

Our image for this year's autumn lecture series is a little model boat. As you can probably see, it's made out a piece of bent metal – in fact a bicycle mudguard -- and in it, held in glue at the bottom of the boat, stand a group of tightly packed matchsticks, each one of them burnt. The matchsticks give you the scale of the thing: this model is about the size of the paper boats that most of us made and played with when we were children. But this is not a toy.

It was made by Issam Kourbaj, a Syrian artist who now lives in Britain, and it's part of his reflection on the experience of the many millions of people all around the world who in recent years have had to flee from war, tyranny, famine and sickness – among them the hundreds of thousands who have tried to cross the Mediterranean – people who have occasionally, in the light of the European response, seemed to be just as disposable as spent matchsticks. In particular of course, Issam Kourbaj was thinking of the refugees displaced by the war in his homeland, Syria, which began almost exactly ten years ago, and where there is still no end in sight—to either the fighting or the fleeing.

The matchsticks - the people - are huddled together, frightened, in a boat that is barely sea-worthy. Each single one of them bears the scars of what they are fleeing. They are all burnt: but they are none of them broken. They stand upright. And they stand together. In their shared predicament, they form a community, held by the solidarity that can come of shared suffering, as they travel together to a place where they can flourish. And they travel with that sustaining virtue, which St Paul tells us is born of tribulation: hope.

These are no passive victims, but people seeking what every human being wants and needs. But they are not in control of their destiny. Whether they find what they seek will depend first on the sea – and then on us. If they reach their destination, how will we receive these travellers? This little boat is the artist's lament for those standing in it, and his question to us, looking at it. How will we welcome these strangers who are about to become our neighbours? What is their dream? What is our dream? (Neil MacGregor)

After the ravages of the pandemic, it's time for church and society to learn to dream again.

Cover picture credits: Issam Kourbaj Dark Water Burning World. Miniature boats made from recycled bicycle mudguards, extinguished matches and clear resin. Photo Issam Kourbaj © Trustees of the British Museum/2021.

A selection of the boats will be touring venues across the UK in 2021, others remain on display in the Albukhary gallery of the Islamic world at the British Museum. britishmuseum.org. There will be the opportunity also to see these boats at the lecture at St Martin-in-the-Fields at the lecture on 4 October.

For tickets: www.smitf.org/lectures



St
Martin
in
the
Fields

St Martin-in-the-Fields Autumn Lecture Series 2021



Issam Kourbaj *Dark Water Burning World*

We Have a Dream

Monday 27 September

The Dream for the Church
Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Monday 4 October

The Dream and the Journey
Neil MacGregor, Issam Kourbaj, Ruth Padel and Lucy Winkett

Monday 18 October

The Dream and Racialised Justice
Robert Beckford, Chine McDonald and David Lammy MP

Monday 25 October

The Dream for Our Planet
Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Dr Emily Grossman, Dr Austen Ivereigh


Monday 1 November

We are Such Stuff as Dreams are Made on: Theatre and the Imagination
Nicholas Hytner

Monday 15 November

A Dream for a New Social Order
Sam Wells and Liz Adekunle

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JH
020 7766 1100 • www.smitf.org/lectures

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We have a dream

Our Autumn Lecture Series for 2021 brings together an inspirational group of speakers. It invites them to dream again on the vital issues of our nation and planet, after a pandemic that has changed the way we live and relate to one another and the world.

Drawing on Martin Luther King Jr's famous words, we aim in this series to address for today some of the essential choices and needs and hopes facing our precious and yet wounded world. Who are the prophetic voices for our time, and how can the church answer that challenge? How do we respond to the crucial issues reshaping our world like migration and those seeking sanctuary and safety through their journeys? How does racialised justice and 'Black Lives Matter' confront our history, our present inequalities and the way we live our future? What is the threat to our planet and the danger of extinction, and what is so crucial at the COP26 Global Summit? What is the place of theatre and the creative arts in the way we learn to understand our world and live our dreams? What is the vision of St Martin's, at the heart, on the edge, seeking a vision of faith that can find God's abundance even in scarcity that can inspire people to dream again even in the face of adversity?

After the ravages of the pandemic, it's time for church and society to learn to dream again. Dr Martin Luther King Jr, had a dream of racial equality and social justice. Inspired by his dream, we're gathering a chorus of dreamers from different walks of life to inform and shape our dreams for the years to come. (Revd Dr Sam Wells)

These lectures will be live and in person at St Martin-in-the-Fields and will also be livestreamed. There will be a chance for questions from the audience, and we hope to gather with the speakers afterwards at a reception.

