

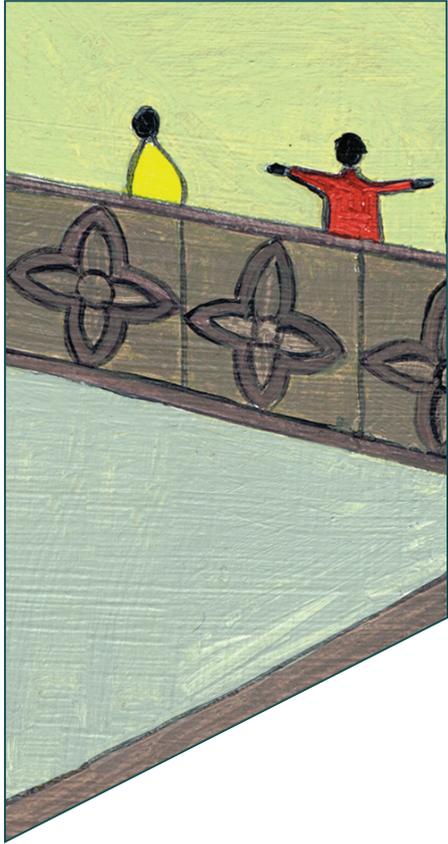
# HEATH STREET

## BAPTIST CHURCH

September-November 2020



Newsletter 1057



## Son of God, you once arrived here

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Martti Rautanen (Ndongan)

Kaija Pispä (Finnish translation)

Ewan King (English translation)

Son of God, you once arrived here,  
born on earth, though heaven's king.  
Like a worm's your life was prized here,  
you, whose glory angels sing.  
Yet you rose, with all your might  
for your precious lambs to fight,  
Allelu, alleluia,  
for your precious lambs to fight.

Now behold the last hour nearing:  
now their prey the hunters see;  
still before that crowd unfearing,  
you bear witness: "I am he!"  
Wonder-struck they cry and fall  
low before you, Lord of all,  
Allelu, alleluia,  
low before you, Lord of all.

Royally upon your shoulder  
all your people's load you bore.  
Grief and agony untold there,  
were the weapons of your war.  
Faithful to your final breath,  
there you conquered death by death,  
Allelu, alleluia,  
there you conquered death by death.

Foes deride and friends forsake you:  
crowned and crucified you bleed,  
still no bitter word escapes you:  
for their pardon Lord, you plead.  
All received an equal share  
in the work of mercy there,  
allelu, alleluia  
in the work of mercy there.

Jesus, you alone were able  
to lift up that heavy load,  
and to bear it from the stable  
all along your narrow road.  
Then to your name, Holy One,  
evermore let praise be sung,  
Allelu, alleluia,  
evermore let praise be sung!

# A Unicorn Dies

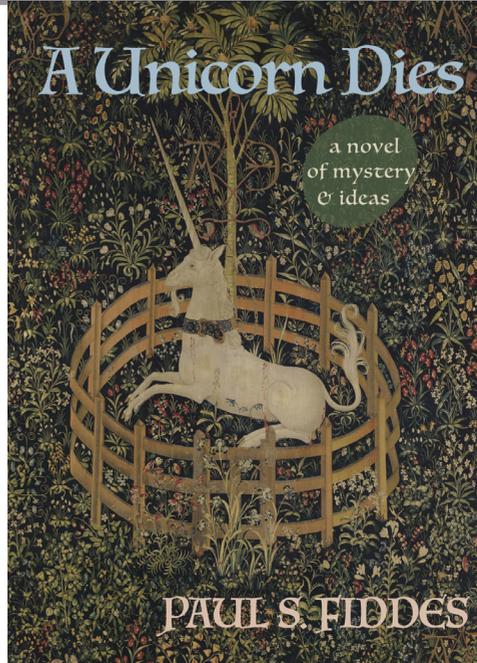
A Novel of Mystery and Ideas by Paul S. Fiddes

Have you ever wondered how to catch a unicorn? No? Me neither. But this is how the novel starts: Giles Questing, a young student sitting in the University Parks in Oxford, thinking about exactly this question. Which of the girls in the park could lure a unicorn into her lap while sitting under a tree?

Despite Giles' tendency to dreaminess and the official police report that the death of his friend's fiancé was suicide, he decides to investigate by himself. A series of six postcards with different pictures of unicorns lead him on his quest. Are the postcards telling a story? Can they help explain a suicide or murder?

With every journey he undertakes, Giles and the reader learn more about unicorns and what they could symbolise. The unicorn as a lover, as Christ, as both? Although he starts feeling hunted as well, Giles continues against all obstacles, driven by curiosity and love.

