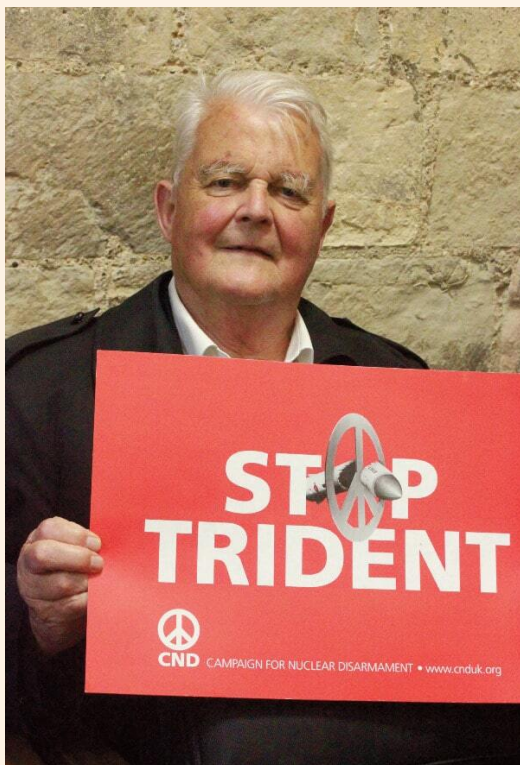




from Garth...

A Great Christian Prophet



Bruce Kent, a great Christian prophet, peacemaker, mentor and example, has died.

Bruce was a hugely significant example to us all for many years - I shall certainly miss his voice.

His witness for peace always inspired me, but we got to know each other better through meeting on various demonstrations, and in particular we met up as we were both Patrons of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Ironically we desperately need Bruce's voice at this time. We need uncompromising peacemakers. I thank God for Bruce, for his inspiration, for his

refusal to compromise and for his friendship - he helped to shape my sense of responsibility by his example on issues, particularly on issues of peacemaking, nonviolence and nuclear weapons.

On two occasions he gave me quotes for two particular anti-war songs - the first was in 1983. He was General Secretary of CND at the time and I released a song called **The Hungry Wind**. Bruce gave a quote which said *"The Hungry Wind is a powerful moving song with a compelling message - we don't want to be anyone's nuclear battlefield - take your missiles home."* I re-released this song on the album **Against The Grain** because sadly it seems to have an ongoing relevance.

For my new album **Easter Revolution** I wrote a song called **The Pope Went Down to**

Nagasaki - at the end of 2019 the Pope had made a very powerful anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons speech and I turned it into a song. Bruce gave me a quote which is in the booklet that goes with the album - he said, *"Garth Hewitt has done all of us a great favour in helping to spread, around the world, Pope Francis's words in Nagasaki. No verbal messing around with Pope Francis. Nuclear weapons are immoral instruments of massacre and should be in no one's arsenal here and now - no equivocations. Not sometime in the future... He could not have been clearer it's up to us to show the same sort of courage."*

The Tablet said of Bruce, **"It was his Christian faith that brought him to reject nuclear weapons as fundamentally immoral."**

Bruce was still a Vice President of CND and of Pax Christi and an Emeritus President of the Movement for the Abolition of War at the time of his death.

Prayer for Bruce

Oh God, we thank you for the example of the life of Bruce Kent.

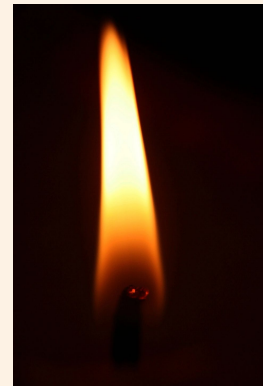
We are grateful for the years of prophetic witness

Thank you for his dedication to justice

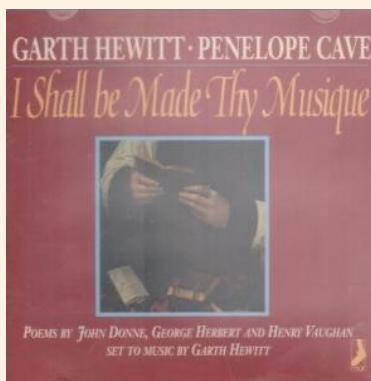
And his passionate commitment to peace

And now may he rest in the peace of Christ

Thank you for a life so well lived.