We ask for those booking tickets to make a donation of £10 towards the cost of the series. But it is also our aim to make our lecture programme open to all people. Free places are available on request. Those who can give more are invited to pay for a free place for someone else to make sure this programme is available for all.

We would like to thank the St Martin-in-the-Fields Trust for their support of the Autumn Lecture Series which has made this series possible. If you would like to support this lecture series and the work of St Martin's

Text LECTURE to 70085 to donate £5. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message or donate online at:
<https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/support-us/>

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For tickets: www.smitf.org/lectures



The Dream for the Church • Monday 27 September, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York



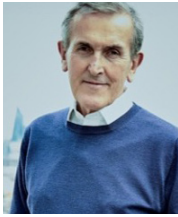
Stephen Cottrell has been the Archbishop of York and Primate of England since 2020. He previously served as Bishop of Reading, 2004–2010, and as Bishop of Chelmsford, 2010–2020.

Author of more than 20 books, including children's books, he enjoys poetry, music and art and is a well-known speaker and broadcaster on themes of evangelism, spirituality, catechesis, art and the mission of our contemporary church.

He has undertaken several walking pilgrimages, including twice walking the Camino to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, as well as pilgrim routes in England. Stephen is married to Rebecca, who is a potter. They have three sons.

The Dream and the Journey • Monday 4 October, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Neil MacGregor, Issam Kourbaj, Ruth Padel and Lucy Winkett



Neil MacGregor is an art historian, museum director, broadcaster and author. He was Director of the National Gallery, London from 1987-2002, before becoming the Director of the British Museum from 2002-2015 and then founding Director of the Humboldt Forum, in Berlin. His books include: *A History of the World in 100 Objects*; *Germany: Memories of a Nation* and *Living with the Gods* which were all highly acclaimed BBC Radio 4 Series.



Issam Kourbaj was born in Syria and trained at the Institute of Fine Arts in Damascus, the Repin Institute of Fine Arts & Architecture in St Petersburg and at the Wimbledon School of Art. He has lived in Cambridge, UK, since 1990, where he has been artist-in-residence, bye-fellow, and lector in art, at Christ's College. His works have been featured at museums around the world, including Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum, Museum of Classical Archaeology, and Kettle's Yard; Philadelphia's Penn Museum; London's British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum; and New York's Brooklyn Museum. For the BBC's 'A History of the World in 100 Objects,' Neil MacGregor chose Issam's boats as the 101st object. This work will be shown at the lecture.



Ruth Padel, Professor of Poetry at King's College London, is an award-winning poet, author of twelve acclaimed poetry collections and two novels, most recently *Daughters of the Labyrinth*, set on the Greek island of Crete. Her collection *We Are All From Somewhere Else*, poetry and prose reflecting on migration of all kinds, by animals, birds and people, includes the poem she wrote in collaboration with Syrian artist Issam Kourbaj, 'Dark Water Burning World,' to honour the traumatic and dangerous journeys made by Syrian refugees to the Greek island of Lesbos, and the islanders' welcome to them. www.ruthpadel.com



Lucy Winkett is a writer, broadcaster and Rector of St James's Church Piccadilly. Formerly a professional musician, and Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral in London, her publications include *Our Sound is our Wound* (Continuum 2010), *God's Song and Music's Meaning* (Routledge 2019) and *Reading the Bible with your Feet* (Canterbury Press 2021). As Chaplain to the Royal Academy of Arts, she is committed to working with artists, musicians and scientists to enable the church to place its imagination in the service of justice, as patron, collaborator and co-conspirator in making the world a more just and beautiful place.

The Dream and Racialised Justice • Monday 18 October, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Robert Beckford, Chine McDonald and David Lammy MP



Robert Beckford is Professor of Intersectional Justice at the University of Winchester. He is best known as a broadcaster, having made a multitude of television documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4. His research focuses on the intersection of race, class, gender and the social and religious environment. He has won numerous awards for his work including a BAFTA and a Jamaican Diaspora Award.



Chine McDonald read Theology at Cambridge University before training as a newspaper journalist. She is now head of public engagement at Christian Aid, and is a regular contributor to BBC Religion & Ethics programmes, including *Thought for the Day*, the *Daily Service*, and *Prayer for the Day*. She was born in Nigeria and moved to the UK when she was 4. Her second book: *God is Not a White Man and Other Revelations* has just been published by Hodder and Stoughton. In the wake of the death of George Floyd, and the outcry from the Black Lives Matter protests, Chine McDonald's book explores what it means to be black and a woman in majority white spaces where black women are silently exiting the church, no longer able to tolerate casual racism, colonialist narratives and lack of urgency on issues of racial justice.



