

[with resounding voice all together now!]

**We shall overcome,
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Oh deep in my heart I do believe
That we shall overcome some day**



*Please join Margaret Kennedy now for a
celebration of her 59th birthday with her
twin sister Ann Kennedy*



Thank You for coming.

‘Remembrance & Proclamation’

26th November 2011 3pm

St Giles-in-the Fields

Rector: The Venerable Dr William Jacob

A service for **Margaret Kennedy** as part of a
compensation agreement by the Diocese of London.

The service is led by women and men who have been sexually abused and exploited by clergy *as adults*.

Except for Lesley Orr, feminist theologian and friend/supporter of Margaret and MACSAS, and Alison Adam who helped with the music

**History, despite its wrenching pain
Cannot be un-lived
But if faced with courage
Need not be lived again**

Maya Angelou

**I do not want the peace that passeth understanding
I want the understanding that bringeth peace**

Helen Keller

This service is especially dedicated to Ann Kennedy, Margaret's twin sister who has fought bravely for over 10 years, for vindication and acknowledgement of her sexual assaults by a Catholic Order priest to no avail. We call on the Religious order to offer that acknowledgement and vindication as soon as possible.

It is also dedicated to all women and men who have suffered sexual abuse *as adults*, at the hands of clergy, religious, religious sisters, church leaders and further abuse by church hierarchy who ignore their plea for justice.

CLOSING

Of all the wondrous things on earth, friendship is most wondrous. For friendship uplifts, friendship sustains and friendship helps us to keep going. We have remembered the sorrows, the hurt, the pain and the journey of one person. We have proclaimed the truth of one life. We have acknowledged the journey of one soul. We leave here today knowing that courage comes when we're not alone. We need each other. And we need to right wrongs. And we need to repair the damage and stop the hurt. We need to call to justice.

This has been done today for one person, it can and must be done for others.

May we travel carefully, travel lovingly and travel truthfully.

Amen

all sing...clap, stamp, shout, holler!

**We shall overcome,
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Oh deep in my heart I do believe
That we shall overcome some day**

**We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand some day
Oh deep in my heart, I do believe**

SHORT SILENCE

Candles can now be placed in the trays provided

Stand to sing

**'Put Peace into each others hands'
(peace birds will be given out)**

**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.**

**Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.**

Remembering those who have died. The service remembers Paul Vernon, Margaret's psychotherapist, who unstintingly supported and respected her and who thankfully lived to see her final victory. Also survivors Karen, Patricia, Phyllis and Mary (who committed suicide). **May they rest in peace.**

In gratitude Margaret thanks her friends and fellow survivors whose unfailing love 'got her through'.

Margaret thanks all survivors who participated in her doctoral research; 'The Well from which we drink is Poisoned. Clergy sexual exploitation of adult woman.' a real remembering and proclamation.

(Available as PDF/USB pen. Apply for details
macses1@hotmail.co.uk)

My thanks to all who helped me with this service. They know who they are, and I am most grateful .

This service will be posted on www.macsas.org.uk from 27.11.20

Remembering Paul Vernon



24.12.1934 - 9.6.2010

Patient, kind, respectful. My therapist who convinced me the journey of life was worth fighting for.

May he rest in peace.

THE WELCOME

Lesley Orr and Bill Jacob

'The Wind Beneath my Wings' sung by Alison Adam.
Remembering Paul Vernon, my twin Ann, all my
friends, with thanks..

Survivor : We are here today to remember one
journey. To recall courage. But we are
also here to remember many journeys, of
others too. Those who are here today
and those who could not come. We are
here because one journey has been
acknowledged, and sorrow shown. But
we need many journeys to be heard, we
need many journey's to be
acknowledged. And still today many are
calling out for justice, to be heard, to be
believed.

**Have *you* heard them 'calling in the night?
Will *you* hold us all in your heart?**

See the hidden things, the creatures of
your dreams, the storehouse of forgotten
memories, the gifts you never knew you
had been given.

Touch the wellspring of your life, and
hear your own true nature and your own
true name.

Take the freedom to grow into that self,
the seed of which was planted at your
making...

Listen to the language of your wounds.
Do not pine away in the pain of them,
but seek to live from the depth of them.
Make the extent of your desolation the
extent of your realm...

Take into your arms your wounded
frightened child within. Give her, him,
your adult caring strength, for your child
has protected your gifts until the time
they can be given and not be betrayed...

May your wounds be only these:

The wound we cannot avoid because we
belong to one another and feel and hear
the murmur of the world's pain;
The wound of a sense of compassion for
others;
The wound of a sense of longing for God,
the source of life and love deep within us
and beyond us...

