

# HEATH STREET

## BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter 1065

June - July 2023

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

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Heath Street is a friendly church in the heart of Hampstead. We are a small, diverse worshipping community. All are welcome to attend our services and our regular congregation is often joined by newcomers and visitors to Hampstead.

In 2022 our services of worship were on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. in the church, and this year for the first time since the pandemic we were able to have all services held in person in the church. We continued to facilitate the sharing of the worship over Zoom for those who were vulnerable or otherwise could not attend in person. Our minister Ewan King continues to support young people, established musicians and the Heath Street Choir to play and sing worship music at our Sunday morning services.

2022 saw major stonework taking place on the frontage of the church.

Renovation was called for because of safety issues, with falling crumbs alerting us to the poor repair of the stonework. The contract to repair and clean went to Permanens, whom the church found to be excellent. The top of the North spire, which was severely damaged, was replaced. The stonework was stress-tested and repaired where needed. For the time being only the higher levels are repaired to the very best standard. To make good the whole frontage would not require scaffolding the building as before and for this reason can be done piecemeal in due course.

The stonework project depleted our reserves, costing over £200,000, but also saw a fundraising campaign that raised an impressive £65,000, with significant donations coming from not just the congregation but old members who now live abroad, those who come to concerts and other events, and from locals who are not building users. The largest donation was £10,000 and the smallest just £10.

Music Outreach Officer John-Henry Baker, in place of restarting the Tuesday Lunchtime concerts, began the 'Sunday Sundown series'. He designed and launched a new marketing campaign to reach out to new audiences. The series sees a different concert performed every Sunday evening at 6, usually for free with a retiring collection for the musicians. They grew in popularity and have regularly attracted audiences of 30+ people.

This year Heath Street Choir became incorporated as its own charity, with the trustees being Ewan King, Rachel Zimmermann, Hildi Hawkins, and Iain McNaught. The artistic director is Emily Gray.

Our Children's Worker Wilf Merttens continued our children's Sunday Club, and added another session of Storymakers, our afterschool club, to the roster of church activities. A set of primary aged children met on

Mondays during term times, with the secondary aged children meeting on a Wednesday. Both clubs gained new regular participants. A new annual activity was added to the calendar, with the inaugural 'Moses and Miriam Boat Race' taking place on the river Ver, St Albans on a sunny Saturday in May.

Laura Somers continued in her role as a part-time caretaker, keeping the church spaces tidy and undertaking and commissioning repairs. Her relationship with our regular cleaner Monica is very good, and building users note the overall increased tidiness of the whole space and the better organisation of the kitchen particularly. Oldtime Nursery has continued to slowly rebuild a clientele of babies, toddlers and carers after the pandemic.

The current deacons are Annie Fang, Gaynor Humphreys (Treasurer), Wilf Merttens



## SECRETARY'S REPORT CONTINUED

(Secretary), and Sarah Harper. Julie Benoit often joined us via Zoom to support the meeting and learn about the diaconate. Meetings were chaired by our Minister Ewan King.

This year saw many new faces join the congregation at Heath Street. This came with one baptism, several applications for membership and several more new commitments to supporting and building up the life of the church at Heath Street. During the season of Lent we met online over Zoom twice a day to follow the 'Lent Prose', an early medieval hymn. We followed it sometimes in the original Latin though mostly in English translation. The booklet that provided the words for the hymn was illustrated by Laura Somers.

This year saw the launch of a new digital ministry for our church, with our minister Ewan King leading on us on a pilgrimage through Dante Alighieri's redemptive epic the Divine Comedy. Together we read and discuss a canto a week over Zoom. The pilgrimage began on 15th April and will conclude on Good Friday, 29th March 2024. Theresa Thom and Ewan King continued to represent our church on the Churches Together in Hampstead group. This year CTiH held a Ceilidh at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, with music led by our minister Ewan King.

