

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

*"The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me, because
he has anointed me to
bring good news to the
poor. He has sent me to
proclaim release to the
captives and recovery
of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed
go free, to proclaim
the year of the Lord's
favour."*

(Luke 4.18-19)

Radical Compassion

The Gospel and Social Justice

ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS
EDUCATION PROGRAMME
2011/2012

Monday 19 September
Nicholas Sagovsky
Compassion and Justice

Monday 3 October
Clare Herbert
Compassion and Protest

Monday 17 October
Neil MacGregor
Compassion and Art

Monday 31 October
Nicola Slee
Compassion and Empowerment

Wednesday 16 November
Terry Eagleton
Compassion and Power

Monday 20 February
Robert Beckford
Compassion and Freedom

Each evening from 7.00pm-8.30pm

An inspiring group of speakers seek to examine the radical implications of Christ's life and transforming compassion in relation to issues of social justice. What is Christ saying to the poor, marginalized, and the struggles of our time? Can we rediscover a theology of liberation for today?



Monday 19 September
Nicholas Sagovsky
Compassion and Justice



Dr Nicholas Sagovsky is a Visiting Professor at Liverpool Hope University and was until this year Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey. He is the author of *Christian Tradition and the Practice of Justice*. He was a member of the Independent Asylum Commission and has chaired the Churches Refugee Network. In his lecture he will consider the Gospel in relation to issues of social justice with particular reference to his own work in advocacy and seeking justice for refugees and asylum seekers.

Monday 3 October
Clare Herbert
Compassion and Protest



Revd Clare Herbert has worked extensively in pastoral care and lectured in both pastoral and feminist theology. She was formerly Rector of St Anne's Soho, and then Programme Director of Inclusive Church and Chair of London and Southwark Changing Attitudes. She is an 'out' lesbian priest and member of St Martin in the Fields clergy team specialising in inclusive theology. She is an active campaigner on behalf of gay and lesbian Christians. At present she is also studying for a doctorate focusing on the pastoral care of gay and lesbian people. In this lecture she explores the ways she has come to terms with needing to express both protest and compassion.

Monday 17 October
Neil MacGregor
Compassion and Art



Neil MacGregor has been Director of the British Museum since 2002. From 1987 to 2002, he was Director of the National Gallery. He has presented three television series on art and most recently the Radio 4 series *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, which was broadcast in 2010. As the highly successful Director of the British Museum he has pioneered a broader, more inclusive, peaceable and inspirational approach to our cultural heritage. As a gifted teacher he is able to put across the moving human message that lies within our ancient historical artefacts. In this lecture *Compassion and Art* he uses images to help us enter more deeply into our understanding of the radical compassion of Christ. He encourages us to reflect both on the truths of the past conveyed by the artist and ask the question "can these works of art speak to our present and deepen our own compassion and humanity?"

The lectures will take place in St Martin in the Fields Church from 7.00pm-8.30pm. They are free and no booking is required. There will be a retiring collection to cover some of the costs of the programme.

Cover Image: *Victims of injustice and violence*, Chaim Stephenson, St Martin-in-the-Fields. Dedicated on 25 October 1994 by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to mark the end of the struggle against apartheid.

Monday 31 October

Nicola Slee

Compassion and Empowerment



Dr Nicola Slee is a poet and theologian based at the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham. She teaches in the fields of spirituality and feminist theology, and has a particular interest in women's contemporary poetry that addresses issues of faith and spirituality. As well as writing poetry herself, she regularly runs workshops on women's poetry and on creative writing. Her most recent publications include *Praying like a Woman* (SPCK, 2005), *Women's Faith Development: Patterns and Processes* (Ashgate, 2004) and *Faith and Feminism: An Introduction to Christian Feminist Theology* (DLT, 2004). She has also written a series of adult Bible Study materials, the most recent of which is *Seeing Jesus: Exploring the Bible through Contemporary Art* (CE, 2005). She is currently working on a second collection of poems and liturgical pieces focused around Mary. In this lecture, she explores some connections and tensions between compassion and empowerment, particularly as she has experienced this in her own life and work, and illustrated through some of her poetry.

Wednesday 16 November

Terry Eagleton

Compassion and Power



Professor Terry Eagleton is regarded as Britain's most influential literary theorist. He currently serves as Distinguished Professor of English Literature at the University of Lancaster. He has written more than forty books, including *Literary Theory: An Introduction* (1983); *The Ideology of the Aesthetic* (1990), and *The Illusions of Postmodernism* (1996). In 2006, Eagleton produced a critique of Richard Dawkins's *The God Delusion* in the London Review of Books. Eagleton questions Dawkins's methodology and understanding: "Imagine someone holding forth on biology whose only knowledge of the subject is the Book of British Birds, and you have a rough idea of what it feels like to read Richard Dawkins on theology. Professor Eagleton delivered a Gifford Lecture in March 2010, titled *The God Debate*. He gave the 2010 Richard Price Memorial Lecture at the historically radical Newington Green Unitarian Church, speaking on 'The New Atheism and the War on Terror'. In this lecture Terry Eagleton considers the contemporary relevance of the Gospel's critique of power and the use of violence.

Monday 20 February

Robert Beckford

Compassion and Freedom



Dr Robert Beckford is an educator, author and award winning broadcaster. An educator for most of his life he has written extensively and has presented a plethora of documentaries on radio and television making his debut in the Trevor Phillips series, 'Britain's Slave Past'. He began working with Channel 4 in 2003. As one of the most prolific black documentary presenters in Britain, his credits include *God is Black* (2004), *Empire Pays Back* (2005), *The Secret Family of Jesus* (2006), *The Great Africa Scandal* (2007), *The Secrets of the 12 Disciples* (2008), *Decoding the Nativity* (2008), and *The Dark Ages and the Emergence of an English Inclusivity* (2009). His films for Channel 4 have earned him a 'controversial' label which he interprets as, 'a cultural field that can only locate black men as athletes, entertainers or problematic.' In this lecture he discusses Christ's radical compassion and freedom.