The story is catching until the end, and I not only enjoyed it very much but learned a lot. For example, I know now how the



unicorn ended up in the King James Version of the Bible. I also want to visit all the places Giles went, to see the tapestries and art objects from the postcards in real life, because they were described so beautifully in this novel.

Just a warning: After reading this book you will start seeing unicorns everywhere, as I did at the beach in The Hague and the old church in Delft. But thanks to Paul S. Fiddes, I am seeing them now in a different light.

**Birgit Leuppert**



Photo by Bill Carslake

## Lockdown Stories

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Ewan has asked me to share ‘what I did in my lockdown’. What did I get up to when I wasn’t playing and singing for the Heath Street Home Companion or settling into a Sunday coffee Zoom call? Well, I’m so grateful for the HSHC and those Sunday chats. They were highlights of the lockdown!

I doubt I was alone in spending more time than usual on my doorstep in those early days. It was a liminal time. I would take my morning coffee and sit in the doorway, watching.

My initial response was to compose into it. In the first nine days I wrote a short piece each day. These became the Lockdown Lyrics for two voices and cello. Each text has three lines of nine syllables, in a nod to the sense of emergency and constraint. They were also a way of processing the ups and downs, such as when my friend from college days became very ill with Covid.

I live with three other performers. All of our performing work was cancelled, of course. One of us (not me!!!) is an acrobat, and his training regime of six hours

minimum per day, six days per week, had to continue. The way that he just got on with it was inspiring.

A fair amount of my work moved online. Then there was the silver lining of having extra time. I continued composing a piece that I am writing for the Finzi Trust about mountain hares. I also completed a companion travel book about the research process. So I have now written the first draft of a book about composing with mountain hares in the Cairngorms!

We live in Forest Hill, South London. I discovered that I could get on my bicycle and be in the North Downs of Kent within an hour and a half. A couple of spins out there were really helpful. Also one of my flatmates discovered that he could make millionaire’s shortbread and proceeded to make it regularly – another highlight of lockdown! We even had a couple of lessons in how to do a handstand....

See you all soon,  
Love,

**Bill Carslake**



Photo by Bill Carslake

## Lockdown Stories

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My garden has been another room during lockdown. Spring seemed even more beautiful, the birds singing louder without traffic noise and the sky such a clear blue. I have enjoyed trying to make it less wild. A friend gave me two tomato plants, and it's exciting the tomatoes are now changing colour. I have planted more flowers. I found lockdown heightened all my senses. Besides this, I can now cope with Zoom and a bit more technology, though I still have a way to go with that, and have gone back to knitting. Four months of not going out seemed daunting at first, but I got used to being here with myself in a different way and I am very fortunate to have a garden. But it is wonderful now to go for walks and meet people outside. This poem sums it up.