-- Wilf Merttens



**Songs from the Andes celebrating nature**

**Saturday 24th June 2023 4.00 pm**

**Heath Street Baptist Church  
84 Heath St, London NW3 1DN**

**Rafael Montero (tenor)  
Fabio Fernandes (baroqueguitar)**

**Tickets available online or at the door**

**EVENTBRITE LINK**

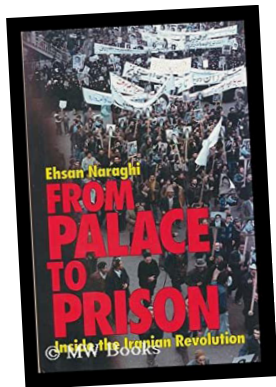
**Adults: £10 child: £5 (accompanied by a ticket-paying adult)**

**[www.elparnasohyspano.com](http://www.elparnasohyspano.com)**

**Followed by a family friendly workshop exploring the implications of these songs for the environment and living in harmony with nature.**

**Refreshments will be available.**

# BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



## FROM PALACE TO PRISON: Inside the Iranian Revolution

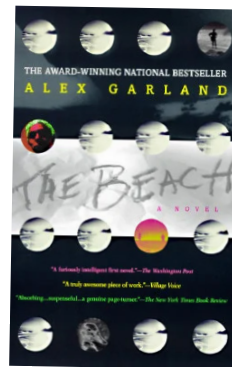
A memoir by the Iranian sociologist Ehsan Naraghi, describing his meetings with the King of Iran months before the Iranian revolution. The book is available in English and French.

Babak Agin

## THE BEACH

by Alex Garland

The story of a young adventurous backpacker who finds a hand-drawn map to a legendary secret beach. Getting to paradise becomes dangerous.

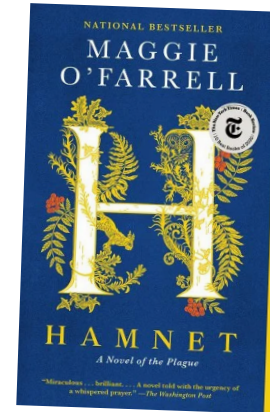
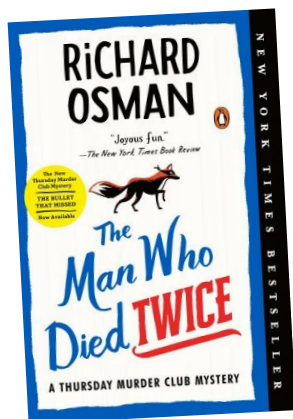


Hyun Ju Lee

## THE MAN WHO DIED TWICE by Richard Osman

Second in the Thursday Murder Club Series. Very entertaining about a group of retired people solving murders. Not your usual whodunnit.

Edward Humphreys



## HAMNET

by Maggie O'Farrell

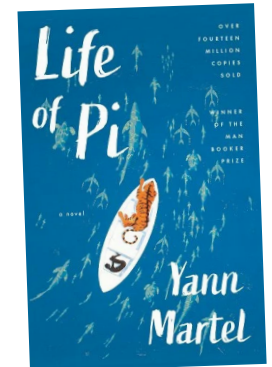
An absorbing novel about family life in the sixteenth century in a time of plague, describing childbirth, loss and the pain of a surviving twin.

Susan LeQuesne

## LIFE OF PI by Yann Martell

A young man who tries to survive on a floating lifeboat in the cruel sea with a hyena and a Bengal tiger as company.

Leila Ranjbar



## GILEAD

by Marilynne Robinson

Non-conformist Iowa in the 1950s; drama only in conversation; deep faith encountered through the everyday. Improbably enthralling, wise, humorous, insightful. Better with every re-reading.

