



from Garth...

The Orchard Session

Gill and I have had a most enjoyable time at [Greenbelt](#).

The key event for us was playing in the Orchard on Sunday morning with the band. **It was wonderful to have Claire Tabraham on backing vocals, Dave Perry on guitar, Chris Rogers on fiddle, and even Pete Banks came in on three of the songs.** Playing with the band I found most relaxing and fun.

Isobel filmed most of the songs in the concert **and they are [available to watch on YouTube here - The Orchard Session](#).**

My own personal favourite in this list is 'Not In My Name' - maybe this is partly because my thoughts are dwelling more and more on songs against war.

I had another session just on my own at the Christian Aid tent.

Pete Moorey of Christian Aid asked me to come in and have a chat, and also do a few songs. Again it was very enjoyable - and a chance to look back a bit on my time working with Christian Aid, which led to the connection and partnership between Greenbelt and Christian Aid. And also to sing a few other songs which even I hadn't heard for a while! Namely Tom Paxton's song 'Whose Garden Was This?', 'Let the World Be Changed' which I wrote while I was working with Christian Aid, and a song from [Stealing Jesus Back](#) album called 'The Way Of Peace'.

'The Way of Peace' ends with the words:

I believe in the way of peace

I believe in the way of freedom

Oh in my heart I do believe

In the way of peace and the way of Jesus

Oh I believe in the rebel Jesus.

I had an interview on Sunday morning with Martin Heaton from BBC Radio

Northamptonshire, and he chose a song to play at the end of the show. I didn't hear it at the time but later Gill listened, and when I heard the song he had chosen I couldn't place it but I thought it sounded interesting - **then when the last line came, "By the waters of Wapping, I find a sanctuary," I realised the song was 'Towards a Promised Land' from the *Stealing Jesus Back* album - and it was like meeting an old friend!**

Our time of living by the waters of Wapping was a very special time, and conveniently just down the road Paul Wilkinson had his studio where I recorded - it was luxury to simply be able to walk to the studio!

Anyway, back to this year's Greenbelt, I had a fascinating time of interviews. Because I sang at the first Greenbelt, quite a lot of the questions were going back and asking about the early days of the festival.

A very special moment was singing 'Yo Creo en Nicaragua' with the band on the Main Stage

This was part of a presentation about Gustavo Parajon, launching the book *Healing the World* which tells the remarkable story of his life, and his motivations.



photo by Ed Pruen

For one reason or another I have written at least six verses to the song 'Yo Creo en Nicaragua' - one I wrote for Gustavo's memorial service, which I don't think I've sung live before. It got a very strong reaction.

*I would like to walk with you - one more time Gustavo
And hear your laughter - and your words
Your words of peace, your way of love
You're the one who taught us so very much*

It was a joy to have Roberto Martinez at Greenbelt with us to speak at this event - he was the one that translated the chorus of 'Yo Creo en Nicaragua' into Spanish for me. **It was not only special to have him and his wife Cheryl at the festival, but it was**

extremely good fun! And I must say in certain ways as I listened to his talk, I was reminded of Gustavo.

The pilgrimage of Greenbelt

It was a joy to be reminded of the 50 years of Greenbelt and to think about the journey that we have come.

When I started the Orchard concert I mentioned being asked by Jonathan Cooke to support a band called All Things New. **James Holloway was the singer in that band and he was a big influence on the early days of Greenbelt, and a great friend.** Just after that tour Jonathan Cooke came up and asked me if I would come and sing at a festival they were putting together - I'm not sure if it even had the name Greenbelt yet.

I think the journey or pilgrimage of Greenbelt has been very fascinating, and for many people it has been a lifeline because of its down to earth spirituality and the influence of art, music, spirituality and creativity.

I did enjoy listening to rapper Lowkey on the last evening of Greenbelt, with his emphasis on Palestine.

I was there with Chris Rose - he suggested I might like to move my musical style more in the direction of rap! I shall obviously give that some thought!

Lowkey's talent with words and political commentary is quite staggering. **I am proud to share the role of a Patron of Palestine Solidarity Campaign with Lowkey.**

Instagram

For those of you who use Instagram, I am now on there - I think you can find me as **GarthTroubadour**. My son Tom will be posting things on there for me!

Thanks Tom.

Prophetic challenge from Robert Cohen

Robert Cohen, friend and Chair of Amos Trust, has spoken up with prophetic words to challenge the Archbishop's view on apartheid in the Palestine/Israel situation. Robert is referring to a talk that the Archbishop of Canterbury gave on 6th

September in St Martin's in the Field. Also speaking was Palestinian Daniel Munayer, the CEO of Musalaha - he was saying that more and more scholars define what is happening there as settler colonialism and with Israel practicing apartheid. Archbishop Welby doesn't agree with that and won't use the word apartheid.