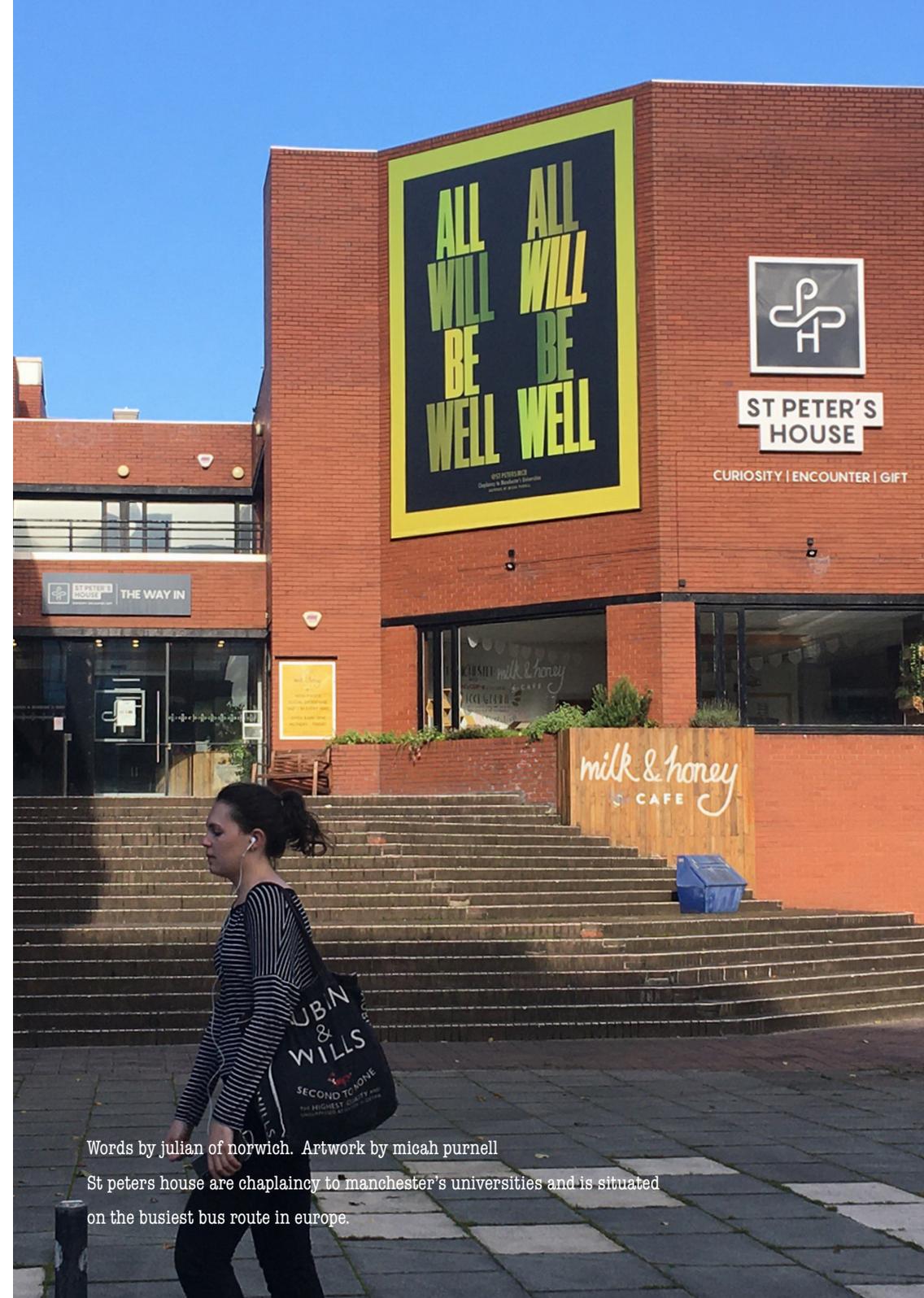
Susan Le Quesne

I thank you God for most this amazing poem by EE Cummings

I thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes.

(I who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth) how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any-lifted from the no of all nothing-human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)



Words by julian of norwich. Artwork by micah purnell

St peters house are chaplaincy to manchester's universities and is situated on the busiest bus route in europe.

## Treasurer's Note

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### Money in, money out.....

Huge thanks to friends near and far who have been kind enough to send a contribution to our bank to support our work. It will be lovely when we have a chance to hold out an offering plate again but special appreciation for those remembering Heath Street in the meantime (and contributions still very welcome of course).

Being very aware of the enormous difficulties some churches have been encountering since Covid-19 hit us all for six, the Deacons agreed a month or so back to make a donation of £500 from Heath Street to the London Baptist Association's Home Mission Fund. This fund nationally aims to support three things: missional initiatives in local churches and projects; regional associations supporting churches in mission and ministry; and the national resource, the Specialist Teams, based at

Baptist House in Didcot. We made our contribution towards the first of these, directed to the London Region.

We had a nice thank-you letter from Rev. Phil Barnard, Regional Minister, Team Leader for London telling us about the sort of work being supported:

"In terms of mission projects, the LBA continues to support various initiatives right across the capital which are making a real difference to people's lives: from Messy Church at Deep Water Baptist Church in Hayes (Kent) to a vibrant Community Outreach project in Mill Hill. Home Mission also funds our internship programme where, this year, we have three young adults gaining experience in Christian leadership through involvement in the LBA, Spurgeon's and the local church. These are good news stories indeed - facilitated by your generous giving."

Since the local papers were quick to share the news a few weeks back of a fire in our next-door building, occupied by Heathside School, may I reassure you that no-one was hurt, the damage was well-contained by prompt action by the fire service, and our insurers are promising to cover most of the cost of putting things right. There was even a new experience involved when we found ourselves commissioning a pilot to manoeuvre a drone over the building to take pictures to help our surveyor be sure that the fire had not licked up through the roof covering. (It hadn't, but we found a few slipped slates!)

In "normal" times Léonie and Godfrey of the wonderful Pentameters Theatre in Hampstead are frequent attenders at Sunday worship and Godfrey has played the harmonica for twice-weekly Old Time Nursery sessions for a long time. They need our help: this important,

independent theatre, part of Hampstead life since the late '60s, has no funding except box office revenue, and that has been out of the question since the start of lockdown. Léonie still has to find the rent for the premises over the Horseshoe pub and has work to pay for on the lighting rig and other maintenance before being able to reopen. She has set up a crowdfunding page to raise £8,000 and is already over halfway but still needs contributions large and small to keep afloat. See the campaign at [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-pentameters-theatre](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-pentameters-theatre)

With love and good wishes,  
Gaynor

[gaynor@eandghumphreys.plus.com](mailto:gaynor@eandghumphreys.plus.com)