Love Bade Me Welcome



On Radio 4 a few weeks ago there was a Sunday service called 'Love Took My Hand' about the poetry of George Herbert, which took me back to an album - **I Shall Be Made Thy Musique** - which I made with musician Penelope Cave, and released in 1992. Penelope played harpsichord and virginals.

This album included poetry by George Herbert, John Donne and Henry Vaughan, and was a little out of my normal style! But my affection for these poets, with their interesting spirituality, was something I had wanted to record for some time. **Penny was the key as she played the right instruments to go with these poems.**

The Radio 4 service came from the Chapel of St John's College Cambridge. Dean of the Chapel is Mark Oakley - a lover of poetry himself, and he has written a book "The

Splash of Words” with the subtitle, “Believing in Poetry.”

The style of my album was a little different from the style of the choir of St John’s College! But it reminded me of this project that I had done with Penny - you can hear the song [Love Bade Me Welcome here](#) - this is perhaps a more folksy working of the poems, but hopefully treating them with the respect they deserve.

Imelda Marcos Disco Dancing Shoes are back

The Philippine elections have been won by a Marcos - Ferdinand ‘BongBong’ Marcos Jr, son of Ferdinand and Imelda. Journalist Dr Tom Sykes Says “Filipinos have been suffering the Marcos dynasty’s love of spectacle since the mid-1960s when Ferdinand and Imelda took power presenting themselves as a glamorous Hollywoodesque couple and promising a golden age of progress and prosperity.

But away from the vanity building projects and PR stunts - like stage TV reports of Imelda donating homes to the poor - they built an iron-fisted dictatorship, dropped their country into masses of debt, murdered, maimed and jailed thousands and embezzled perhaps \$11 million from state coffers.

“On May 9th this year Ferdinand and Imelda’s son - Ferdinand ‘BongBong’ Marcos Jnr took the presidency...” A wholesale rewriting of Philippine history, and his family’s place in it, has been achieved”.

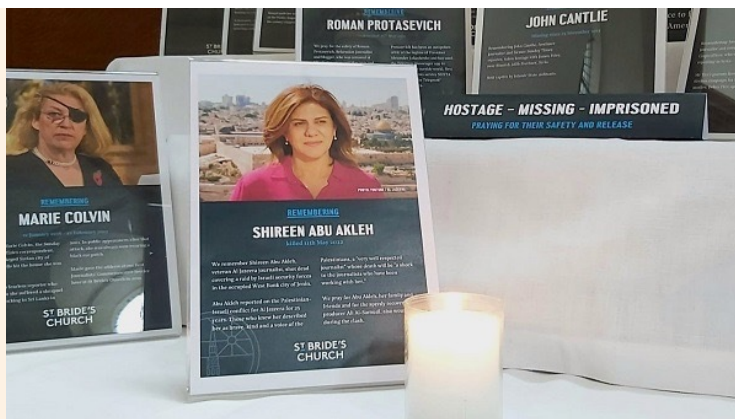
Imelda and family were famous for amassing great wealth through corrupt means and for living a lavish lifestyle during a period of economic crisis and civil unrest in the country. While Filipinos were living in poverty Imelda was travelling the world and buying new shoes when she put on display - she now has her own shoe museum strangely stating "this museum is making a subject of notoriety into a subject of beauty."

I was down in the Philippines in the early 80s just after the People's Revolution and the changing power. I was taken to the palace and shown Imelda’s shoes - the guide pointed at one pair of shoes and said, "These are Imelda Marcos' disco dancing shoes," and it sounded like a song title to me!

