

The Very Rev Horace Dammers

(Founder of the Lifestyle Movement)

Ecumenical Dean of Bristol

Horace Dammers was a well known and respected clergyman: compassionate, and with a dedication for great causes. He was committed to social justice and the objective of peace and reconciliation.

His undergraduate studies were interrupted when he served with the Royal Artillery in World War II, from 1941-1944. He was ordained in 1948 to a curacy at Adlington, in Lancashire. Later, Horace spent time in south India; returning to Britain in 1957, where in Sheffield, he became the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Millhouses. Here, his ecumenical, missionary and social concerns expanded.

In 1972, Horace founded our Lifestyle Movement. The motto was simple: 'to live simply, so that others could simply live'. His goal was to enlighten people to the importance of wise, personal, and individual use of the earth's resources; and the critical issues of peace, justice, and the environment. He believed that a simple lifestyle would release the resources and energies necessary for social change.

In 1973, Horace moved to Bristol and the Bristol Cathedral, where he served as Dean of Bristol from 1973 to 1987. There, he became involved in numerous services and activities: ie. Christian Aid and Social and Industrial Ministry, as part of the cathedral community – including work with single mothers, ex-servicemen, and seniors. Horace used the church and its resources for the benefit of the whole community. With the invaluable help of his wife, Brenda, his work progressed quickly and successfully.

Horace was known for his friendliness, sense of humour, serenity of spirit, informality, compassion, love of family – his wife, two sons and two daughters – and a life of prayer. His motto was: "Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?"

(Alfred Hounsell ("Horace") Dammers, born Great Yarmouth, Norfolk 10 July 1921; ordained deacon 1948, priest 1949; Assistant Curate, Adlington, Lancashire 1948-50; Assistant Curate, St Bartholomew's, Edgbaston 1950-53; Lecturer, Queen's College, Birmingham Chaplain 1950-53; Lecturer, St John's College, Palayamkottai 1953-57; Vicar, Holy Trinity, Millhouses 1957-65; Canon Residentiary and Director of Studies, Coventry Cathedral 1965-73; Dean of Bristol 1973-87; married 1947 Brenda Stead (two sons, two daughters); died Bristol 23 August 2004.

****from one of the many newspaper obituaries****