

Beshara Open Meeting Report

Beshara Open Meetings started being held online in January 2025 to offer an open, creative discussion space for all who are interested in Beshara worldwide. After a series of meetings since then, this first report is of the meeting that took place via zoom on 10th November 2025.

Over 20 people attended. We would like to remind everyone that the Open meetings are literally that - open to anyone at all who is interested in Beshara. In arranging the meetings there has up to now been no prepared agenda. This is so that people can discuss whatever is on their mind. Often the meeting begins with a recap of recent events and then the discussion takes off on its own direction. The atmosphere of the meetings has been very friendly and appreciative. Everyone is there simply because they love the matter and there is a great desire for conversation and companionship. The intention is to meet on a regular basis and to allow the purpose of our being together to unfold.

This is a brief summary.

1. Beshara Trust

The Foundation Course has commenced with seven experienced participants. Early feedback on the online delivery has been positive.

Forthcoming Programme: An online course on the Practical Wisdom of Ibn Arabi, led by Jane Clark, is scheduled for January 2026.

Communications and Website Development: The Trust is working with Rockpool Consultancy to review and enhance the website, social-media engagement, branding, and outreach strategy.

New Trustees: Richard, Kerim, and Maria were introduced, each of whom brings distinct strengths to the organisation. They expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for being invited to contribute to the work of the Trust in their new roles.

Beshara Magazine continues to offer a valuable breadth of material. A new podcast, edited by Nick Yiangou, has recently been launched to provide an accessible audio format to complement the written magazine.

The Youth Course did not run this year, partly due to limited communication on the social-media platforms most used by young people. A new course is being considered for Autumn 2026. Suggestions for improved outreach included engaging youth groups, youth leaders, government agencies, and the prison service. The Youth Course remains a priority.

2. MIAS (Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi Society)

Organisational Developments: As the Society continues to expand it is moving from a fully voluntary model toward compensating contributors for their work. New translations and materials continue to appear which enrich the study that is available to everyone, including those involved in Beshara.

Journal: Contract negotiations for future Journal funding are ongoing.

Symposium: The two-day symposium, “Mirrors of the Transcendent in the Cosmos of Ibn 'Arabi: The Body as Metaphor of Divine Self-Revelation”, held at the Warburg Institute, was highly successful. It marked the first in-person event for several years and featured international speakers from multiple countries.

Scholarly Catalogue: A comprehensive digital catalogue of Ibn 'Arabi's works is being created using advanced software to improve accessibility for scholars.

*Templeton Trust Funding :*A two-year Templeton Trust grant, administered through Tampere University (Finland), will support three emerging MIAS scholars as part of the PRISM project, which promotes global collaboration and public engagement in the study of mysticism.

Institutional Coordination: Questions were raised regarding how best to maintain the flow of educational and translational work between MIAS and Beshara in the absence of a dedicated shared space such as Chisholme House.

3. Reflections on Contemporary Challenges

- Concerns were raised regarding the impact of artificial intelligence on discourse, highlighting the need to preserve the experiential, imaginal, and creative dimensions of mystical inquiry.
- Suffering was described as arising from disconnection from the Spirit.
- Recommendation of a paper on the historic Reaffirmation Course reinforced the significance of Unity of Existence as a radical and revitalising principle at the heart of Beshara.

Participants affirmed their commitment to the work and expressed a desire for continued dialogue and companionship. It was agreed that regular meetings should continue in order to support the natural unfolding of the group's aims.