Relations between Christians and Jews over the past 2000 years have been characterised to a great extent by mutual distrust and by Christian discrimination and violence against Jews. In recent decades, however, a new spirit of dialogue has been emerging, beginning with an awakening among Christians to the Jewish origins of Christianity, and encouraging scholars of both traditions to work together.

An Introduction to Jewish–Christian Relations sheds fresh light on this ongoing interfaith encounter, exploring key writings and themes in Jewish–Christian history, from the Jewish context of the New Testament to major events of modern times, including the rise of ecumenism, the horrors of the Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. This accessible theological and historical study also touches on numerous related areas such as Jewish and interfaith studies, philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, international relations and the political sciences.

Edward Kessler is Founder and Executive Director of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths and Fellow of St Edmund’s College, Cambridge. His books include A Dictionary of Jewish–Christian Relations (Cambridge, 2005) and Bound by the Bible (Cambridge, 2004).
AN INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH–CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

EDWARD KESSLER
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Timeline

NEW TESTAMENT

BCE
200  LXX Translation of Hebrew Bible
63  Judea becomes Roman province
37  Herod becomes King of Judea
c. 6–4  Jesus born
4  Herod dies and Antipas becomes Tetrarch of Galilee
CE
c. 10  Hillel dies (c. 60 BCE–10 CE)
18  Caiphas appointed High Priest (dismissed in 37)
19  Jews expelled from Rome
26  Pontius Pilate becomes Roman Governor of Judea
     (dismissed in 36)
28  John the Baptist begins ministry
30  Shammai dies (c. 50 BCE–30 CE)
30–3  Ministry of Jesus
33  Crucifixion of Jesus
35  Conversion of Paul
44  James, brother of Jesus, dies
     Herod Agrippa dies
48  First Jerusalem Council
49  Jews and Christians expelled from Rome
50  Philo dies (c. 25 BCE–c. 50 CE)
     Rabban Gamaliel dies
58  Paul writes his final letter to Romans
64  Persecution of Christians under Nero
66–70  Jewish Revolt against Rome
70  Destruction of Jerusalem Temple by Titus
     Gospels of Mark composed
Timeline

73  Masada conquered
80–90  Gospels of Matthew and Luke composed
81  Persecution of Christians and Jews initiated under Domitian
90  Council of Jamnia (Yavneh) meets
90–100  Gospel of John and Epistle to Hebrews composed
         *Birkat Ha-Minim* (‘curse of heretics’) composed
100  Flavius Josephus dies (37/38 – c. 100)

CHURCH FATHERS

70  Destruction of Temple by Titus
100  Flavius Josephus dies (37/38 – 100)
c. 125  Aquila’s translation of Bible
         *Peshitta* translation of Bible
         Oldest extant NT fragment, in Rylands library, parts of
         John 18

130  Hadrian builds *Aelia Capitolina* on site of Jerusalem Temple
132  Epistle of Barnabas, first *Adversus Iudaeos* text, composed
132–5  Bar Kokhba revolt
144  Marcion (c. 90–155 CE) excommunicated
160  Justin Martyr (c. 100–65 CE) composes *Dialogue with Trypho*
         Death of Valentinus, Gnostic teacher

c. 180  Celsus writes *The True Word*
         Melito (c. 140–85 CE) composes *Peri Pascha*

c. 190  Pope Victor I (r. 189–198 CE) excommunicates Eastern
         churches observing Easter on Nisan 14

c. 200  Theodotion’s translation of Bible
         Mishnah compiled

245  Origen (185–253) completes Hexapla
256  Dura-Europos synagogue destroyed by Persians
303–12  Persecution of Christians under Diocletian
306  Council of Elvira
312  Constantine (r. 306–37) converts to Christianity
313  Edict of Milan marks Roman tolerance of Christianity
325  Helena (c. 250–330) begins building campaign in
         Land of Israel
         First Council of Nicaea
330  Constantine moves capital of Roman Empire to
         Constantinople
335  Church of Holy Sepulchre completed
Timeline

