

Colin Hart (1963–2024)

Colin Hart, the Director of The Christian Institute, was called home by the Lord on 13 March, aged just sixty.

As a young school teacher in the 1980s, Colin was deeply exercised about the need for Christians to ‘think Christianly’ in all areas of life. That burden led to the formation of The Christian Institute in 1990. For the last thirty-four years the Institute has been at the forefront of defending Christian liberties, and campaigning on issues such as the protection of life and family freedoms.

My husband Bill and I supported the Institute from the beginning, and came to know Colin as a friend and brother in Christ. For the last ten years I have had the privilege of working for the Institute, and have seen first-hand Colin’s model of leadership.

Colin was self-effacing and humble. He was deeply respected by those he led. Each day in the office still begins with a time of prayer for all the staff. Colin was a man of God, convinced that human effort alone could achieve nothing of lasting value. Everything we do as a team needs to be soaked in prayer.

Colin was passionate that God should be honoured. He took a stand on unpopular issues when he saw that it was necessary to protect Gospel freedoms, family freedoms, and the common good. He often spotted future challenges that few others saw at the time. He combined a wide vision with attention to the smallest detail. He was rigorous in demanding high standards. But he also maintained a pastoral concern for all the staff.

Colin never sought the spotlight. The Christian Institute was never about him. It was all about the issues; each of which were based on the righteous character of God, as expressed in his eternal moral law. Colin, together with the first Chairman, John Burn; the current Chairman, Richard Turnbull; the Trustees and the senior staff, built up a strong team with a view to carrying the work on into the future.

The Lord has chosen to take Colin home. We grieve his loss, but rejoice that he is with the Lord he loved. As a team, we are resolved to continue the work Colin was used by God to establish (Psalm 90:17).

SHARON JAMES