

HOLD MY GAZE

I wrote the verses of this song a couple of years ago after the funeral of Ben Arnold, an elder at Beacon Church, who many at King's will have known. Ben led the first band I ever played in at King's and taught me loads about feeling the music and fitting a band together. He was one of the most genuinely nice people I've ever met and the sort of person who made you feel really valued and listened to in the space of a few seconds.

Reflecting back now, his funeral had a significant impact on me. The existence of the stark tension of the deep sense of loss and pain of his family, church and friends on the one hand, set against the visible hope in salvation and eternity that he and his family had, really moved me and has stayed with me. It is always hard to hold suffering and hope at the same time, and yet this seems to be a common experience.

At the time the chorus I wrote never quite fitted. It was too celebratory for a song born out of loss and pain. So I re-wrote the chorus recently during lockdown with more of a focus on asking God to help us to keep our eyes fixed on Him as we walk through life, aiming to go down the narrow path of faith to the small gate (Matthew 7:13-14).

This has become an unexpectedly personal song for me, and I hope that in particular it is a blessing to anyone who is facing hardship, loss and hurt – a reminder that things will not always be this way – that though there is pain now, one day it will be no more – that our hope is not in ourselves, our performance or our situation, but is in the perfect work of Jesus on the cross. May this song be a tool to help you to ask God to place that hope in the forefront of your mind as you face the challenges before you.

– Luke Catley