361–3 Reign of Julian, last pagan emperor
380 Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire
381 c. Egeria makes pilgrimage to Israel
     Nicene creed agreed
382 382 Jerome (c. 342–420) starts Vulgate Translation
            John Chrysostom (c. 350–407) writes Adversus Iudaeos
373 373 Ephrem the Syrian dies
381 386 c. Jerome writes Adversus Iudaeos
        John Chrysostom (c. 350–407) writes Adversus Iudaeos
400 412 c. Jerusalem Talmud redacted
        Rome sacked by Visigoths
407 416 Cyril (c. 375/80–444) expels Jews from Alexandria
430 429 Augustine of Hippo (354–430) writes Adversus Iudaeos
438 438 Theodosian Code
500 438 c. Babylonian Talmud redacted
535 535 c. Justinian Code composed
535 555 c. Romanos Melodos dies
598 598 Pope Gregory I (540–604) issues Sicut Iudaeis

RABBINIC WRITINGS

66–70 Jewish Revolt against Rome
70–100 Destruction of Jerusalem Temple by Titus
70–200 Period of the *tannaim* and compilations of Mishnah, 
            Tosefta, and various midrashim (e.g., *Mekhilta*)
73 73 Masada conquered
90 90 Council of Jamnia (Yavneh) meets
100 100 *Birkat Ha-Minim* (‘curse of heretics’) composed
125 125 Aquila’s translation of Bible
130 130 Hadrian builds *Aelia Capitolina* on site of 
            Jerusalem Temple
132–5 132 Bar Kochba Revolt
200 200 Mishnah compiled by Judah ha-Nasi (late 2nd–early 3rd 
            centuries CE)
220–500 Period of the *amoraim* and emergence of rabbinic 
            academies in Babylon 
            Compilation of Talmud, and various midrashim (e.g., 
            Genesis, Lamentations and Leviticus Rabbah, *Pesikta de-Rav Kahana, Tanhuma*)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>361–3</td>
<td>Reign of Julian, last pagan emperor. Preparations for rebuilding Temple curtailed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380</td>
<td>Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 400</td>
<td>Jerusalem Talmud redacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 500</td>
<td>Babylonian Talmud redacted by Rabbi Ashi (352–427)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550–700</td>
<td>Period of the savoraim, Persian rabbis who put the Talmud in its final form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 600</td>
<td><em>Toledot Yeshu</em> composed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>638</td>
<td>Islamic conquest of Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700–1250</td>
<td>Period of the gaonim (the gaonic era)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 750</td>
<td>Rabbinic academies move to Baghdad, new Islamic capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 800</td>
<td>Karaites reject authority of oral law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>846</td>
<td>Amram Gaon (d. 875) compiles first Jewish prayerbook, <em>Siddur Rab Amram</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>871</td>
<td>Marriage contract (6 October) the earliest dated document in Cairo Geniza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. 930</td>
<td>Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>933</td>
<td>Sa’adia Gaon (882–942) publishes <em>Book of Beliefs and Opinions</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1095</td>
<td>First Crusade</td>
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<tr>
<td>1141</td>
<td>Death of Judah ha-Levi, author of <em>Sefer ha-Kuzari</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1142</td>
<td>Death of Hugh of St. Victor. Victorine School established. Promotes study of Scripture, using Jewish exegesis, notably Rashi (1040–1105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1144</td>
<td>Death of William of Norwich. First blood libel charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1146</td>
<td>Second Crusade. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) condemns anti-Jewish attacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1179</td>
<td>Third Lateran Council. Jews forbidden to witness against Christians in court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1187</td>
<td>Saladin conquers Jerusalem from crusaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1189</td>
<td>Jews attend coronation of Richard the Lionheart and are attacked, followed by attacks elsewhere in England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1190</td>
<td>Massacre of Jews of York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1215</td>
<td>Fourth Lateran Council. Jews required to wear identifying symbols</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline

1222 Council of Oxford. Jews forbidden to build synagogues and mix with Christians
1232 Henry III (r. 1216–72) establishes Domus Conversorum in London
1235 Emperor Frederick II (r. 1215–50) and Pope Innocent IV (c. 1200–54) denounce accusations of ritual murder
1236 Crusaders attack Jewish communities of Anjou and Poitou
1240 Paris Disputation. Gregory IX (r. 1227–41) puts Talmud on trial