David Lammy is the Labour Member of Parliament for Tottenham. After being elected for the seventh time in December 2019, he was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Justice. As part of this role, David built on his landmark review of the criminal justice system, which explored the treatment of and outcomes for Black and minority ethnic people in British courts and prisons. David previously served under the Blair and Brown Labour governments from 2002-2010 as Culture Minister and Higher Education Minister. He won both GQ's and the Political Studies Association's Politician of the Year in 2018.

The Dream for Our Planet • Monday 25 October, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Dr Emily Grossman, Dr Austen Ivereigh



Nicholas Holtam was Bishop of Salisbury 2011-21. For seven years he was the C of E's lead bishop on the environment and chaired its national Environmental Working Group. He has contributed to the European Churches Environmental Network and the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. From 2015-21 he was one of 26 Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords speaking mainly on environmental matters. Previously he was Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields from 1995-2011.



Dr Emily Grossman is an internationally acclaimed public speaker, bestselling science author and TV personality, with a Double First in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University and a PhD in Molecular Biology. She is a co-founder of the group Scientists for Extinction Rebellion and lead author of their free easy-to-read online guide to the climate and ecological crisis, Emergency on Planet Earth. Emily has delivered a critically acclaimed TEDx talk on Why Science Needs People Who Cry. Her latest children's book, World-Whizzing Facts: Awesome Earth Questions Answered, aims to help young people understand what's going on about the planet and what they can do to help.



Dr Austen Ivereigh is a British writer, journalist, and Fellow in Contemporary Church History at the Jesuit-run Campion Hall, University of Oxford. He is author of two biographies of Pope Francis: *The Great Reformer*, *Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope* (2014) and *Wounded Shepherd*. *Pope Francis and his Struggle to Convert the Catholic Church* (2019). During the coronavirus lockdown in summer 2020 he wrote a book with the Pope on his vision for a post-covid world. *Pope Francis' Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future: In Conversation with Austen Ivereigh* was published by Simon & Schuster in December 2020 in English and Spanish, and later across the world in various languages. Austen lives near Hereford with his wife Linda on a small farm, which features in his regular column in *The Tablet* on ecological regeneration, 'Wild Faith.'

We are Such Stuff as Dreams are Made on: Theatre and the Imagination

Monday 1 November, 7.00 - 8.30pm

Nicholas Hytner



Nicholas Hytner is artistic director and co-founder of the Bridge Theatre, where he has recently directed *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and (in June 2021) the premiere of Nina Raine's *Bach & Sons*. He was director of the National Theatre 2003-15, where he directed many plays by Shakespeare including *Henry V*, *Hamlet*, *Timon of Athens* and *Othello*, and the premieres of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*, Richard Bean's *One Man Two Guvnors*, Ayub Khan Din's *Rafta, Rafta* and Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*. He has directed opera at the Royal Opera House, the Paris Opéra, the Metropolitan Opera New York and English National Opera. His films include *The Madness of King George* and *The Lady in the Van*. His book *Balancing Acts* was published by Jonathan Cape in 2017.

A Dream for a New Social Order • Monday 15 November, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Sam Wells and Liz Adekunle



Sam Wells is one of today's most influential public theologians. He writes, speaks, preaches and broadcasts on a range of pastoral, political and theological issues. He is Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London. Sam has been Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields since 2012. He has served as a parish priest for 23 years – 10 of those in urban priority areas; he also spent 7 years in North Carolina, where he was Dean of Duke University Chapel. He has published 40 books.



Liz Adekunle has three Masters degrees; the first from SOAS in African Christianity and Development, the second, completed while she was training at Ridley Hall in pastoral care and counselling and the third a recent MA in Feminist Theory and the church from Cambridge University. She was a former Chaplain and tutor at St Mellitus College and Chaplain and Acting Dean at St John's College, Cambridge. Liz is an Associate at Westminster Abbey, a Fellow at Ridley Hall and an Honorary Fellow at St Augustine's College of Theology.

Liz is a regular contributor on 'Thought for the Day' on BBC Radio 4, and was a contributor on 'Something Understood'. She is a regular speaker at Greenbelt Festival and Spring Harvest an inter-denominational evangelical conference. Liz was awarded the Freedom of the City of London in April 2019 and is the Archdeacon of Hackney and Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen.