

## Christianity in Iraq VII: Synopsis

The churches of Iraq have preserved some of the most ancient liturgical material in Christianity. The Syriac 'Anaphora of Addai and Mari', commemorating the apostle of Edessa and his disciple who evangelised in Mesopotamia, dates back to the second or third century. It is one of the few complete liturgies to survive from a time when bishops improvised the text of the Eucharistic Prayer.

The 'Anaphora of Addai and Mari' fell somewhat into abeyance after 410 when the Synod of Isaac at Seleucia-Ctesiphon declared that the liturgy would thereafter be celebrated in accordance with the Western rite. Over the centuries, the liturgical traditions have been far from static and have undergone many changes. In the Early Islamic era, the canons of the *Hudra* (East Syrian Office book) were re-arranged by Patriarch Isoyabh III (647-657). In the thirteenth century the Lectionary readings of the *Hudra* were revised to accord with the Peshitta. Changes are still being made today.

The East and West Syrian churches developed a very rich repertoire of liturgical literature. Manuscripts from the monastery site at Turfan (dated 9-12<sup>th</sup> centuries) provide particularly important insight into the evolution of the East Syrian liturgical tradition with the emergence of significant variants. The manuscripts also underscore the cardinal role that Syriac assumed in its role as the language of the liturgy throughout the far-flung, ethnically and linguistically diverse dioceses.

The churches of Iraq are facing particular challenges, not the least being the exodus and growth of diaspora communities in the Middle East, Europe, America and Australia. In these cosmopolitan, multicultural environments, the liturgy remains a vital artery linking communities back to their unique and precious heritage.

## PROGRAMME

### Morning Session. [10.30 A.M. – 1.00 P.M.]

The morning session will consist of four papers exploring the dynamics of liturgy in the Syriac traditions, both Eastern and Western.

#### Fr. Baby Varghese (Kerala, India)

*Images of Christ in East and West Syrian liturgy.*

#### Dr. Aho Shemunkasho (Salzburg, Austria)

*Changes in West Syrian liturgy without liturgical reform*

#### Mr. Steven Ring (Bristol, U.K.)

*The structure and history of the Hudra in the Church of the East: preliminary observations*

#### Dr. Sebastian Brock (Oxford, U.K.)

*Early witnesses to the liturgical tradition of the Church of the East*

### Afternoon Session.

[2.00 – 4.30 P.M.]

The afternoon session explores the role of liturgy within modern communities, highlighting its function and contribution 'beyond the mass' as a marker of cultural and religious identity.

Speakers include:

#### Ms. Tala Jarjour (Cambridge, U.K.)

*The living tradition of liturgical chant among the Suryani community of Aleppo.*

Ms. Jarjour has conducted her doctoral fieldwork amongst the erstwhile community of Edessa who relocated to Aleppo *en masse* in the 1920's. This talk will be accompanied by musical examples and illustrations.

## Christianity in Iraq VII: Application Form

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

Day time tel.no.

e-mail address:

Please circle fee enclosed

Full	£30.00
BISI Member	£24.00
JAMECA Member	£24.00
Student	£12.00*

\*Please send proof of student status.

**Includes lunch, tea/coffee.**

Do you require disabled access? Yes/No

**Please send this form with your remittance by Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**(cheques payable to Dr. Erica Hunter):**

Dr. Erica C.D. Hunter,  
*Centre of Eastern and Orthodox Christianity,*  
Dept. for the Study of Religion,  
School of Oriental and African Studies,  
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square  
LONDON WC1H 0XG

You can also register and pay on-line at  
**[www.easternchristianity.com](http://www.easternchristianity.com)**

For **further details**, please write to the above address or contact by e-mail.

e-mail: [eh9@soas.ac.uk](mailto:eh9@soas.ac.uk)

**CHRISTIANITY IN IRAQ VII**

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010**

**Enquiries to:**

**Dr. Erica C.D. Hunter**  
*Centre of Eastern and Orthodox  
Christianity*  
Dept. for the Study of Religions  
**SOAS**  
Thornhaugh St.  
Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

**E-mail: [eh9@soas.ac.uk](mailto:eh9@soas.ac.uk)**

**For further details visit:**

**[www.easternchristianity.com](http://www.easternchristianity.com)**

*Centre of Eastern and Orthodox  
Christianity*  
**DEPT for the STUDY of RELIGIONS**  
**SCHOOL of ORIENTAL and**  
**AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**UNIVERSITY of LONDON**  
in conjunction with

**The British Institute for the Study of Iraq  
&  
Jerusalem and Middle Eastern  
Churches Association**

*Presents*

**CHRISTIANITY IN IRAQ  
VII**

A seminar day on  
the liturgical traditions of Iraq

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010**

to be held at

**The Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre**

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**[www.easternchristianity.com](http://www.easternchristianity.com)**