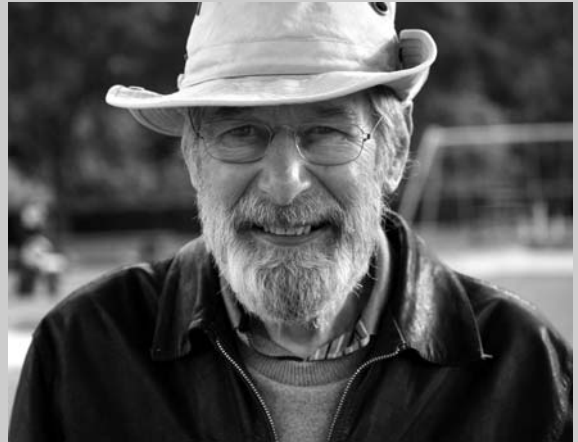


Anthony King

I first met Anthony King when he joined the Executive Committee of the Industrial Christian Fellowship in 1999. He had been a member of ICF for a long time and was utterly committed to its vision and purpose, appreciating in particular the practical aspects of its work. As a Vicar in the 1960s in Halifax he had been very much a voice for the people, making a difference in his inner-city parish. Halifax at that time was very run-down and had been severely hit by recession and high unemployment; Anthony worked tirelessly and campaigned strongly for improvements in local housing conditions for those both in and out of work. He built a formidable reputation, declining an invitation to become a local councillor. Also, whilst there he had to oversee the demolition of his church and establish a new one beginning in the church hall. This has since become a thriving community.



Anthony was born in 1934 and died in December 2012. In the last few years he suffered a debilitating illness that was stoically borne and viewed as an ongoing and learning experience. This clearly demonstrates the practical and here-and-now aspect of his faith and also his firm trust in God. He had been evacuated to America for the duration of the war but at the end of his school days completed his National Service with officer status. At Cambridge University he met Gillian, his wife and partner for the rest of his life. He completed ordination training initially at Ely but later moved to Lincoln when the Ely course was discontinued. Made deacon in 1962 and priest in 1963, his first curacy was to Newcastle (1962-1964) followed by Thirsk, Yorkshire (1964-1967) and he then moved to his first parish, Halifax St. Augustine in Wakefield Diocese (1967-1974).

When he joined the ICF Executive, Anthony had just retired as Rector of Upton-upon-Severn, a post he held from 1974. This was clearly a central and important part of his life and work. He fulfilled an influential ministry in the parish and was elected Rural Dean for the period 1986-1992.

As an Executive member of ICF Anthony was appreciated for his reflective wisdom and clarity. As Treasurer for ICF, with Michael Fass then Chairman, he completed a thorough review of its Investment Strategy, and worked diligently to improve financial management and transparent record keeping of the accounts. His vigilance helped to ensure that the Executive were in a better position to make their financial and policy decisions. He also served for around 10 years on the Steering Committee of FiBQ.

In addition to all his work Anthony found time for his hobbies. These included music, choral singing and playing the clarinet and recorder, often accompanied by one or other of his four children on violin, cello or flute; making his own beer; sailing, including building a 16 foot boat kit from scratch; plus walking and swimming.

With an unassuming manner Anthony had a natural easy authority but an integrity and consistency that ran through all that he tackled. He had the courage to stand firm to his commitments with a dry, mischievous and gentle humour, a strong work ethic and dedication to his responsibilities, all founded on an inner core of spirituality. He made a difference to everybody whose lives he touched and made an immense contribution to ICF.

One of Anthony's favourite texts was extracted from Ecclesiasticus 38:31-34:

Artisans rely on their hands and each is skilful at his own craft; they are not in demand at public discussions, do not attain high office, do not sit on the judge's bench, nor expand morals or legal principles, but they maintain the fabric of this world and the practice of their craft is their worship.

Carol Williams