Gaynor Humphreys

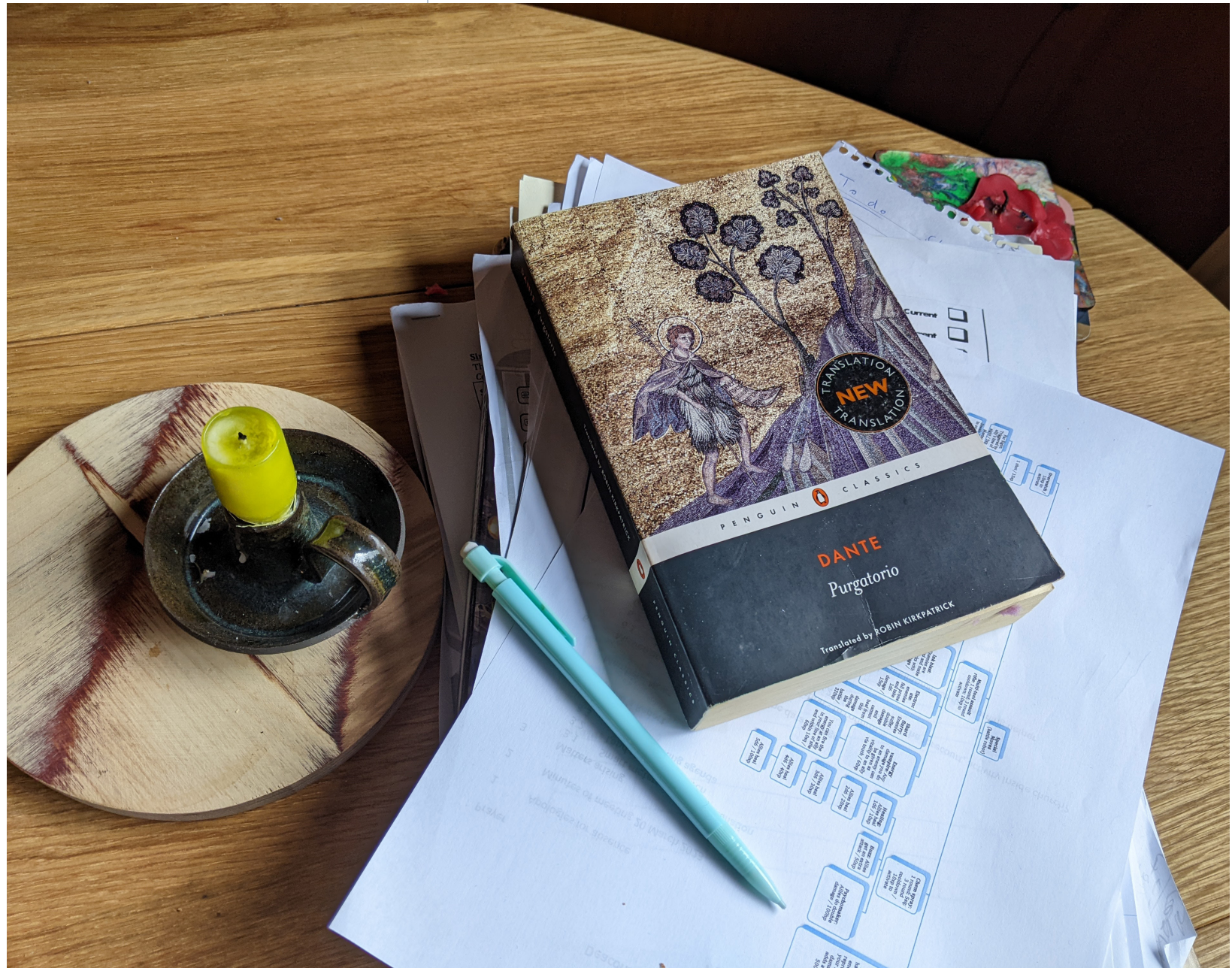


## DANTE PILGRIMAGE

A special guest speaker on the Dante Pilgrimage: Robin Kirkpatrick

What a charming and learned fellow he is! A scholar and a gent, as they say—and one to whom all of us pilgrims are deeply indebted, seeing as it is him who wrote the English translation that we are reading from. He met with us at our usual time of 8pm on a Friday and in our usual (un) place of the ‘church coffee’ Zoom meeting. Finding us about half our way up mount Purgatory, having just finished Canto 17, Professor Kirkpatrick was full of encouragement for the journey to come, assuring us that while the next few weeks might be hard going, great joys are just around the corner. He related to us how much reading through the Commedia with groups has been a part of his developing understanding of the work. His tales of scholars and Dante fans across the globe were lovely, and his many insights really brought home to me the power and originality of the poetry. Thank you Robin from all of us!

