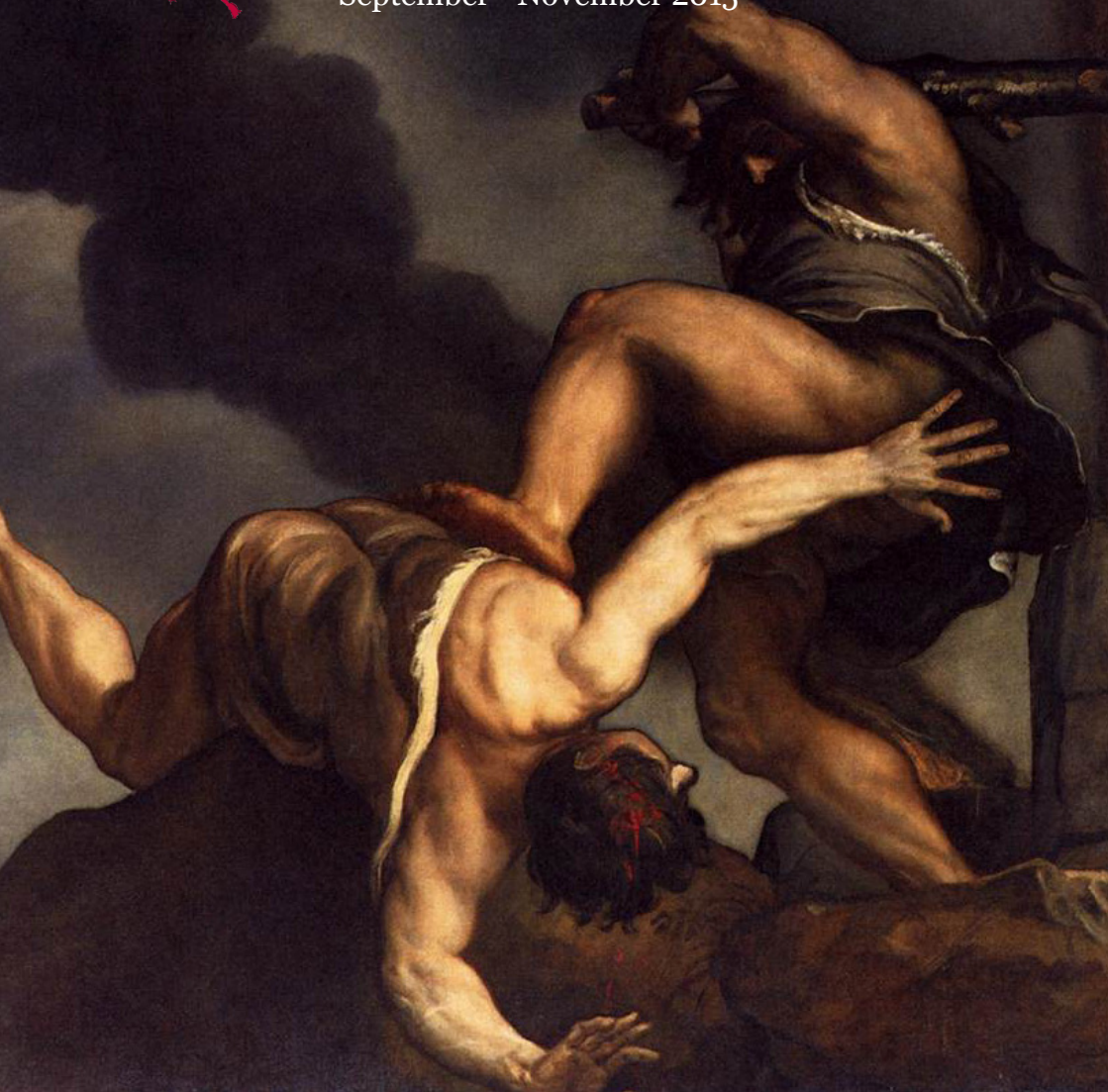


St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

# The Autumn Lecture Series

## The Curse and the Promise: Religion and Violence

September - November 2015



The series is free open to all and no tickets are required. Questions and answers will follow each talk and a retiring collection will be taken to help cover costs.

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ  
Phone: 020 7766 1100 Online: [www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)

This year the St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture Series focuses on religion and violence, reflecting upon both how faith can become the cause and perpetrator of conflict and persecution, and also the victim. But can our faith and our understanding of God also provide the promise for the healing of our nations? Looking from the perspective of the three Abrahamic Faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – we will be inviting our guest speakers to explore these themes from their own perspectives and faith traditions.

