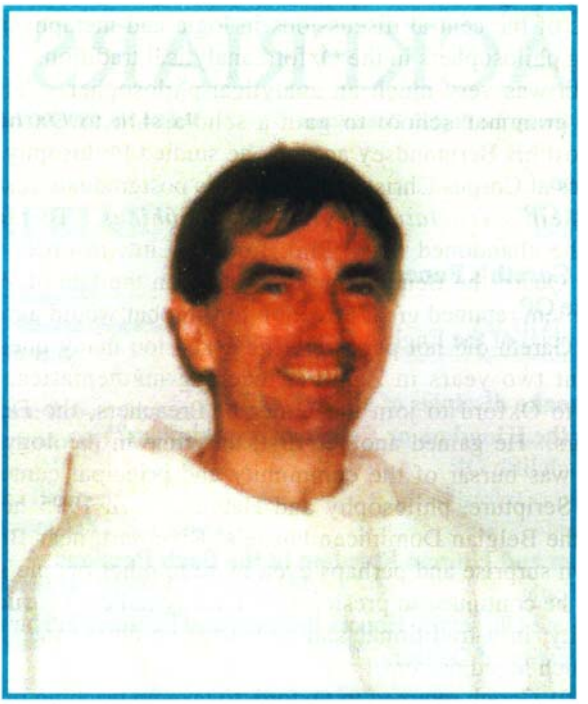


Photograph by Alison Hincham 8th June 2002

Gareth Moore was born in London on 6 July 1948 and died in Oxford on 6 December 2002.

Many more colleagues and friends would have contributed to this collection of essays in his memory, but we do not have the space. The topics would all have interested him; some indeed are obviously designed to provoke the wonderful candour and directness with which he responded to arguments which excited him — and which (alas) we shall not witness again.

Nor have we made any attempt to touch on all the matters which Gareth cared deeply about: photography, for example, moral theology, languages and especially Scripture. Four of our contributors deal with questions in philosophy and one with Gareth's love of Johann Sebastian Bach; but half a dozen essays could never be enough to engage with the range of Gareth's interests. His first book, *Believing in God*, is now something of a classic — not that he liked what some readers understood him as saying. When he returned from Belgium to teach philosophy in Oxford again, he was still feeling his way into other areas besides

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philosophy of religion: having to lecture on Philosophical Anthropology, in effect making the course up as he went along, might well have led him into some of the central discussions in logic and metaphysics, currently exercising philosophers in the Oxford analytical tradition.

Gareth was very much an analytical philosopher. The first pupil from his grammar school to gain a scholarship to Oxford (he never entirely lost his Bermondsey accent), he studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Corpus Christi College. His postgraduate research was on Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. To most people's surprise he abandoned the B.Phil. for a B.Litt., in order to become a novice at Quarr, the Benedictine monastery on the Isle of Wight. Abbot Aelred Sillem retained great affection for him but would agree that it was best that Gareth did not persevere (he asked too many questions!). He then spent two years in Zambia, teaching mathematics. In 1977 he returned to Oxford to join the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans, at Blackfriars. He gained another first, this time in theology. For many years he was bursar of the community and principal cantor, as well as teaching Scripture, philosophy and Hebrew. In 1995 he was elected Prior of the Belgian Dominican house at Rixensart, near Brussels, much to his own surprise and perhaps even more to other people's. Re-elected in 1998, he continued to preside over a fairly radical restructuring of the community, in a traditional and conservative direction. He proved a good, much loved pastor of the very lively parish.

In 2001 Gareth returned to Oxford, to take up teaching philosophy. He was expected to spend many years on the staff. He delighted in becoming a member of the Faculty, making contacts and friends in the University. He was good at answering letters and keeping a tidy desk; he would certainly have been called on again to demonstrate his skills as an administrator. He enjoyed life in a fairly large community, even if it could never sustain the simplicity and beauty of the monasticism of which he dreamed. Like all gifted cantors in the Order he hoped to train the friars to sing more in tune. Few who heard him chant the *Oratio Jeremiae* on Holy Saturday are likely to forget the purity of tone and the composure with which he sang.

In less than a year, however, in June 2002, he was diagnosed as having kidney cancer, knowing from the start that he had at most eighteen months left. In fact Gareth died in less than six months, at peace, after weeks of distressing enfeeblement, with his dearest friends and his mother at his bedside, fortified by the rites of the Church.

F.K.

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