– Wilf Merttens





## SUNDAY CLUB NEWS DIGEST

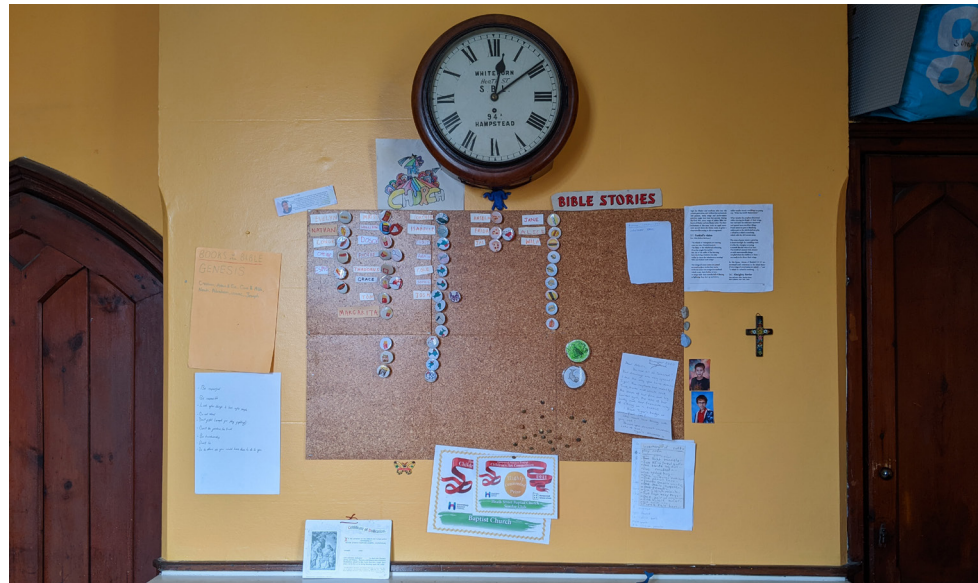
Congratulations to Josh who has made the rank of Fish, meaning he can lead activities. Josh is good at fishing, building things and wood carving, so him being able to lead will hopefully present an opportunity for the rest of us to learn some of these skills.

Congratulations also to Tom and William, who both made the rank of Chip, meaning they are now fully participating members of Sunday Club and will be bringing their unique gifts to each activity.

Our other exciting news is that the Second Annual Moses &

Miriam Boat Race is scheduled for Monday 29 May! So hopefuls should get designing a worthy vessel. A few important bits of info if you are entering: firstly, the little baby Moseses (Mosi?) will be played by eggs this year. Also, remember that as well as awards given for good and beautiful design, and of course for final positions in the race itself, there is a prize for driest Moses! However, due to some controversies at last year's event, entrants are advised that use of cling-film is prohibited this time around.

- Wilf Merttens



# COME & SING

**CONDUCTOR**  
Emily Gray  
[emilyjanegray.com](http://emilyjanegray.com)

**SONGS**  
**FOR MALE VOICES**

**20TH MAY 2023**  
**1:00PM - 5:00PM**  
**PARTICIPATION: £25**  
(refreshments provided)

*Henry Purcell - Drinking Songs*

*Ralph Vaughan-Williams - Silent Noon; Linden Lea (and others)*

*Edward Elgar - The Wanderer (and others)*

**ENQUIRIES:**  
[ewan\\_king@mac.com](mailto:ewan_king@mac.com)

**AT HEATH ST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
[heathstreet.org](http://heathstreet.org)

**84 HEATH STREET, NW3 1DN**

**N.B.** all tenors and basses are welcome!  
**NOT JUST FOR MEN:**

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

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May 28-June 3

Acts 2.1-21

28th Mysie Johnson  
29th Rhona MacEachen  
30th Elya Ghasempour  
31st Thaddeus King  
1st June Beryl Dowsett  
2nd Hyun Ju Lee  
3rd Julie Benoit

