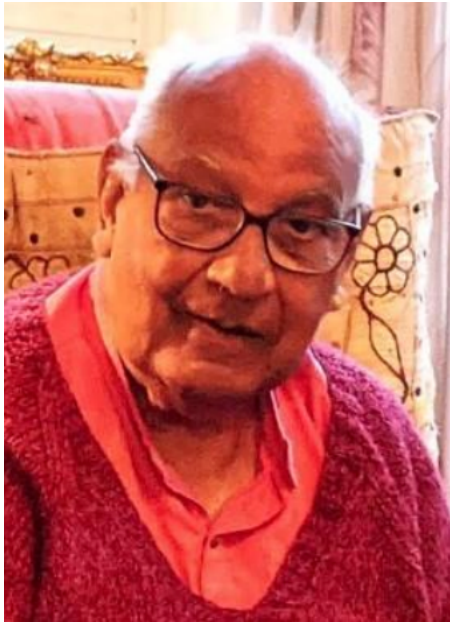


Remembering Revd Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron 12 November 1929 – 20 March 2024



With great sadness we had to say farewell to Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron. He was very fondly known as Canon Ivor. He supported the work of the FCI for several years. As the Friends of the Church in India members, we give thanks to God for the life of such an incredible servant of God.

Meeting Ivor was for me a transforming experience as was for many people. He was a person who was living a message, the gospel, both priestly and prophetically at the same time, all the time very radical. At the heart of his life was God and he totally yielded to God and in all that he thought, did and spoke and touched our lives.

Ivor would make the Sunday morning Eucharist a spiritual feast for all. Arriving at the church at 7 am for a service that is going to start at 10 am. He will be paying attention for every detail and component of worship. All the time worrying, is there anyone who is excluded? Everyone had to be actively included. Anyone who steps in will be embraced into the fellowship of the church with great love. No one is an outsider or a newcomer and it was never us and them.

We can never forget Ivor for his ministry as a University Chaplain at Imperial College, London. In a community of scientific minds, he started worship in the rooms of students and in every available space. He redefined worship for the otherwise busy students. Worship and prayer never ended without food: not complicated food, but whatever is possible. Ivor has the distinction of being a person who has influenced 60 of those Imperial College students to become priests in the Church of England at some point in their lives.

Ivor was always about people. He wanted to be with people. He would constantly keep inventing ways to be with people. There were weekly breakfast groups, theological discussion groups, or just weekend dinner evenings at his residence. I cannot count the number of people Ivor's and our friend Revd Alan Gadd would have fed; it must be multitudes of several thousands of people. Ivor cared for everyone and valued everyone.

Ivor loved diversity of people, ethnic and religious diversity. He was one of the founding members of the South London Inter Faith group. Ivor was proactive about empowering Black and Asian clergy. Earlier we had the Association of Black Clergy and Ivor would be in touch with everyone and Black and Asian clergy could turn to him for counsel and support. Ivor played a very important role in the development of the Southwark Diocesan Minority Ethnic Anglican concerns initiatives.

He supported many charities in the UK and also charities in Asia and in Africa. He would keep raising funds to support poorer communities. To the extent while at All Saints' Battersea he dared to give away 50 percent of the Sunday collection to some charity or other, either in the UK or in Asia or Africa.

Ivor was proud of his Indian heritage. For most of his life he supported the Roof for the Roofless project based in Chennai. He played an important role in the development of the Community College movement in India which made technical education possible for students from deprived backgrounds. He helped the Church of South India, Diocese of Madras to build their massive Lay Training Institute and so many other facilities to help the poor.

All these things would not have been possible for Ivor without the grace of God and without Alan, his friend and companion. We can never speak of Ivor without Alan. Ivor's life was made beautiful and meaningful by Alan for which we are extremely grateful to Alan. Together Ivor and Alan drenched our lives with the love of God.

Ivor loved Indian people and the Indian church, and we love you Ivor. Rest in peace, Ivor: you will never be forgotten.

Revd Premraj Dhanraj