Listen to the song [on YouTube here](#)

Father Fadi Diab said Shireen Abu Akleh will have ‘influence all over the world’

**These following words
are from Arwa**



Mahdawi, in The Guardian of Wednesday 18th May 2020

Shireen Abu Aqleh was a lifeline for Palestinians – and her killing has shaken us to the core. The Al Jazeera journalist was a courageous voice and

a symbol of Palestine at a time when many question our right to exist.

Being Palestinian means having the validity of your existence litigated every single day. It means constantly being gaslit, erased, talked over, smeared. For diaspora Palestinians like me, it means getting used to being looked at with suspicion simply for answering the question: 'Where are you from?' When my family moved to New York when I was a kid, for example, a person on our building's board heard my dad was Palestinian and "jokingly" told him not to hold any terrorist meetings in the apartment. (As if! You always hold monthly militant meetings on the roof.) When I went to law school in London, I was subjected to "joke" after "joke" about suicide bombers. Anti-Palestinian bigotry is so normalised and widespread that, when strangers ask me where I am from, I am often wary (and scared) of mentioning Palestine.

Shireen Abu Aqleh had no such qualms; she was courage personified. The much-loved Al Jazeera correspondent was a fixture on TV screens for more than three decades, signing off her broadcasts with the refrain: "I am Shireen Abu Aqleh, Jerusalem, occupied Palestine." No mincing of words, no apologies for existing; just the truth.

She was the voice of events in Palestine - far more than a journalist, far more than a household name. Even "icon" doesn't capture her. She was a documentarian of displacement, a voice for Palestinians, a symbol of Palestine. She was a constant reminder that Palestinians are not an abstract philosophical concept whose existence is up for debate, but human beings deserving of dignity. **For diaspora Palestinians, she was a lifeline. And now she is gone.**

Arwa Mahdawi, The Guardian, 18 May 2022

Many of you will have seen footage of the Israeli army attacking those carrying her coffin at the funeral. A shocking and sad scene to see.

Father Fadi Diab, Priest of St Andrew's Ramallah, who participated in Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral, told Al Jazeera that "she will have influence all over the world."

To many of us who have been on Amos trips to Palestine, or other groups visiting the

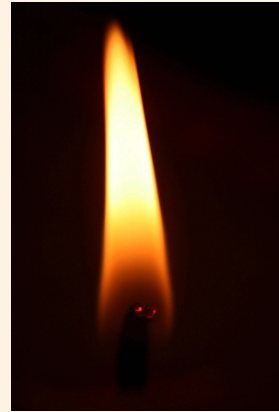
'living stones', we may well have met Father Fadi. Indeed he was featured in a relatively recent Zoom from Sabeel Kairos. "Nobody can compare the Palestinian case with any other violence in the world or any other war because any nation that had a war, they still have their identity, their land - but we lost our land, our identity," Fadi Diab said.

He said, "We don't believe in the love of power, we believe in the power of love."

Prayer

For Shireen

Telling the truth
Telling the story
Especially the story that is normally not told
The role of a journalist is deeply important
Thank you for Shireen's life and witness
We pray for her family and friends
And for the Palestinian community
May she rest in peace
Amen



There will be a Memorial Service and thanksgiving for the life of Shireen Abu Aqleh at the journalist's church, St Brides Fleet Street on Tuesday 28th June at 11.30am

Loving and generous God
Thank you for those who inspire us
Thank you for those who stand against the tide
And witness to the truth
May their example inspire us to be people committed
To justice, love, hope and peace
Whatever the cost
Amen

Gareth Hewitt



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Songs for living the Easter Revolution all year around



This double CD is a companion to Garth's book Against the Grain, contains some new songs like Against the Grain itself, songs from different stages of Garth's recordings, and some demos not previously released.

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