

Margaret Elizabeth Sutherland Gunstone

2nd August 1937 – 14th June 2022



St James' Church, Didsbury

Thursday, 7th July 2022 at 11am

Peter writes...

Thank you all for coming today: Mum would have enjoyed the fuss, would have wanted to speak with everyone and to hear all your news, especially those she hadn't previously met!

All are welcome to join the family for the burial after this service at Mill Lane Cemetery, Manchester Rd, Cheadle SK8 2PX.

You are invited to join us for a light lunch in the Parish Centre behind Emmanuel Church, Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 6TR (limited parking on site).

Thank you to those who have contributed to this service in both seen and unseen ways: C. Middleton & Son Funeral Directors; Kantos Chamber Choir; Darius Battiwalla (organist); the composers – Nicholas Simpson for accepting the commission and Philip Wilby for offering a companion piece; Andrew Revans for singing at the graveside; the bell ringers of St James' Tower, and John Lacy, Tower Captain; Andrea for the flowers; Christine Bodley for keeping everyone in order; Claire for getting things organised; David Hughes for preaching; Christine Sandiford for leading the service; and friends and family for their recollections.

Special thanks to all who have been involved in caring for Margaret in recent years: neighbours, friends, church family, carers from Crossroads and at Well Springs, countless medical and social professionals, family, and to Rt Rev Chris Edmondson for praying with and anointing Margaret in hospital.

Your love has made a difference. Thank you.

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¶ The Gathering

Margaret's body was received into the church last night by the family.

Preparation

Before the service, the organ is played by Darius Battiwalla.

At 10.55am, Kantos Chamber Choir sing:

**I am sure I shall see
the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Yes, I shall see the goodness of the Lord,
hold firm, trust in the Lord.**

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After the singing, we keep a moment of silence together.

Introduction

The service is led by Revd Christine Sandiford, Team Priest, St James & Emmanuel, Didsbury.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord. 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' John 11.25,26

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8.38,39*

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. So we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4.14,17b,18*

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. *1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21b*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness. *Lamentations 3.22,23*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. *Matthew 5.4*

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. *John 3.16*

The minister says:

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The minister introduces the service:

We have come here today
to remember before God our sister Margaret;
to give thanks for her life;
to commend her to God our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit her body to be buried,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

The minister prays:

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy
turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Please stand to sing:

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.**

**Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.**

John Newton (1725-1807)

Please sit.

Prayers of Penitence

The minister says:

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us ask his forgiveness,
for he is gentle and full of compassion.

We keep silence together and then pray:

**God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong
that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom,
where dust and ashes have no dominion.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

We keep silence together and then the minister prays:

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Tribute

After the tribute, silence is kept.

Hymn

Please stand to sing:

**As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.**

*You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.*

**I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.**

**You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
Even though You are a King.
I love You more than any other,
So much more than anything.**

As the deer pants for the water...

Martin J. Nystrom. Copyright © 1983 Restoration Music Ltd.

Please sit.

¶ Reading and Sermon

John 13.33 – 14.6 *read by Christine Burry, friend.*

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem

The choir sing The Last Kiss, composed especially for this service:

**I breathe and breathe.
Oh, that he would kiss me with the kisses of his lips.
The last kiss he gives us as he takes our breath away
Is death as a sign of his unending love and care
As he takes us to share eternity with Him.**

Words: Song of Songs 1.2, words attributed to Michael Eaton.
Music: Nicholas Simpson (b.1958)

Sermon

Rev Canon David Hughes, formerly Rector of this Parish.

Anthem

The choir sing:

**My beloved spake, and said unto me,
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is come.
Until the day break, and the shadows flee away,
turn, turn – thou art all fair, my love.
Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it**

Words: Song of Songs 2.10-12, 17; 8.6-7
Music: Philip Wilby (b.1949)

¶ Prayers

Led by Dr Chris Martin, Licensed Reader, St James & Emmanuel.

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

Concluding with

All **God of mercy,
entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoicing in our communion
with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

¶ Commendation and Farewell

Please stand.

Some gather around Margaret's body and the minister says:

Let us commend Margaret to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

The minister then prays:

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust Margaret to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960) and William M. Runyan (1870–1957).
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Please remain standing.

Conclusion and Blessing

Unto him that is able to keep us from falling,
and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory
with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God our Saviour,
be glory and majesty,
dominion and power,
both now and ever. *Jude 24, 25*

All **Amen.**

And the blessing...

All **Amen.**

The Exit

Please remain standing. As Margaret's coffin is lifted, the choir sing:

**In resurrectione tua, Christe,
Coeli et terra laetentur.**

In your resurrection, O Christ,
Heaven and earth rejoice.

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You are welcome to either follow the coffin out, or to sit and enjoy listening to the organ being played, as Margaret often would. Please see the inside front cover for details of the burial and lunch, to which all are warmly invited.

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in G major BWV 541, J.S. Bach (1685-1750)





Margaret in the garden at Wellsprings, March 2022

"Lovely doggie!"