

Why

By Barbara Schiff

Why is the church shut now?
Like mosque, temple and shul
Why are there children in gardens?
Why are they not at school?

Why did the lady in the shop
Ask me to wait outside?
I can't remember another time
When my custom has been denied

Why are so many other shops
All firmly shut and locked?
Why are the windows bare and dark?
Why are these shops not stocked?

Why at the supermarket
Are there marshals at the door?
Why are there all these arrows
Painted over the floor?

Why when I go to the bus stop
Do I find that there's no queue?
Why does no bus come to the stop
Though I know it's overdue?

Why is my street so empty
When I go for a walk?
Why when I see my neighbour
Does he not want to stop and talk?

Why when I hear my phone ring
Am I always filled with dread?
Why am I always filled with fear
That someone I know is dead?

Barbara Schiff 2020