

# The Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion



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### News

#### Public Engagement

**Professor Francis Davis** [was appointed](#) to the Office for Disability Issues. In his new role, Professor Francis Davis will work to promote social enterprise and improve employment opportunities for disabled people.



**Professor Francis Davis**, Professor of Religion, Communities and Public Policy at the University of Birmingham (Department of Theology and Religion) and Director of Public Policy, The Edward Cadbury Centre

**Professor Francis Davis** was asked by the *Sunday Times* and *The Telegraph* about his opinion on [Easter-less packaging](#) this past Easter season and a plan by the National Trust [to drop the word Easter](#) from the title of an event organised in partnership with the chocolate company Cadbury.

[Watch](#) the second Cadbury Conversation *Chocolate. Heaven* with **Dr Andrew Davies**, Director of The Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, and eminent theologian **Professor Candida Moss**.



**Professor Francis Davis** is looking to supervise PhD students in faith-based social action and innovation, especially those interested in ( i ) empowering those with disabilities and ( ii ) in socially excluded urban settings.

**Dr Andrew Davies** and **Professor Candida Moss** talk about chocolate and heaven on a road trip to Cadbury World.

#### Publications

**Professor Jocelyne Cesari** wrote in the [Middle East Monitor](#) that Islam needs to be independent of political power, not reformed further, to curb violence.



**Professor Jocelyne Cesari**, Professor of Religion and Politics at the University of Birmingham (Department of Theology and Religion) and Director of Research, The Edward Cadbury Centre

**Honorary Fellow Dr Rebecca Catto** [draws upon findings from sociological research](#) to illustrate the observation that non-religious people in Canada and the UK appear to be the most likely to perceive a necessary clash between science and religion.

**Honorary Fellow Dr Elizabeth Harris** has published an article in the journal *Religions of South Asia* (Vol 10 No. 1 (2016) called '[Art, Liturgy and the Transformation of Memory: Christian Rapprochement with Buddhism in Post-Independence](#)

**Professor Francis Davis** wrote in the University of Birmingham's Perspectives about the [hollowness of Easter eggs and the hollowness of religious illiteracy](#)



**Honorary Fellow Michael Wear** wrote in the Washington Post – [remember when the White House had faith?](#)

Honorary Fellows [Dr Elizabeth Harris](#) and [Dr Rebecca Catto](#)

**Honorary Fellow Katie Harrison**, who is Director of the new Faith Research Centre at ComRes, directed the publication of [Belief At Work](#), a study of faith in the British workplace.

[More News](#)

## Upcoming events

### The Place of Sacred Art

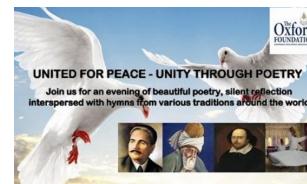
**Honorary Fellow Canon Dr Andrew Smith** [is organizing a symposium](#) that explores the interpretation of sacred art in secular and faith contexts on **May 9, 2017**. **Dr David Cheetham**, Head of the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion, is one of the speakers at the event.



[Canon Dr Andrew Smith](#), Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham and Honorary Fellow of The Edward Cadbury Centre

### United for Peace - Unity through Poetry

The Oxford Foundation, in partnership with the Cadbury Centre, will host a poetry evening on **May 10, 2017**. The evening will feature performances by Eloise Secker from the **Royal Shakespeare Company**, the **International Iqbal Society** and **Rumi Circle/ Threshold Society** (accompanied by the Whirling Dervishes). There will be hymns from the **Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist traditions**, peace and love songs from the Jewish and Christian traditions-African subcontinent and a poetic eulogy for the victims of terrorism around the world by **Ahmad Nawaz** (APS Victim). Civic and faith leaders will also be in attendance. Please visit the [Eventbrite online page](#) to register for this free event at the University of Birmingham.



[United for Peace - Unity through Poetry](#) takes place on May 10, 2017.

### Elizabeth Harris taking part in United Nations Vesak Day celebrations

**Dr Elizabeth Harris** [will be speaking](#) on **May 10, 2017** at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the theme 'Buddhism and Peace' as part of the Commemoration of the United Nations Vesak Day, organised by the Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to UNESCO.



Honorary Fellow [Dr Elizabeth Harris](#)

### Guest Lecture by Merete Bilde

**Merete Bilde**, policy advisor at the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the European Union in Brussels will give a guest lecture on religion and foreign policy on **May 16, 2017**. Please visit the [Eventbrite online page](#) to register for this free event at the University of Birmingham.



Merete Bilde talks [about her work](#) at EEAS (July 26, 2015). (c) Source / Societal Security Network

### Launch of Francis Davis' government pamphlet

**Professor Francis Davis** has authored a paper that will influence government policy. [The report will be launched on May 17, 2017](#). Penny Mordant, Minister of State for Department for Work and Pensions, will deliver the keynote speech.



### The Spirit of the Atonement: Pentecostal Challenges to the Christian Tradition

The Cadbury Centre proudly supports the annual Walter J. Hollenweger Lecture. This year, **Professor Steve Studebaker** will address the challenges and opportunities provided by

Pentecostal theology to the Christian atonement tradition on **June 6, 2017**. Please visit the [Eventbrite online page](#) to register for this free event at the University of Birmingham.

[More Events](#)

[Professor Steve Studebaker](#), Associate Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology & Howard & Shirley Bentall Chair in Evangelical Thought, McMaster Divinity College, Ontario, Canada

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