**Survivor - (Barrister at Law) - Justice - Reclaiming
ourselves and the beauty of ourselves together.**

All say:

*God of the dispossessed
Defender of the helpless
You grieve with all who weep
May we also refuse to be comforted
Until the violence of the strong has
been confounded.*

*And the broken victims have been set free
In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen*

*Margaret will now don her PhD gown in remembrance of
all those who took part in her thesis' **The Well from
Which We Drink is Poisoned; Clergy Sexual
Exploitation of Adult Women**'. (2009) also to
acknowledge proclamation and her journey.*

'We shall Go Out...' by June Boyce Tillman
sung by Alison Adam

Lesley Orr: **'Light in the Dark Places'** by Jim Cotter

Survivors, let the light of this candle be
for you the light of God, as you meet the
darkness in the deep places of your
being.

Stand to sing

**I, The Lord of sea and Sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and shame,
My hand will save.
I who make the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am Lord,
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away,
I will free their hearts of fear,
Give them hearts of love alone,
I will speak my Word to them
Whom shall I send?**

Here I am, Lord...

Please be seated

Survivors: Together we stand, to remember and proclaim, that we did nothing wrong.
Together we stand, to remember and proclaim, that we are angry
Together we stand, to remember and proclaim, that we cannot forget
Together we stand, to remember and proclaim, that justice will come
Together we stand, to remember and proclaim:

ALL : **THOUGH WE WERE ADULT
WE DID NOTHING WRONG,
IT WAS NOT OUR FAULT
WE WILL NOT LET
GUILT CONSUME US**

Margaret: Sisters and Brothers, those of us sexually violated by clergy as children or as adults you are welcome to this service of remembering and proclaiming.

Sisters and Brothers, we will not be defeated.

Sisters and Brothers, we do not walk alone.

Sisters and Brothers we will not let shame or
guilt consume us

Sisters and Brothers, we will share the pain
and the journey - together.

Survivor: We were not supposed to talk

All: We were meant to be silent

Survivor : We were meant to keep it a secret

All: But now we are talking

Survivor : We were not supposed to be angry

All: But now we are raging

Survivor : We were not allowed to cry

All: Now we are weeping

Survivor : We were unloved and forgotten

All: We are forgotten still

Survivor : We are hurt by our Churches

All: We call for repentance

Survivor : We are not supposed to challenge

All: We protest and seek justice

Survivor : We were supposed to be silent

All: Never again....

Survivors together : We will remember and proclaim

All: We will remember and proclaim

**The Ven Dr William Jacob
'Letter of Acknowledgement'**

'Who Can Sound the Depth of Sorrow'
by Graham Hendrick. sung by Alison Adam

THE LITANY OF PROCLAMATION

Survivor: O sacred shalom,
We lift to your compassion
All the victims of abuse
Whom we know and do not know

Survivor: All women and men who have been
violated
In their bodies
And in their spirit

Survivor: Give them and us the grace to shed all
guilt and shame
And to shout aloud with your spirit

All say: I did nothing wrong
I will not let guilt or shame consume me

Survivor: We were never meant to survive

All: We were meant to be silent

Survivor: We were imprinted with fear

All: We are no longer afraid

Stand to sing

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my Servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are travellers on the Road;
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the Load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of Your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to Hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'til we've seen this journey Through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such Harmony,
Born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and Agony**

**Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant Too.**

Please be seated

Margaret: 'Remembering'

Stand to sing

**Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah (3)
O Lord, kum ba yah.**

**Someone's crying Lord...kum ba yah,
Someone's drinking Lord...kum ba yah
Someone's angry Lord...kum ba yah,
O Lord, Kum ba yah**

**Someone's hurting Lord...kum ba yah,
Someone's cutting Lord, ..kum ba yah
Someone's lonely Lord...kum ba yah
O Lord, kum ba yah**

**Kum ba yah, my lord, kum ba yah (3)
O Lord, kum ba yah**

Margaret (cont):

This service is not about my *'healing'*, or making me *'whole'*, or a *'comfort'*, or *'drawing a line under it'* as many have suggested to me.

It's not about *'reconciliation'*. It is about *'remembering'*, never forgetting what happened to me. It is about *'proclaiming'* the truth.

It is about other things too, precious things...the part other victims and survivors have played in my life . All the survivors I had the honour to know , those sexually abused in their homes and who joined CSSA. All those survivors sexually abused as children by clergy who are part of MACSAS, and all the survivors sexually abused as adults by clergy also in MACSAS

Our friendship,
our solidarity,
our anger
our fight for justice,
our liberation is in truth-telling,
our calling to account,
our protesting
our remembering
our proclaiming
The Truth...

Makes life worth living. My life over the last 28 years has been blessed . That blessing from fellow survivors made my life worth living.

We will survive ... to bless others.

READING

Romans 8

'No-one can separate us from the love of God'