

Vale: Thomas McLeish (1962-2023)

[Tom McLeish](#) FRS died peacefully at home on 27 February after a months-long debilitating illness. He was Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Department of Physics at the University of York in the UK. His broadly interdisciplinary research ranged from the theoretical physics of soft and biological matter to the medieval history of science, and the theology, sociology and philosophy of science.

He authored *Faith and Wisdom in Science* (Oxford University Press 2014); *Let There Be Science: Why God loves Science and Science needs God* (Lion, 2016); and *The Poetry and Music of Science: Comparing Creativity in Science and Art* (Oxford University Press 2019).

He contributed two Opinion Pages to this newsletter.

Creativity and Constraint in Science and the Arts ([May 2022](#))
Science + Religion ([November 2019](#))



His wife, Julie, posted the following the day after he died:

As you may well be aware, when Tom received his diagnosis last August, he was immersed (often in a leadership capacity) in an extraordinary plethora of projects - some at their birth and some in a later stage of their life. Passing on his previous responsibilities and opportunities to others and ensuring that younger colleagues were looked after was a great concern to Tom and it was, last week, just as he finished the last 'job' on his list that his health took a significant dive.

It was clear to all of us involved in caring for Tom that being able to pass on his responsibilities and complete his part of work in progress gave him both joy and great peace of mind and we are so grateful that he was given the time he needed and that he retained the mental capacity to do this. To the last he also showed love, care and gratitude

towards all around or in contact with him. Tom loved widely and was widely and deeply loved.