Robert speaks strongly because of what he has just seen in Palestine & Israel:

Dear Justin Welby,

It's possible to demonstrate your respect, concern and love for the Jewish people without denying the tragic reality of Israel/Palestine.

It's not just the entire human rights community which describes the situation as Apartheid. It's also Israel's own politicians and former heads of internal security. Your refusal to engage with Palestinian (Christian and Muslim) experience makes you look ill-informed, unconcerned and badly detached from the real world.

Having spent the last week in the West Bank and East Jerusalem talking with and listening to Jews, Christians and Muslims, the Apartheid here is as clear as day. It touches every aspect of life - housing, work, education, food, freedom of movement... and on and on it goes.

The Church must carry a terrible burden when it comes to historic antisemitism (and some contemporary global examples too). But your unwillingness to face the truth of this modern injustice is not the answer. In the end it does no service to either Palestinians or Jews.

I urge you to find a new language and new ethical stand so that you can make a meaningful contribution to a better future rather than defending an immoral present.

Robert Cohen

Palestinian clergy have spoken out using the word apartheid and I reflect that in the lyrics of my song 'Standing Against Apartheid'. I've used some of their words in this song that is a prayer for justice.

Prayer

Standing Against Apartheid

The loving God of justice
Generous God of equality
All are made in the image of God
So we're standing against apartheid

We're standing against apartheid
Standing up for justice
Standing for equality
Standing against apartheid

Justice and only justice
Is the only way to peace
The only way to hope
Is through the door of justice

We're standing against apartheid
Standing up for justice
Standing for equality
Standing against apartheid

No more brutal racism
No more ethnic cleansing.
Standing for human dignity
Standing against apartheid

We're standing against apartheid
Standing up for justice
Standing for equality
Standing against apartheid



Garth Hewitt



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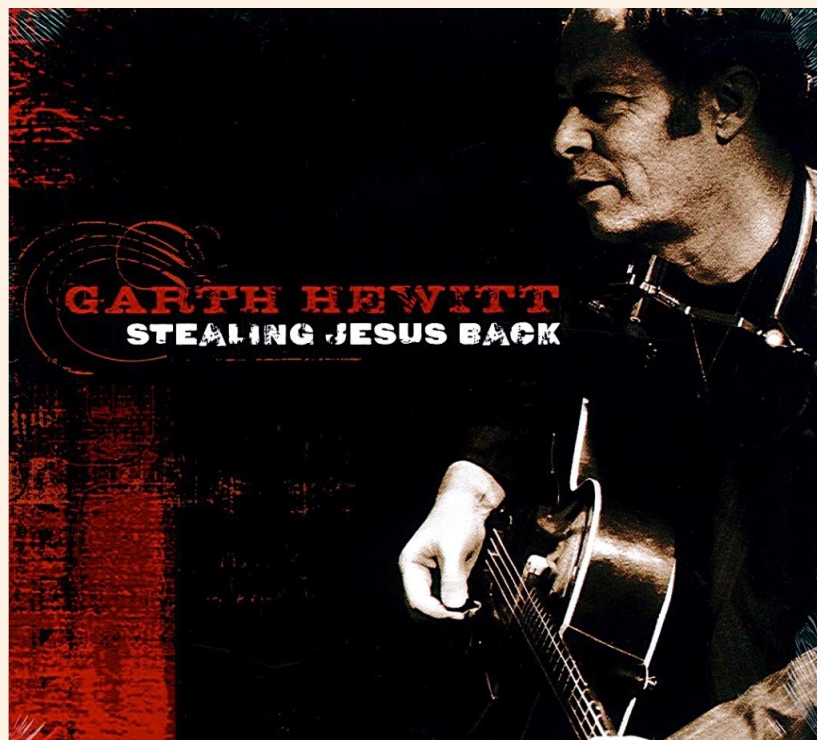


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Garth says, "Listening again to 'Stealing Jesus Back' reminded me of Gustavo, and of how the first song on the album, 'Eternal Echoes', came together, by the helpful translation of a song being sung in First Baptist Church Managua. I liked the sound of it and asked Gustavo what was being said, and he translated most of the song for me. The result of that was the third verse, Gustavo's translation of the song they were singing."

***You meet me by the water in the morning
Say the boat that I must row cannot carry gold
Nor weapons to maim or kill - they will destroy my soul
So I must leave it all behind for a much much better way
Preparing me for all that is to come.***



Garth's iconic album 'Stealing Jesus Back' is on the special offer of £5 + p&p - a great one to introduce others to Garth's music, and if you don't have it yet

yourself, now's the time to buy it!

Despite advertisements that may appear on some of Garth's YouTube videos, Garth derives no income from the resources he provides online, and his work of songwriting, recording, and travelling is supported entirely by donations to the **Garth Hewitt Foundation** and by the sale of items purchased from **his website**.

You can donate to **The Garth Hewitt Foundation here**, and we are gradually making more and more of his music available as MP3 downloads which you can purchase from **the music pages of his website**.



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