



The Elephant



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DESTINY POETS WAKEFIELD - Spring 2011

Order, Order!

THE RT. HON. JON TRICKETT, MP FOR HEMSWORTH, WRITES...

I regret I was unable to attend the launch of the "Destiny Poets" but want to take this opportunity to wish this creative team of poets and writers every success.

I am delighted to have been asked to contribute to this edition of "Elephant". My work doesn't allow enough time to read literature but when commuting I enjoy listening to music. I particularly like Springsteen and the French rocker, Renaud. Renaud sings in his native tongue. Their lyrics, like poetry, communicate an idea and like the very best poetry have the capacity to stir within the listener deep emotions. Both these rockers have drawn creative inspiration from the horror of 9/11, Springsteen with "You're Missing" and Renaud with "Manhattan - Kaboul".

In the first, Bruce imagines the house full of life, love and family but with someone missing. It's hard ever to forget the images of people wandering through New York with photocopies of their loved ones trying desperately to hold on to hope. These are indelible moments. But the song confronts with images which make it impossible to respond to the terror of 9/11 in either a xenophobic or Islamophobic way. Renaud talks of a Puerto Rican immigrant working in the World Trade Centre who perishes at the moment of impact, but he talks too of a peasant girl in a village in Afghanistan pulverised by the bombs emanating from airplanes sent there from the West.

Springsteen and Renaud in their different ways turn those images on the tv screens which we all saw, into a living nightmare with music which is so sweet that it heightens our sense of despair at what human beings are capable of doing. Both songs equally appeal to our sense of humanity and of outrage at the capacity of human beings to inflict devastating violence on others.

MICHAEL YATES, FOUNDER OF WAKEFIELD'S BLACK HORSE POETS, WRITES...

What's a church about? First, it's about worship. But it's also about community, communication and culture. And the two feed into each other.

That's why I think the Destiny Poets are an exciting development. What is lacking right now in Wakefield is a venue where local poets and musicians can actually encounter a local audience. Here at Destiny, you have the venue – a fine auditorium, excellent stage and a great sound system; you have the potential audience, based on your congregation and also the fact that you're near the heart of the city; you have a plethora of talented musicians within the congregation itself and within easy reach outside; and you have the potential to reach local performing poets, as the first gathering ably demonstrated.

That first evening in October drew ten of the city's best poets, mainly from the ranks of the Black Horse Poets, who clearly came along partly out of loyalty to former Black Horse President Louis Kasatkin, but also to see what was novel and exciting.

It's a new year and a new future. Any future involves the decision: should we grow or stay as we are? Except that in real life there is never really that alternative to stopping growing. I look forward to seeing what happens next.

The DESTINY POETS meet at Henry Boons, 130 Westgate (nr Railway Station)

Destiny Church meets on Sundays at 10am - Tuke Grove - Parklands - Wakefield - WF1 4AF

01924 382 162 Info@DestinyChurch.co.uk www.DestinyChurch.co.uk



Fanning out from Langstraat
to Jerusalemkerk with
their careful, clever twists
you navigate by spires,
Cathedral and churches
and totemic Belfort,
clocked and counting
its innard 365 steps
a challenge for later;
but now, bicycles, delivery
vans and the morning
commuters are unravelling
their silken-thread routes
and your eyes trace a
lazy line in your pocket-
book map, from where you
are to where you need to
be, in Bruges,
it's all the same

ROURKE'S FORGE – STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Noises I have not heard for years, the smith's tap – BANG
As he forms on the anvil, the thud, thud , thud,
Of the "steam hammer" falling on the swage.

When I was young we heard the hundred ton hammer
At Rotherham Forge squeal as it was raised and thud
As it fell, shaking the ground a mile away.

The one at Rourkes' was small and made
A leaf shaped blade for a paper knife.
White-hot steel can be formed into any shape.

Outside in the cold and wet stood sample gates,
Things of great beauty with twisted filigree work
And steel magnolias, or were they roses?

It matters not, for with the skills we watched at work
Either could have been made.
What a change from seeing/hearing the same techniques
In use for propeller shafts for warships.



Howard Frost

DON'T LET 'EM HAVE IT – IT'S NOT FOR THEM

I was asleep (I thought) and dreamed that someone said,
"Poetry's not for amateurs, or semi-professional poets,
It's only safe with full time, professional poets,
Like Auden, Eliot, even Betjeman."

The voice went on, "It's alright for amateurs to perform
Amateur dramatics, where they are speaking the words
Of Famous Professionals like Shakespeare, Shaw and even Alan Bennett;
Or even take part in sports like Rugby Football, or the
Association version where the rules are fixed."

"But to allow these people to start trying to
Compose poems, why they might even
Begin lines with prepositions."
"No! NO! we must not support such a thing."

Then I awoke and I was once again in a well known building
In Dewsbury, trying to plead for finances for Amateur Poetry.
So I went home and thought, "Full time professionals?"
Auden the teacher, Eliot the banker and Betjeman the magazine editor.
What a crazy world this world of "The Arts" is.

The **DESTINY POETS**

@ HENRY BOONS, 130 WESTGATE (Nr the Railway Station) WAKEFIELD

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

Every 1st Tuesday of the month in 2011

'Not Just Poetry'

Sessions from 7 - 9pm on:

- Tuesday February 1st
- Tuesday March 1st
- Tuesday April 5th...etc

*The Destiny Poets welcome writers of all skill levels
and all literary art forms, hence 'Not Just Poetry'*

Further details: louiskasatkin@yahoo.co.uk

Additional information: info@DestinyChurch.co.uk or 01924 382 162

Destiny Church, Tuke Grove, Parklands, Wakefield, WF1 4AF - Sunday Service 10am

