven will be like?

The day will comprise of four sessions:

Introduction to the region.

There are millions of Christians living and working in the Arabian peninsula. Christianity is tolerated rather than persecuted, and in many ways the Church is flourishing in ways the Western world would like to see in our home countries.

Islam: a religion, a culture and a society.

Our secular ethos teaches us to separate religion from other aspects of our life. This is completely impossible for Muslims. Islam is their life. We'll explore different ways this realisation can inform our relationships with Muslim friends and trends in Islam.

Nationality neutral Christianity.

In countries where migrant workers vastly outnumber the citizens the mix of nationalities and worship traditions among the Christians present interesting challenges to the way liturgies are planned. It also spotlights just how much of our Christian identity is shaped by our own national/local history and traditions - and economic and political assumptions.

Witness among Muslims.

Secularism and its specific assumptions about freedom of religion are incompatible with society in the peninsula. At the same time, Christians have wonderful opportunities to express their identity, belief and theology in the way they live and work within the society. The challenge of witness is quite fulfilling once one leaves behind many cultural presuppositions and expectations.



Map of the Levant Countries. Source: Google Maps

Booking Form

Christians Living Amongst Muslims

I wish to book place(s) Fee £20.00

Name:.....

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Revd/Dr/other)

Address:.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel. No:.....

Email:.....

We cater for most dietary requirements, please indicate below if required

.....

If you have any medical or access requirements we need to be made aware of please indicate below:

.....

I am a Reader/Lay Pastoral Minister in the Ripon/Leeds/Huddersfield/Wakefield/Bradford Episcopal area (delete as appropriate)

My church denomination is

.....

I found out about this event from

.....

May we contact you about future events?.....Y/N