

## Special Lecture Series

by

**Professor Geza Vermes**  
(Oxford University)

# Christian Beginnings

- five lectures -

**Abstract:** Professor Geza Vermes will provide the audience of this lecture series with a unique opportunity. He will read from his soon to be released book *Christian Beginnings: From Nazareth to Nicaea (AD 30 – 325)*. The book will be published by Penguin in July 2012. Already now critics acclaim this as Vermes's masterpiece, pulling apart the many myths and legends to focus on the true figure of Jesus and the birth of one of the world's major religions.

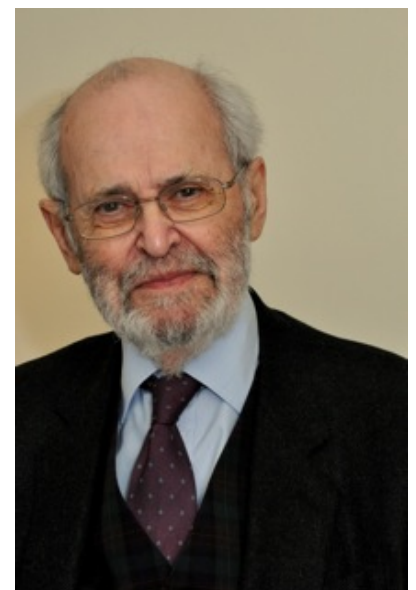
The creation of the Christian Church is one of the most important stories in the development of the world's history, but also one of the most poorly understood. With a forensic, brilliant re-examination of all the key surviving texts, Geza Vermes traces the evolution of the figure of Jesus from the man he was - a prophet fully recognizable as the successor to other Jewish holy men of the Old Testament - to what he came to represent: a mysterious, otherworldly being at the heart of a major new religion. As his teachings spread across the eastern Mediterranean, hammered into place by Paul, John and their successors, they were transformed in the space of three centuries into a centralized, state-backed creed, worlds away from its humble origins. This is the captivating story of how a man came to be hailed as the Son consubstantial with God, and of how a revolutionary, anti-conformist Jewish sub-sect became the official state religion of the Roman Empire.

## May 7 – 11, 2012

**Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 12:00**  
**Central European University**  
**1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 9**  
**Faculty Tower Room 809**

**To participate, please RSVP by e-mail to [rsp@ceu.hu](mailto:rsp@ceu.hu)**

Professor Geza Vermes was born in Hungary in 1924. He is Professor Emeritus of Jewish Studies; Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College, and continues to teach at the Oriental Institute in Oxford. Since 1991 he also has been director of the Oxford Forum for Qumran Research at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Professor Vermes is a Fellow of the British Academy and the holder of an Oxford D. Litt. He is the author of *Scripture and Tradition in Judaism* (1961); *Jesus the Jew* (1973); *The Dead Sea Scrolls: Qumran in Perspective* (1977); *Jesus and the World of Judaism* (1983); *The Religion of Jesus the Jew* (1993); and (with M. Goodman) *The Essenes According to the Classical Sources* (1989). He lives on Boar's Hill on the outskirts of Oxford and is a keen student of wild life.



*With the generous support of the Linda Noe Laine Foundation*