

Friends of St.Andrew's Bemerton

2008 Annual Report

For some time the agenda of our meetings has been divided into 2 sections to reflect the 2 parts of our work. I thought I should adopt the same model for the annual report.

Looking After St.Andrew's

The major piece of work this year has been replacing the rotten section of wall plate, involving scaffolding in the church for over a month. As with much important building work it will never be seen, but we are more secure in the knowledge that the roof won't imminently fall down! The rotten wood in the porch finally got done as well, and the electrics were tested and various parts of it made safer. All this cost nearly £6,000. Next year there is some plastering to re-do where previous work was incorrectly done, and we will keep on working down the list of jobs.



This is the cross that was rededicated on George Herbert Day. Arthur Norman Holmes (1877-1935) was born in Upper Fitzwilliam Street in Dublin. He was educated in England and Trinity College, Dublin. He studied medicine in Vienna which was considered to have the best medical schools of the time. He qualified as a surgeon and became a well known gynaecologist at The Rotunda. As a young man, because of poor health, he took a post as doctor on a sailing ship for a year and went round the Horn and the world. He gave up practising on becoming stone deaf. He came to Bemerton with his mother, Lady Holmes. Arthur was erudite, witty, well read, and a student of Biblical Prophecy. A keen fisherman he was secretary of Bemerton Fishing Club. He started a Sunday Club for boys. His hobbies included carpentry. He helped Miss Warre with the reredos at St.John's. When George Herbert's medlar tree was dying he suggested grafting on a thorn which

gave it another 50 years of life. The cross was made by him and contains wood from the medlar tree.

Promoting George Herbert

The George Herbert Celebrations in February were a great delight, and around 20 people came to the service.

The new card, based on The Flower, with the tune by Alec Roth and artwork by Sandi Ferguson, was displayed, as well as the new cross dedicated. This new card is part of our ongoing fund-raising efforts, so do buy a pack from the web site, or next time you visit.

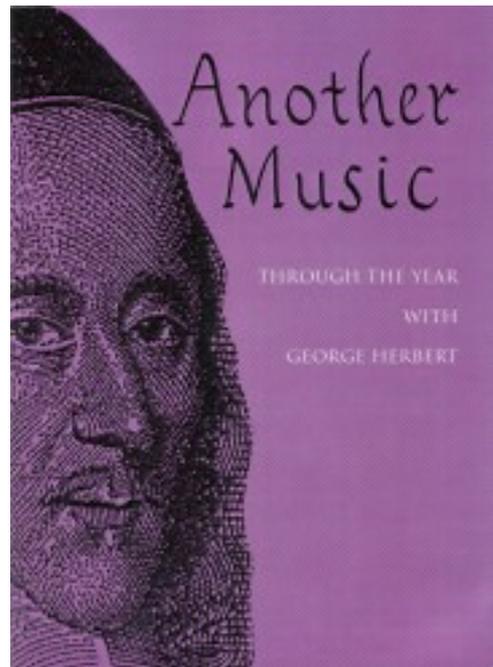


This year we have built a web site. It took 8 months to gather the material together and design, and we were very fortunate to have a talented amateur living nearly opposite the church, Peter Webster, to do the majority of the work for free. We launched it in September and have had nearly 100 visits a month in the first 4 months.

The web site was also the perfect place to put the new Schools Pack - including outlines for collective worship ('assembly' in old language) and classroom follow up. Thanks to the George Herbert in Bemerton Group (formerly the Summer Evenings Group) for much toil on that project.

The GHIB put on their usual range of high quality events - Vikram Seth in St. John's on his Shared Ground poems, a poetry workshop, a walk and talk on the water meadows in Herbert's day, and a composer's afternoon in Sarum College. This last involving those who have contributed to Another Music, the new George Herbert hymnbook, which was followed with a lively discussion.

