



London, 1800. Things aren't going too well for William Blake. He lacks work, his wife worries over the bills, he's seeing visions of the Apocalypse, and his planned epic poem on the divine remains unwritten. When Blake gets an offer from famous poet William Hayley to leave London and settle in a cottage at the seaside village of Felpham, he jumps at the chance. In Felpham, things don't quite work out the way Blake had them planned...

What ensues involves talent wasted, offences to the local gentry, an argument with a drunken soldier, a trial for sedition, and a visionary meeting with the Lamb of God in an English cottage garden. "And did those feet..." indeed!

*Divine Vision* is the first stage play to explore William Blake's only period of living outside London, and the events leading to his writing the poem which we now know as the iconic hymn "Jerusalem".

#### About the author

James Martin Charlton is a dramatist, director and academic. His plays include *The World & his Wife*, *Fat Souls*, *Groping in the Dark*, *ecstasy + Grace*, *Coward*, and *Reformation*. He recently wrote *Black Stone* as part of an R&D project with Just Some Theatre Co., and a new work, *Protomartyr*, on St. Alban. *Fat Souls*, *Coward* and *Reformation* are published by Playdead Press. He has written an adaptation of *The Pilgrim's Progress* and a play about William Blake, *Divine Vision*.

He is Interim Academic Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Creative Industries at Middlesex University. He produces his plays with his own theatre company, JMCFire.

[www.jamesmartincharlton.co.uk](http://www.jamesmartincharlton.co.uk)

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## *Divine Vision:* *William Blake in Felpham* By James Martin Charlton

For more information, editorial opportunities, interview requests or review copies please contact Anne by email [tslbooks@outlook.com](mailto:tslbooks@outlook.com)

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