24 cart-loads of Talmud manuscripts burned in Paris
James I (1204–76) of Aragon orders Jews to attend conversionist sermons
1255 Jews of Lincoln accused of killing ‘Little St Hugh’
1260 Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225–74), whose writings are influenced by Maimonides (1135–1204), publishes Summa Contra Gentiles
1263 Barcelona Disputation
1280 Raymond Martini (c. 1220–85) writes Pugio Fidei
1290 Edward I (r. 1272–1307) expels Jews from England
1306 Jews expelled from France
1348 Jews blamed for Black Death
1349 Death of Nicholas Lyra (c. 1270–1349), who compiled biblical commentary, Postillae, explicitly quoting Rashi
1375 Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1342–1400) writes The Prioress’s Tale
1391 Attacks on Jews throughout Spain
1413 Tortosa Disputation
1421 Jews expelled from Austria
1447 Casimir IV (r. 1447–92) renews the rights of Jews of Poland
1478 Pope Sixtus IV (1471–84) establishes the Inquisition
1492 Ferdinand (1452–1516) and Isabella expel Jews from Spain
1496 Jews expelled from Portugal
1496 Jews expelled from Portugal
1496 Jews expelled from Portugal
1496 Jews expelled from Portugal
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1496 Jews expelled from Portugal
1516 First ghetto established in Venice
1523 Luther (1483–1546) writes That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew
1543 Luther writes On the Jews and Their Lies
1559 Dominicans burn all copies of Talmud in Italy
1567 Jews allowed to return to France
1648–55 Chmielnicki Massacres by Ukrainian Cossacks
1656 Oliver Cromwell readmits Jews to England
1665 Shabbetai Zvi (1626–76) declared Messiah
### Timeline

**ANTISEMITISM AND HOLOCAUST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1780s</td>
<td>Anti-Jewish laws begin to be repealed after French Revolution, granting Jews citizenship as individuals while depriving rights as a community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>Catherine II of Russia (1729–96) confines Jews to the Pale of Settlement</td>
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<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Law enacted requiring 25 years’ military service for Russian Jews</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>Damascus Blood Libel Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Mortara Affair</td>
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<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Wilhelm Marr (1819–1904) coins the term <em>antisemitism</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881–4</td>
<td>Pogroms in Russia lead to mass Jewish emigration from Pale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Edouard Drumont (1844–1917) publishes <em>La France juive</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893–1903</td>
<td>Dreyfus Affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Kishinev pogrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Publication of <em>The Protocols of the Elders of Zion</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Aliens Immigration Bill restricts immigration to UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1912–5</td>
<td>Outbreak of antisemitism in USA, led by Ku Klux Klan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>US Immigration Act halts immigration from Eastern Europe and Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Adolf Hitler’s (1889–1945) <em>Mein Kampf</em> published</td>
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<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Hitler appointed Chancellor and legislation enacted to strip Jews of their rights</td>
</tr>
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<td>Boycott of Jewish businesses</td>
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<td>Concordat between Vatican and Third Reich</td>
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<td>Protestant Reich Church (<em>Reichskirche</em>) formed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td><em>Der Stürmer</em> revives blood libel accusations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Nuremberg Laws introduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Pius XI issues encyclical <em>Mit brennender Sorge</em> condemning Nazi ideology</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Anschluss (unification of Germany and Austria)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Deportations (of Polish Jews in Germany) to first concentration camps</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Kristallnacht</em> (Night of the Broken Glass, 9–10 November)</td>
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<td>Jewish children expelled from German schools</td>
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<td>Evian Conference, July (6–15): 31 countries refuse to accept Jews trying to leave Germany (only the Dominican Republic will receive them)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Timeline

1939  Germany invades Poland. Outbreak of World War II
      SS *St. Louis*, carrying 907 Jewish refugees, turned back by
      Cuba and the USA
1941  Tests for gassing undertaken at Auschwitz (23 September)
      T4 euthanasia programme abandoned
1942  Wannsee Conference and ‘Final Solution’ agreed
      (20 January)
      First trains from Paris to Auschwitz (29 March)
      First gassings at Auschwitz (23 June)
      Allies receive details of about ‘Final Solution’
1943  New crematorium opens at Auschwitz (13 March)
      Arrest of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
      First Deportation of Roman Jews (18 October)
1944  First Deportation of Athenian Jews (14 April)
      Warsaw Ghetto uprising (1 August–2 October)
      Himmler orders destruction of crematoria at Auschwitz
      (26 November)
1945  Auschwitz liberated by Red Army (27 January)
      Buchenwald liberated by US Army (10 April)
      Bergen Belsen liberated by British Army (15 April)
      Hitler commits suicide (30 April)
      Germany surrenders (8 May)

