**Obituary**

**Dr Chris Clark**

Chris Clark (SMN) died on 16th April 2019. He was a mathematician and theoretical physicist and was also deeply committed to the mystical side of religion, and in finding ways of bridging the realms of science and spirituality.

I first met Chris in the late 1960s, together with his wife Isabel, when we became members of the Epiphany Philosophers, a Cambridge-based group of scientists, philosophers, mystics and explorers. This group produced a journal, *Theoria to Theory* to which Chris was a regular contributor. ‘Theoria’ referred to the direct intuitive mystical experience, and ‘theory’ to intellectual theories such as those of science. The journal was edited by Professor Dorothy Emmett, a philosopher who had studied with Alfred North Whitehead. This group was also grounded in Anglican religious practice, and we went on retreats four times a year in a windmill on the Norfolk coast, at Burnham Overy Staithe, where we discussed a wide range of philosophical, scientific and spiritual topics. The Epiphany Philosophers also had a retreat house in Cambridge, in Marion Close, where we met for Easter retreats, and for several years the priest who celebrated the Eucharist with our group was Rowan Williams, later Archbishop of Canterbury.

Chris was born in 1946 and studied mathematics at Christ’s College Cambridge where he remained as a graduate student until he became a Research Fellow at Jesus College, Cambridge. From 1974 to 1976 he was a lecturer at York University, and from 1986 to 1999 professor of applied mathematics at Southampton University. Much of his academic research work was on Einstein’s theory of gravitation and on its relationship to quantum theory, including quantum cosmology. As well as his technical papers he wrote several books including *Knowing, Being and Doing: New Foundations for Consciousness Studies* (2013) and *Weaving the Cosmos: Science Religion and Ecology* (2010). He also wrote many articles on the themes he thought most important: the relationship between people and the planet, and the fundamental spiritual connectedness of all. He chaired Green Spirit, an organisation that promotes ‘engaged spirituality for a living earth’, and he was also chair of the Scientific and Medical Network, in which he played a leading role for many years.

Chris was kind, friendly and modest but had a passionate commitment to the causes he felt so strongly about, as well as a keen intelligence and sense of humour. Family life was always very important to Chris, and he and Isabel have two sons, Leon and Dunstan.

In 2012 he began to show symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease, and also suffered from cancer. Yet despite these ultimately fatal challenges, he remained cheerful and on the occasions when I meet him at Epiphany Philosopher gatherings in the last few years. To my surprise he was more than cheerful, but seemed radiant. His spiritual life shone out through all his physical difficulties. The loving support of Isabel and his family no doubt played a major part in this, but the way he dealt with his problems showed that his spiritual commitments ran deep.

He is survived by Isabel, Leon and Dunstan.

*Rupert Sheldrake*