

Sandford St Martin 2026 Awards

Category Criteria:

Journalism Award:

For broadcast journalism featuring a clear and articulate religious dimension – one either intrinsic to the story or issue itself, or explored through the contributors included.

Submissions can include broadcast coverage of breaking news or news events, original investigative or analytical journalism. Judges will be looking for fresh insights into how religion has affected political, social or economic events or decisions.

Please note: to qualify, entries MUST include a prominent video or audio component. This is an award for **broadcast** journalism. Examples of print journalism without a broadcast component are not eligible.

You may enter:

- Standalone news reports.
- Current affairs programmes or documentaries.
- News sequences within programmes or strands.
- Online video or audio content – either standalone or created to support text-based journalism.

This award is for a particular piece of work – not for a portfolio, a compilation of projects, or a platform.

Television/Video Award:

For visual broadcast media content exploring themes of interest to both religious communities and a general audience.

In addition to traditional religious broadcasting or programmes that directly explore religion, entries in this category can include less traditional content about belief. For example, content which explores how belief impacts experience including how people understand their identity, place or purpose in the world, how it informs the codes they live by, the decisions they make, their actions or how they engage with others or others engage with them is all eligible.

You may submit any combination of:

- A maximum of two single/stand-alone programmes.
- A maximum of two separate episodes/instalments from any one series or strand. Each episode will be considered as a separate entry and separate entry forms must be filled out for each episode.
- A maximum of two full series or strands to be judged as single entries.

E.g. Multi-episode dramas or strands with a narrative or theme that is developed over several episodes. Please note: If you are entering a series, you should send one representative episode and explain in your synopsis a) how the representative episode fits into or represents the series as a whole and b) how your series fulfils the entry criteria.

Radio/Audio Award:

For audio-based broadcast media content exploring themes of interest to both religious communities and a general audience.

In addition to traditional religious broadcasting or programmes that directly explore religion, entries in this category can include less traditional content about belief. For example, content which explores how belief impacts experience including how people understand their identity, place or purpose in the world, how it informs the codes they live by, the decisions they make, their actions or how they engage with others or others engage with them is all eligible.

You may submit any combination of:

- A maximum of two single/stand-alone programmes.
- A maximum of two separate episodes/instalments from any one series or strand. Each episode will be considered as a separate entry and separate entry forms must be filled out for each episode.
- A maximum of two full series, each of which you would like to be judged as a single entry.

Eg. Multi-episode dramas or strands with a narrative or theme that is developed over several episodes. Please note: If you are entering a series, you should send one representative episode and explain in your synopsis a) how the representative episode fits into or represents the series as a whole and b) how your series fulfils the entry criteria.

Please do not send us montages or compilations.

All entries more than 59 min long should include a (rough) running order.

Young Audience Award:

For broadcast content appealing to audiences under the age of 18 and which enables better understanding of religion or belief and/or helps young people explore current moral or ethical issues.

Your total number of entries in this category should not exceed five. Among that number you may submit any combination of:

- A maximum of three separate episodes/instalments from any one series or strand. Each episode will be considered as a separate entry and separate entry forms must be filled out for each episode.
- Up to five series, each to be judged as separate entries.

Please note: If you are entering a series, you should send one representative episode and explain in your synopsis a) how the representative episode fits into or represents the series as a whole and b) how your series fulfils the entry criteria.