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## Speakers

Monday 21 September, 7.00pm

### Revd Dr Sam Wells



The Revd Dr Sam Wells is the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields. He has served as a Church of England parish priest for 17 years – 10 of those in urban priority areas. He also spent 7 years in North Carolina, where he was Dean of Duke University Chapel. Sam is also Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College, London. He has published 22 books, including academic studies and textbooks in Christian ethics, explorations of social mission, intercessory prayer and Anglican faith, and 3 collections of sermons. His most recent book, *A Nazareth Manifesto: Being with God*, is a study in ways of engaging with poverty and social disadvantage.

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Monday 5 October, 7.00pm

### Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain



Rabbi, writer and broadcaster, Jonathan Romain is minister of Maidenhead Synagogue in Berkshire. He writes for *The Times*, *Guardian* and *The Jewish Chronicle* and is often heard on the BBC. His many books include *The Jews of England* and *Faith and Practice: A Guide to Reform Judaism Today*. In 2004, he received the MBE for his pioneering work nationally in helping mixed-faith couples. He is chaplain to the Jewish Police Association, advisory board member of both the Council of Christians and Jews, and the Three Faiths Forum.

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Monday 19 October, 7.00pm

### Revd Giles Fraser



Giles Anthony Fraser is a priest of the Church of England and a journalist. He is currently the parish priest at St Mary's, Newington, near the Elephant and Castle and writes a weekly Saturday column for *The Guardian*, as well as appearing frequently on BBC Radio 4. He is a regular contributor on *Thought for the Day* and a panellist on *The Moral Maze*. He is visiting professor in the anthropology department at the London School of Economics. He was previously Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral with special responsibility for contemporary ethics and engagement with the City of London as a financial centre, and director of the St Paul's Institute from 2009 until 2011.

Monday 2 November, 7.00pm

## Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad



Abdal Hakim Murad, also known as Timothy John Winter, is a British Sunni Muslim shaykh, researcher, writer and academic. He is the Dean of the Cambridge Muslim College, Director of Studies (Theology and Religious Studies) at Wolfson College and the Shaykh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Cambridge University. His work includes publications on Islamic theology and Muslim-Christian relations. In 2003 he was awarded the Pilkington Teaching Prize by Cambridge University and in 2007 he was awarded the King Abdullah I Prize for Islamic Thought for his short booklet *Bombing Without Moonlight*. In 2012 he was ranked 50th in 'the most influential Muslims' list published annually by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre.

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Monday 16 November, 7.00pm

## Karen Armstrong



Karen Armstrong is the author of numerous books on religious affairs including *A History of God*, *The Battle for God*, *Holy War*, *Islam: A Short History* and *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* and most recently *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*. She has also written two memoirs and her work has been translated into over fifty languages. She has addressed members of the U.S. Congress, lectured to policy makers at the U.S. State and Defence Departments, participated in the World Economic Forum, addressed the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and New York, is an ambassador for the UN Alliance of Civilizations. She speaks regularly in Muslim countries, most notably in Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey and Indonesia. In February 2008 she was awarded the TED Prize for her vision of a Charter for Compassion which is now being implemented practically, realistically and creatively in countries, cities, schools and religious communities throughout the world.

*'Christians believe they have good news for all humankind: news of love, joy, and peace. But to many secular eyes they are part of a problem – a problem of inability to cope with difference – that threatens to engulf the world in enmity and strife. Can Christians face up to the complicity in causing division? Can they share with other faith traditions in making a future that's bigger than our shared past? And is there an elixir at the heart of Christianity, perhaps neglected, that can prove a blessing to people of all faiths and the world as a whole? These are the questions at the heart of this autumn series.'*

Sam Wells

*'Am I my brother's guardian?' Cain asked after he had killed his brother Abel. We are now living in such an interconnected world that we are all implicated in one another's history and one another's tragedies. As we - quite rightly - condemn those terrorists who kill innocent people, we also have to find ways to acknowledge our relationship with and responsibility for... the hundreds of thousands of civilians who have died or been mutilated in our modern wars simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.... Am I my brother's guardian? The answer must surely be 'Yes'.*  
Karen Armstrong

## Speakers

Monday 21 September	<b>Revd Dr Sam Wells</b>
Monday 5 October	<b>Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain</b>
Monday 19 October	<b>Revd Giles Fraser</b>
Monday 2 November	<b>Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad (Timothy Winter)</b>
Monday 16 November	<b>Karen Armstrong</b>

**Lectures begin at 7.00pm.**

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Leading image: *Cain and Abel, Titian (Tiziano Vecellio) 1542.*

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