June 4-10

Isaiah 40.12-31

4th Gaynor Humphreys  
5th for Kasai Province, DRC  
6th Kylo Layton  
7th Dusol Lee  
8th Tom Somers  
9th Anselm King  
10th Wilf Merttens

June 11-17

Genesis 12.1-9

11th Sarah Harper  
12th Juno Lee  
13th Frida King  
14th Otilie Johnson  
15th Birgit Leuppert  
16th Zahra Safaryazdi  
17th Genna Naccache

June 18-24

Genesis 18.1-15

18th Fiona Ranford  
19th Babak Agin  
20th Lydia Baker  
21st for the life and ministry of St. Mary's, Hampstead  
22nd Edward Humphreys  
23rd Nomsa Ndebele  
24th Evelyn Baker

June 25-July 1st.

Genesis 21.8-21

25th for Ukraine  
26th Susan Le Quesne  
27th Susan Brandt  
28th Theresa Thom  
29th Ewan King  
30th Hildegard Williams  
1st July for all who attend Oldtime Nursery

July 2-8

Genesis 22.1-14

2nd Jen Finamore  
3rd Cole Ellenbogen  
4th Phoebe Jiang  
5th Leila Ranjbar  
6th Esme Baker  
7th for our community choir  
8th Andrea MacEachen





## READINGS AND PRAYERS CONTINUED

### July 9-15 Genesis 24.34-67

9th Emad Eisapour  
10th Josh Somers  
11th Annie Fang  
12th Grace Jiang  
13th Maral Agin  
14th Laura Somers  
15th Ali Ghasempour

### July 16-22 Genesis 25.19-34

16th Robin Thorne  
17th John Walsh  
18th Selena Barrera  
19th Coco Ellenbogen  
20th Thomas Roy  
21st Nathalia Bell  
22nd HK

### July 23-29 Genesis 28.10-19a

23rd Gabrielle Falardeau  
24th Isabel Somers  
25th Paul Conrad  
26th John-Henry Baker  
27th Joachim King  
28th Nesa Thorne  
29th Beauty Kunene

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

|            |          |  |
|------------|----------|--|
| Sundays    | 11 am    | <b>Divine Worship</b><br>Including our Children’s Sunday Club – stories, crafts, drama and play for all ages.<br><br>Live stream also available on request by e-mailing <a href="mailto:johnhenry@heathstreet.org">johnhenry@heathstreet.org</a> at least 24 hours in advance. |
|            | 6 pm     | <b>Sunday Sundown concert series</b>   |
|            | 7 pm     | <b>Contact Club</b>  |
| Mondays    | 5 pm     | <b>Storymakers Club</b><br>An after-school club aimed at children between the ages of 7 and 13.  |
| Tuesdays   | 10 am    | <b>Oldtime Nursery</b><br>Introducing old melodies and traditional stories to a new generation of children.  |
| Wednesdays | 5:30 pm  | <b>Storymakers Club</b>  |
| Thursdays  | 10:30 am | <b>Oldtime Nursery</b>   |
|            | 7:30pm   | <b>Heath St choir rehearsals</b>   |
| Fridays    | 8 pm     | <b>Dante Pilgrimage</b><br>A Zoom reading of the whole of Dante’s Comedy, to take place weekly until 2024.   |
|            | online   | <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87179878823</a>  |
|            | Zoom     |  |





Please see the church website for updates

[www.heathstreet.org](http://www.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 19th July.

### **Church Officers**

Gaynor Humphreys (Treasurer)  
Wilf Merttens (Church Secretary)  
Annie Fang (Deacon)  
Sarah Harper (Deacon)

### **Minister Ewan King**

Heath St Baptist Church  
84 Heath St, Hampstead, NW3 1DN, London | [ewan\\_king@mac.com](mailto:ewan_king@mac.com)  
[www.heathstreet.org](http://www.heathstreet.org) 020 7431 0511