We have also ventured out from Bemerton this year - yes, even further than Sarum College! - with a group going to Montgomery to do a presentation at their first Herbert weekend, and thoroughly enjoying their stay. We also sponsored Rev Judy Rees to go to North Carolina on our behalf, for the return half of last year's conference. She even managed to give a lecture in Philadelphia while she was over there - a very able and wonderful ambassador for us all.



Visitors



We've had 246 visitors signing in the book this year from places like Norway, South Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong, Germany, India, Mexico and all over the USA and Canada.

We've also had groups from the Society of St. Francis at Hilfield, theological students from the West Country training course, a group from Californian churches, others from Wheaton College Illinois. from the UK St. Martins in the Fields paid us a visit, as well as a group from Oxford and another from Melbury Abbas. The Precentor's Conference (from all the Cathedrals of England) also came and worshipped and received copies of Another Music. The Diocese also used St. Andrew's to license the new curates in July.

Worship

The parish is facing major challenges - St.John's heating system will cost £45,000 to replace, and we do not have that kind of money. Possible shared community use is being explored, but the congregation from there is merging with St.Michael's up on Bemerton Heath. Some will transfer to St.Andrew's, but for the long term we need to worship and work as one parish with several centres, and not distinct groups. There will continue to be 3 services a week in St.Andrew's. Wednesday morning at 9:30am is a quiet time for thought. Friday 10:00am and Sunday 8:00am are our said Book of Common Prayer communion services, with a homily. It is a privilege and a joy to ring the bell and join the constant stream of prayer and praise going up to heaven, and continue the worship in this special place. The parish Lent group met here, having filled the church with smoke and fumes on Ash Wednesday, the smell of which stayed with us till Easter.



Donations

We had an amazing response last year when we asked for donations - some £2000, and many thanks to Lesley Burton for taking on the role of Membership Secretary in order to thank all of you that gave. As we have now changed the way we do things and no longer have a membership fee as such, can I ask you to consider giving regularly by standing order, or paying via the web site, or perhaps I simply need to remind you to make an annual donation

of perhaps £10. Without your help we could not do what we do, and just as we have received so much from previous generations, so we need to pass on something worthwhile for those yet to come.

Finally

Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard with St.Andrew's and the George Herbert in Bemerton group, particularly to Eleanor Wordsworth the Secretary and Tom Clay the Treasurer. Diane our new sacristan is gradually taking the reigns from Betty Young, and we are very fortunate to have Hilary Bird as a very able and hard working Churchwarden. To all those who do the flowers and all the other jobs which make our community tick - thank you for being part of the team -Christ's body here on earth.

Simon Woodley
46th Rector of Bemerton
March 21st, 2009

PCC Bemerton St John's and St Andrews
 Friends of St Andrews
 Income and Expenditure Account
 1.1.08 to 31.12.08

Income

2007	2008
£76.00 Subscriptions	£1,118.00
£702.10 Donations including sales of books, cards etc	£1,303.34
George Herbert in Bemerton re software	£150.00
Listed places of Worship Grant re VAT	£860.65
699.73 Interest on CCLA account	£677.91
Gift Aid	£202.72
<u>£1,477.83</u> Total	<u>£4,312.62</u>

Expenditure

£80.55 Printing, Stationery, books, cards, flowers	£1,718.42
£267.90 Building Repairs & maintenance	£5,837.40
Purchases	£103.27
£2,045.66 Sound system	
Software for George Herbert website	£304.30
Conference	£200.00
<u>£2,394.11</u> Total	<u>£8,163.39</u>

Surplus	
<u>-£916.28</u> Deficit	<u>-£3,850.77</u>

Balance Sheet

Current Assets

2007	2008
£612.26 Lloyds Bank Current account	£1,430.86
£50.00 Donations for 2007 paid in after 31.12.07	
£12,287.89 CCLA Deposit account	£7,465.80
Gift Aid owed	£202.72
<u>£12,950.15</u> Total Current Assets	<u>£9,099.38</u>
<u>-£3,850.77</u> Deficit for 2008	
<u>£9,099.38</u> Balance carried Forward	<u>£9,099.38</u>

This balance sheet ignores the stock of books and cards owned by the church