Towards a Contemporary Art of Dying

The 5th Annual McDonald Symposium in Theological Ethics at the University of Cambridge

18—20 May 2015

MONDAY 18 MAY

1pm Lunch (Combination Room, Wolfson College)

SESSION I Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College
2.15—4 pm Introductions: Sarah Coakley, David Elliot
   THE CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON ASSISTED DYING AND THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL ISSUES REMAINING
   Baroness Ilora Finlay: ‘Assisting Suicide or Providing Care?’
   Lord Alex Carlile: ‘Legal Issues Raised by Assisted Dying’

4-4.30 pm Tea & Coffee on Ground Floor of Chancellor’s Centre

4.30—5.30 pm Michael Banner: ‘The Challenge of Modern Dying: Changing the Subject’
   Break for rest and relaxation
   Richard Holton: ‘Aspects of Agency: A Reply to Michael Banner’

7.15 pm Taxis to Gonville and Caius College from Wolfson College (meet at round-about)

7.30 pm Pre-Dinner Drinks and Musical Offering by the Amphion Consort (Lord Colyton Hall)

8 pm Dinner (Fellows’ Dining Room)
TUESDAY 19 MAY

8—9 am    Breakfast (Dining Hall, Wolfson College)

SESSION II   Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College

PHILOSOPHICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES FROM MEDICINE

9—10.45 am  Jeffrey Bishop:  ‘Arts of Dying and the Statecraft of Killing’
               Natalja Deng:  ‘Metaphysics and Medicine: A Reply to Bishop’
               Allan Kellehear:  ‘The Nature of Contemporary Dying: Obsessions, Distortions, Challenges’

10.45—11.15 am Tea & Coffee on Ground Floor of Chancellor’s Centre

SESSION III   Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College

PASTORAL AND PALLIATIVE CARE PERSPECTIVES ON DYING WELL

11.15-12.45 pm Carlo Leget:  ‘Retrieving the Ars Moriendi Tradition:
The Implementation of a Model in Contemporary Healthcare’
                       Therese Lysaught:  ‘Lex Orandi:
                                      Recentering the Sick and Dying within the Body of Christ’
                       Bishop John Sherrington:  ‘The Journey of Accompaniment’

1 pm    Lunch  (*Old Combination Room*, Wolfson College)

SESSION IV   Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON DYING WELL

2—3.45 pm  David Elliot:  ‘The Theological Virtue of Hope and the Art of Dying’
               Susan Parsons:  ‘The Strange Work of Dying’
               Harriet Harris:  ‘Can I Be Judged if I Don’t Remember My Sins?
                                Questioning What Is Significant about Life After Death’

3.45—4.15 pm Tea & Coffee on Ground Floor of Chancellor’s Centre

Break for rest and relaxation

4.50 pm    Taxis from Wolfson College to King’s College for Evensong for those who would like to attend. Meet at the round-about in front of the Porters’ Lodge.

5.30 pm    Evensong in King’s College Chapel
               [please arrive by 5.10pm at South Door entry (smaller queue on the right side of door); we will be shown as a group to reserved seats in the Quire; following Evensong we will wait and leave as a group to go to the Saltmarsh Rooms]
SESSION V  King’s College

6.15 pm  Pre-dinner Drinks and Presentation (Saltmarsh Rooms)

ARTISTIC AND HISTORICAL APPROACHES

Ben Quash:  ‘Going Gentle Into That Good Night?  
Some Forays Into the Christian Art of Death’

Eamon Duffy:  ‘Reply to Quash: Historical and Theological’

7.30 pm  Dinner (Saltmarsh Rooms)

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

8—9 am  Breakfast (Dining Hall, Wolfson College)

SESSION VI  Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College

RETURNING TO DYING IN CURRENT DEBATES

9—10.30 am  Rajesh Munglani:  ‘Can We Always Treat All Cases of Cancer Related Pain  
or Are There Cases of Unbearable Suffering?’

David Albert Jones:  ‘Returning an Unwanted Gift:  
Christian Arguments in Favour of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide’

10.30–11 am  Tea & Coffee on Ground Floor of Chancellor’s Centre

SESSION VII  Roger Needham Room, Chancellor’s Centre, Wolfson College

11—12.45 pm  FINAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Sarah Coakley  
David Elliot  
Jeffrey Bishop  
Allan Kellehear  
Carlo Leget  
Rajesh Munglani  
Susan Parsons (editor, Studies in Christian Ethics)

1 pm  Lunch (*Old Combination Room*, Wolfson College) and Departure