

# Friends of St.Andrew's, Bemerton

## 2011 Annual Report

The year of the almost but not quite..

### Fabric

We almost got the **Heating** - the saga continues! Having got lovely new storage heaters - very effective and smart - we tried to get some skirting convector heaters for when it was really cold. Because we do not want to damage the panelling, we ordered these with feet, so they could be free standing. Having gone through the 3 month faculty process with the diocese and after all the research and discussions, we were so looking forward to these heaters being in by Christmas. It was not to be. The supplier was saying that the national firm no longer made the feet and for a while it looked like we were back to square one. However there is still a small amount of power in a clerical collar! After some interesting phone calls, the supplier suddenly CAN find feet and any day now, we will have full heating (just in time for spring!).

We almost got **Pew Runners**. Sitting for half an hour in a BCP service is fine but when you come to a George Herbert event, sometimes its more than an hour and we have noticed that the pews are a bit hard. We listened, we investigated, we ordered some pew runners. That was back in September, and we're still waiting. Suddenly they're very busy and can't fulfill the order for ages. Is God trying to tell us something, or is the church now so irrelevant its become invisible! They will come, soon.

We almost got **Cupboards** at the back. We have preliminary designs and some costs, but were waiting until the heating was finished before progressing this. And then something else happened.

The **Bellcote**. We have noticed it needed attention and have been trying to get someone to have a look at it. Finally we have had a closer inspection, and sadly realise that most of it is rotten and will need replacing. We have yet to discover the state of the bell tower underneath. So, I'm afraid the luxury of smart cupboards will have to wait for the more immediate practical problem of the Bellcote is sorted. We will do our best to make sure it doesn't go on for 3 years like the heating!!

### George Herbert promotion

We almost had a service for John Norris. It was his 300th anniversary, and in his own lifetime was more famous than George Herbert. The special guests couldn't make it and then Simon was poorly for a while and so we have postponed it.

We almost had a compline service with Bishop Graham Kings - who is a big George Herbert fan. Lack of pre-publicity meant that we thought it would be better deferred. Get the date in your diary now - 27th September! Compline and a talk.

But we did get a wonderful CD:

Another Music: Hymns New and Old. Recorded by Ben Lamb with the Sarum Voices. It is not just an audio version of the new hymn book but many who have listened have said how it takes them on a spiritual journey. Some who listen to it in the small hours feel comforted and inspired. It is a wonderful resource and already repaid the cost of production, our real hope is that many more people will rediscover Herbert in this century.

A group led by Canon Judy Rees also went to the 3rd International Herbert Conference, this time in Montgomery. Bemerton contributed admirably and it seems that whilst many take academic interest in the poetry, we provide a unique insight into the life and times of the man.

Also in publicity, we have produced a new leaflet about St. Andrews, to go with the one about Herbert. It is much smarter, clearer and many thanks to Peter Webster for all his input.

## **And finally ...**

Our Website continues to be very popular, with 20 “hits” or visits a day. If you haven’t been then do look us up - [www.georgeherbert.org.uk](http://www.georgeherbert.org.uk)

If you are on line then you could receive this annual report and other updates by email and it would save both money and the trees.

Thank you to those of you who have made financial contributions in the last year - the heating, the CD - it wouldn’t happen without your support.

If you can, it really helps us if you can make a standing order (annually is fine) with your contribution.

My thanks to the committee below for their great work in keeping it all going, and moving us forward.

Secretary -	Mrs Eleanor Wordsworth
Treasurer -	Mr Tom Clay
Membership Sec -	Ms Lesley Burton
	Rev Judy Rees
	Mrs Iona Wake- Walker
Churchwarden	Dr Hilary Bird

*Rev Simon Woodley*  
46th Rector of Bemerton.  
Chair, Friends of St. Andrews Bemerton.

6th March 2012