## Readings and Prayers

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### September 13-19

### Exodus 14.19-31

13th Michael Bloxham  
14th Anselm King  
15th for our worshipping congregation  
16th Jen Finamore  
17th Susan Le Quesne  
18th Monsignor Phelim Rowland  
19th Laura Somers

### September 20-26

### Exodus 16.2-15

20th Bala Kapi  
21st Beauty Kunene  
22nd Theresa Thom  
23rd Cole Ellenbogen  
24th Tom Brandt  
25th for the World Baptist Alliance  
26th Genna Naccache

### September 27 – October 3

### Exodus 17.1-7

27th Wilf Merttens  
28th for our deacons  
29th Joachim King  
30th Beryl Dowsett  
31st Gabrielle Falardeau  
1st Oct Nathalia Bell  
2nd Selena Barrera  
3rd Gaynor Humphreys

### October 4-10

### Exodus 20.1-4,7-9, 12-20

4th HK  
5th Francesco Giannoccaro  
6th for those in prison  
7th Rebecca McLeod  
8th Margarite Biadun  
9th Lydia Baker  
10th for the children who attend Storymakers

### October 11-17

### Exodus 32.1-14

11th Fiona Ranford  
12th for all who attend Contact Club  
13th Ethan McLeod  
14th Susan Brandt  
15th Ali Ghasempour  
16th for Kasai province, DRC  
17th Neil McLeod

### October 18-24

### Exodus 33.12-23

18th Nomsa Ndebele  
19th for the bereaved  
20th Edward Humphreys  
21st Mysie Johnson  
22nd for the life and ministry of St. Mary's, Hampstead  
23rd Josh Somers  
24th Christina Cairns

## Readings and Prayers

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October 25-31

Deuteronomy 34.1-12

25th Leila Ranjbar  
26th Rhona MacEachan  
27th for all in hospital  
28th Annie Fang  
29th Nathan Biadun  
30th Eleanor Patterson  
31st Nesa Thorne

November 1-7

Revelation 7.9-17

1st Frida King  
2nd Paul Conrad  
3rd Beza Geberegiabher  
4th Ottilie Johnson  
5th John-Henry Baker  
6th David Neil  
7th Thomas Roy

November 8-14

Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16

8th Tom Somers  
9th for all who sing in our community choir  
10th Elya Ghasempour  
11th Coco Ellenbogen  
12th Leo Patterson  
13th Jan Cowen  
14th Peter Forrest

November 15-21

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18

15th Birgit Leuppert  
16th Thaddeus King  
17th for our Sunday Club  
18th John Walsh  
19th Isabel Somers  
20th Evelyn Baker  
21st Victoria Tjirimuje

November 22-28

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

22nd Ewan King  
23rd for the parents, carers and children who attend Oldtime Nursery  
24th Sarah Harper  
25th Hildegard Williams  
26th Eleanor Neil  
27th Andrea MacEachan  
28th Josi Mbombo

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## Weekly Activities

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<b>Sundays</b>	11 am-12 noon	Divine Worship (including Sunday Club for children)
<b>Wednesdays</b>	4.30 pm	Storymakers Club

## Online Activities

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### *The Heath Street Home Companion*

Songs, prayers and news from Heath Street people far and wide.

[www.heathstreet.org/activities/the-heath-street-home-companion](http://www.heathstreet.org/activities/the-heath-street-home-companion)

### *Storymakers Club*

Online sessions of the after-school club aimed at children age 7 to 13.

For details, contact Wilf at [childrensworker@heathstreet.org](mailto:childrensworker@heathstreet.org)

### *Storytelling*

David: The Story of the Shepherd King

Wilf Merttens' new storytelling show retells the legendary centrepiece of the books of Samuel for the 3rd millennium, and finds out it is just as full of shock, longing and ambiguity as it was in the beginning.

[www.heathstreet.org/media](http://www.heathstreet.org/media)

### *Oldtime Nursery*

If you would like to arrange a virtual session from the Minister's house to your one, please contact him at [ewan\\_king@me.com](mailto:ewan_king@me.com)

Please see the church website for updates: [heathstreet.org](http://heathstreet.org)

For requests regarding church membership, Baptism or opportunities for Christian ministry in the church, please contact the minister.

Copy for the next newsletter should reach Eleanor Patterson ([eleanorlaise@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorlaise@gmail.com)) not later than Wednesday 18th November.

## News from friends abroad

Just to share my joy with you

On July 2, 2020 Frank Christoph and I have got married in Wetzlar. Because of COVID-19 it was a small but very nice wedding.

Best regards,  
Lilli Schott-Christoph



HEATH STREET BAPTIST



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