

# IAN KERMODE ADVOCATE



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By Post & Email: [pa.archbishop@lambethpalace.org.uk](mailto:pa.archbishop@lambethpalace.org.uk)

Reverend Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury  
Lambeth Palace  
London  
SE1 7JU

## **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

Dear Archbishop Welby

### **Re: Sexual Abuse of Children in Church of England**

We write to you in respect of the recent Makin Review, of which you will be very familiar.

In short, you have accepted that after being told in August 2013 about sexual and physical abuse committed on young boys by worship leader John Smyth in Christian summer camps, you failed to inform the Police and relevant authorities.

As a result of this shocking omission, Smyth remained free to continue to abuse boys in South Africa for another four years until a Police investigation was commenced in 2017 (following a Channel 4 TV documentary).

You have apologised for your failings but unfortunately this is not the end of the matter.

You hold the very significant roles of leader of the Church of England and head of the global Anglican Communion (approximately 85 million members worldwide).

We have been contacted by a number of people who now regard your position as being completely untenable.

Jesus said, "***There is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open***".

In your case, the abhorrent truth has been revealed that you in effect tried to cover up child abuse committed by Smyth when he was a lay worship leader in the Church of England.



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Over the years you have preached sermons on a range of political issues such as the importance of citizens taking an oath of allegiance to King Charles and the Royal Family, about how in your opinion God wanted everyone to consent to receiving a Covid-19 vaccine, about the perils of *Brexit* and so on, whilst all the time having a plank in your own eye; the plank of concealing horrific physical and sexual abuse of children.

Now is not the time to cling on to your generous salary, your grand yellow robes, your grace and favour privileges and your residence in the opulent Lambeth Palace.

Today is the time to do the honourable thing.

Jesus said, ***"If anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea"***.

Most regrettably, it seems to us that you, if only indirectly, are implicated in the abuse of Christian children.

Quite simply, you have catastrophically failed as a leader, failed as a safe-guarder and failed as a Christian.

As a consequence of this reluctance to disclose vital information to the Police, the lives of young children have been devastated.

To be blunt, you are guilty of cowardly turning a blind eye, guilty of putting reputation before innocence, and guilty of putting church before child.

You plainly did not love those innocent children as yourself.

### Conclusion

We regard your continued leadership of the Anglican Communion as a stumbling block for Christ.

You are unquestionably giving some people who are not Christians an opportunity to criticise the entire faith, and the associated discord is giving the devil a foothold.

By remaining in office are you bringing glory to God or bringing shame on the Church?

Jesus taught us one who had authority. Quite simply, no one will now listen to anything you have to say.

**IAN KERMODE**  
**ADVOCATE**

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Of course it is the right thing to repent and be sorry but it is also necessary to, "**Produce fruit in keeping with repentance**".

In your case, that fruit is very clear and simple. Your immediate resignation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "I. Kermode".

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