

**August 2012**

## **Reappointment of a British Museum Trustees**

The Prime Minister has appointed Karen Armstrong, Dame Liz Forgan and Lord Nicholas Stern for second terms on the British Museum Board for a period of four years from 2 October 2012.

### **Biographical details**

Karen Armstrong

Karen Armstrong is one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs. She is a best-selling author, whose books have been translated into forty languages. Her early work focused on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, but she has since begun to explore the eastern religions. She is also a broadcaster, columnist, and is much sought after throughout the world as a public speaker. Her focus is not only on theology and spirituality but on the political implications of faith in the modern world. Her books include: *Through the Narrow Gate*, an autobiographical work (1981); *The Gospel According to Woman* (1986); *Holy War, The Crusades and their Impact on Today's World* (1988); *Muhammad, A Biography of the Prophet* (1991); *A History of God* (1993), which became an international bestseller; *Jerusalem, One City, Three Faiths* (1996); *In the Beginning, A New Interpretation of Genesis* (1996); *The Battle for God, A History of Fundamentalism* (2000); *Islam, A Short History* (2000); *Buddha* (2001); *The Spiral Staircase: A Memoir* (2004); *A Short History of Myth* (2005); *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions* (2006); *Muhammad: A Prophet for our Time* (2006) and, most recently, *The Bible: A Biography* (2007).

Dame Liz Forgan DBE

Liz Forgan was formerly Managing Director of BBC Radio. Following an early career in journalism, she moved to television with the start of Channel 4 where she became Director of Programmes at Channel 4. She joined the BBC in 1993. She is a former Chair of the Churches Conservation Trust and also former Trustee of the Phoenix Trust. She is the Chair of the Scott Trust, a board member of the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama and a non-executive board member of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. She was Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund between April 2001 and September 2008. From February 2009 she was appointed as Chair of the Arts Council England.

Lord Nicholas Stern of Brentford, Kt, FBA

Lord Stern is a senior economist and a world leader in the field of economic development and growth. He is IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, London School of Economics (LSE), where he is also Chairman of LSE's Asia Research Centre and Chairman of LSE's Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. He was elected President of the British Academy in July 2012 (effective July 2013). Previously, having held academic posts at the Universities of Oxford and Warwick and the London School of Economics, he worked as Chief Economist for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and subsequently as Chief Economist and Senior Vice-President of the World Bank. Lord Stern is a Fellow of British Academy and of the Econometric Society, and an



Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was President of the European Economic Association in 2009. He was Head of the Government Economic Service from 2003, and Director of Policy and Research for the UK government's Africa Commission. In 2005, he was appointed by the UK government to conduct the influential Stern Review, which analysed the economic costs of climate change and policy on the management of climate change. He was knighted for services to economics in 2004 and made a cross-bench life peer as Baron Stern of Brentford in 2007.

### **Notes to Editors**

The British Museum was founded by Parliament in 1753 with the purpose of enabling citizens, of both Britain and the world, to understand the world. Since its foundation, the Museum has been governed by a Board of Trustees who hold for the benefit of humanity, present and future, a collection representative of all the world's cultures. They are responsible for ensuring that the collection is housed in safety and used for worldwide public benefit. The Trustees embody and represent the public interest within the Museum.

Trustees are not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.

The appointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity in the United Kingdom in the past five years to be made public. No political activity has been declared.