Recommended Pre-Arrival Reading for Theology & Religion

There is no compulsory work set before your arrival at Oxford, but we do recommend that you begin reading around the subjects you will study in your first year. Any or all of the suggestions below would be a great place to start, but feel free to follow your interests.

BA Theology & Religion: all three papers (i.e. modules) below are compulsory.
BA Philosophy & Theology: “The Figure of Jesus” is compulsory, the other two are optional.
BA Theology & Oriental Studies: “Religion & Religions” is compulsory.

The Figure of Jesus Through the Centuries

Ford, David F, and Mike Higton, Jesus (Oxford Readers Series, Oxford University Press, 2004)

Introduction to the Study of the Bible

Collins, John J., Introduction to the Hebrew Bible. 2nd ed. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014)

Religion and Religions


As part of this paper, you will focus in on Islam as a case study (which is a particular strength at Pembroke). To prepare for this, it would be a good idea to familiarise yourself with the religion. There are many good introductions to Islam, including the following:

Rippin, A. Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices (2005)

Dr Alex Henley
Lecturer in Islam and Pembroke Tutor in Theology & Religion
alex.henley@theology.ox.ac.uk