

Obituary · Rev. Colin Tonks

Rev. Colin Robertson TONKS (1937–2011)

With the passing of Colin Tonks on Boxing Day 2011 Latimer has lost a faithful supporter and the evangelical cause a committed and brave protagonist. Since his commitment to Christ Colin's focus and purpose has been the promotion of sound biblical theology. In this endeavour his efforts were by no means limited to the Anglican church, though he found his spiritual home in well-conducted Anglican liturgical worship.

To achieve what he considered the best available training for the ministry Colin paid his own way through three years at Ridley College, Melbourne, enjoying in particular the teaching of Leon Morris and Stuart Barton-Babbage. Throughout his ministry his preparation for preaching was thorough and always bathed in prayer. He tried to be positive and relevant to the needs of his hearers. Clergy don't get much opportunity to hear one another's sermons, but those who heard Colin recognised and

appreciated the quality of his thought and presentation.

Colin had a penchant for sending those he cared for an apt verse and words of encouragement. That is something we will dearly miss. He was willing, too, to seek to correct what he saw as unreliable or sloppy teaching, especially that which received a high profile in the media. He did not enjoy such controversy, but saw it as part of the obligation laid on him, as with all clergy, at his ordination. These things were mentioned at the lovely funeral service held at St Martin's, Spreydon on Thursday December 29th. For those who were unable to be there, the hymns were "In Christ alone my hope is found", "As the deer pants for the water", and "God forgave my sin in Jesus' name". The reading was John 6:35–40.

Our sympathy and prayers are for Jacqueline and her family.