ZIONISM

1862  Moses Hess (1812–75) writes *Rome and Jerusalem*
1870  *Hovevei-Zion* (Lovers of Zion) promotes agricultural
      settlement
      First Aliyah of immigrants, mainly from Russia, begins
1874–6  George Eliot (1819–80) publishes *Daniel Deronda*
1885  Nathan Birnbaum (1864–1937) coins the term ‘Zionism’
1896  Theodor Herzl (1860–1904) writes *The Jewish State*
1897  First Zionist Congress. Herzl elected president
1902  Sixth Zionist Congress initially accepts British government’s
      offer of Uganda
1904  Pope Pius X (1903–14) meets Herzl
1917  400 years of Ottoman rule ended by British; General Allenby
      enters Jerusalem
      Balfour Declaration issued
Timeline

1921  Chief Rabbinate instituted in Palestine, modelled on Archbishop of Canterbury
1922  White Paper published, restricting Jewish immigration
1937  Peel Commission recommends partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab
1939  White Paper published, restricting immigration and the sale of land to Jews
1942  SS *Struma* not allowed to dock in Palestine, sinks in Black Sea and 770 perish
1946  King David Hotel, the seat of the Mandate and British Army, is blown up
1947  UN establishes Jewish and Arab states, by 33 to 13 with 10 abstentions
1948  State of Israel proclaimed (14 May) by David Ben-Gurion, first Prime Minister
1949  Armistice agreements are signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon
1956  Sinai Campaign launched by Israel, Britain and France
1961  Adolf Eichmann captured, stands trial in Jerusalem and is sentenced to death
1962  Brother Daniel Affair
1964  Pope Paul VI visits Israel
1967  Six-Day War (6–11 June). Jerusalem, Golan Heights, West Bank and Sinai come under Israeli control
1972  *Neve Shalom* (‘Oasis of Peace’) founded by Fr. Bruno Hussar (1911–96)
1973  Yom Kippur War
1977  Egyptian President Sadat (1918–81) visits Jerusalem
1978–9  Camp David Accords and signing of Peace Treaty with Egypt
1980  Synod of Protestant Churches of the Rhineland
1981  Anwar Sadat assassinated
1982  Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon
1987  First Intifada (Palestinian uprising)
1993  Vatican–Israel accords
1994  Peace Agreement between Israel and the PLO and Israel and Jordan
1995  Yitzhak Rabin assassinated
Timeline

2000  Pope John Paul II (r. 1978–2005) visits Israel
      Second Intifada
2002  Alexandria Declaration of the Religious Leaders of the Holy Land
2005  Israel leaves Gaza
2009  Pope Benedict XVI (r. 2005– ) visits Israel

MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENTS SINCE 1945 RELEVANT TO MISSION, COVENANT AND DIALOGUE

1947  The Ten Points of Seelisberg (International Council of Christians and Jews)
1948  Report on the Christian Approach to the Jews (World Council of Churches (WCC))
1959  Pope John XXIII removes the word ‘perfidious’ from the ‘Good Friday Prayer for the Perfidious Jews’
1965  Nostra Aetate (Vatican II, published 28 October)
1967  The Church and the Jewish People (Commission on Faith and Order, WCC)
1970  English Catholic missal revises Good Friday Prayer into a prayer that Jews be deepened in the faith given to them by God
1975  Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration Nostra Aetate (Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews)
1979  Guidelines on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths and Ideologies (WCC)
1980  Towards a Renewal of the Relationship of Christians and Jews (Synod of the Evangelical Church of the Rhineland, Germany)
1982  Ecumenical Considerations on Jewish–Christian Dialogue (WCC)
1985  Notes on the Correct Way to Present the Jews and Judaism in Preaching and Catechesis (Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews)
      Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion (National Conference of Catholic Bishops, USA)
1996  Building New Bridges in Hope (United Methodist Church, USA)
      Resolution on Jewish Evangelism (Southern Baptist Convention)
1997  Declaration of Repentance (The Roman Catholic Bishops of France)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td><em>We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah</em> (Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td><em>Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity</em> &lt;br&gt;Universal prayer: confession of sins and asking for forgiveness &lt;br&gt;(millennium prayer of Pope John Paul II (r. 1978–2005)) &lt;br&gt;Central Conference of American Rabbis and Rabbinical Assembly Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td><em>The Jewish People and Their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible</em> (Pontifical Biblical Commission) &lt;br&gt;<em>Church and Israel: A Contribution from the Reformation Churches in Europe to the Relationship between Christians and Jews</em> (Leuenberg Church Fellowship)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Declaration of Joint Commission of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel with the Holy See’s Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews &lt;br&gt;<em>Bearing Faithful Witness: Statement on United Church–Jewish Relations Today</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Joint Declaration by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Chief Rabbis of Israel &lt;br&gt;<em>Ecumenical Considerations for Dialogue and Relations with People of Other Religions</em> (WCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td><em>Revision to Tridentine Rite Good Friday Prayer</em>, Pope Benedict XVI (r. 2005–)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td><em>Revision of 10 Points of Seelisberg</em> (International Council of Christians and Jews)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

It will be no surprise that writing a book recounting 2000 years of relations between Christians and Jews has been hard work. That it has also turned out to be so rewarding is due to a significant number of people.

I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Centre for the Study of Jewish–Christian Relations (part of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths). Many thanks to my colleagues Dr James Aitken, Dan Avasilchioae, the Revd Andrew Brown, Lucia Faltin, Dr Emmanouela Grypeou, Jasmine Hou, Debbie Patterson Jones, Trisha Oakley Kessler, Dr Maty Matyczak, Esther Haworth, Dr Helen Spurling, Tina Steiner and Dr Melanie Wright who have encouraged me since 1998. The Centre provides a wonderful forum to engage in the study of Jewish–Christian relations.

I would also like to thank my editors, Kate Brett and Laura Morris, who kept me focused on the task in hand and showed patience throughout. I am also grateful to the publishers, Cambridge University Press, and Gillian Dadd and Aline Guillermet, both of whom have taken a great deal of care in seeing the project to completion.

I would like to acknowledge the support of other colleagues who have been kind enough to offer constructive comments. They include the Revd Guy Wilkinson, who co-founded the Lambeth–Jewish forum; Professor John Pawlikowski, who read through the manuscript at a draft stage and offered wise advice; Andrej Gorazd and Miriam Arkush, whose ready and efficient help in the final stages of the project, not least with preparing the index, was invaluable; my fellow Trustees of the Woolf Institute of Abrahamic Faiths who have given constant support over ten years: the Revd Dominic Fenton, the Revd Professor Martin Forward, Robert Glatter, Lord Leslie Griffiths, Peter Halban, Lord Khalid Hameed CBE, David Leibowitz, Professor Julius Lipner FBA, Clemens Nathan, Martin Paisner CBE and John Pickering.

This book would not have been written without the support of my family: my parents, my wife Trisha, and my children Shoshana, Asher and...
Eliana. Together they remind me daily of the priorities in my life and I am deeply grateful for their love and affection.

Finally, whilst many factors have made this work worthwhile, perhaps most important have been my students, who were both the source and recipients of my learning. Much of the material in this book originated in classes and conversations and emerged from teaching at the Centre for the Study of Jewish–Christian Relations, at the University of Cambridge and at the Cambridge Theological Federation.

My students represent the next generation of the encounter between Jews and Christians: they are the scholars and activists of tomorrow – lay and clerical, religious and secular – upon whose shoulders sit 2000 years of traumatic but vibrant history. May they remember that the past only provides a vote, not a veto on our future!

Since teaching is the greatest source of learning, I dedicate this book to all my students.

Much Torah have I learnt from my teachers, more from my colleagues, but from my students most of all. BT. Ta’anit 7a
Abbreviations

BT. Babylonian Talmud
ENA Elkan Nathan Adler Collection
JT. Jerusalem Talmud
LXX Septuagint
M. Mishnah
Q. Qur’an
Tos. Toseftah