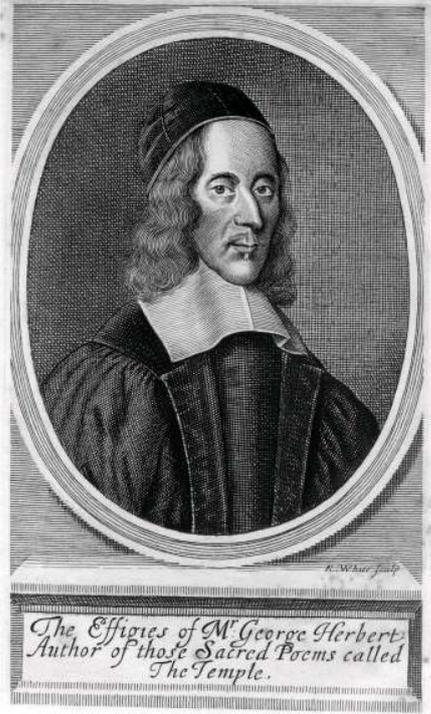




# George Herbert 1593 -1633

## 1. The Man

King of Glory, King of Peace, I will love Thee



What can you tell about a person from an image or a portrait? Does a photograph give you enough information? What if they lived in a time when photographs hadn't been invented? How would you find out about a person then? What would you want to know.....?

When they lived?

Where they lived?

What they did?

The man shown here is George Herbert. What can you tell about him from these images?

If it were possible, what questions would you ask him to find out more about his life?



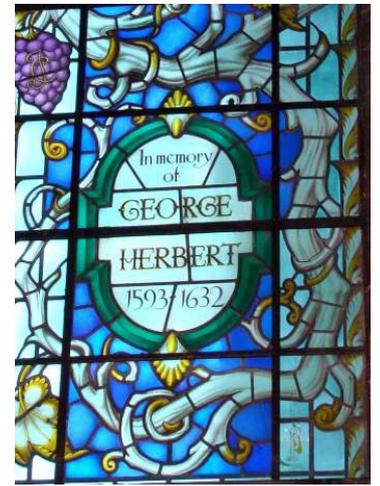
George Herbert was born in Montgomery (Wales) and was the seventh child out of ten children. You can see the Herbert children here with their mother beautifully carved on her monument in Montgomery



Herbert's father died when he was only 3 or 4 years old and his family went to live in London. He was very clever and became a Cambridge Orator, writing poems and making speeches (in Latin) to visiting dignitaries, including royalty. Herbert was known in court circles and to both James the First and Charles the First. Herbert was a clerk to a shipping company and also a politician, for a short time, but chose to be a priest. He finally came to Fugglestone & Bemerton (a small country parish near Salisbury) in 1630 with his wife and three adopted nieces.

He had probably written poetry from an early age. Some of his poems, over 160, show that he didn't always find it easy to follow or understand his faith. He always came back to believing that God was a God of love, and wrote many poems which expressed this belief. You can see an example of this in the first verse of the poem *Antiphon*. Antiphon is when two choirs or voices sing in response to each other.

Lastly, look out for some of his monuments. Sometimes you may see his year of death written as 1632. This is because the calendar system changed in the years following Hebert's death to the dating system we have now. You can see examples in the images on the next page.



### *Antiphon*

<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Praised be the God of love,</b>	<b>Chorus</b>	<b>He our foes in pieces brake;</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>Here below,</b>	<b>Angels</b>	<b>Him we touch;</b>
<b>Angels</b>	<b>And here above:</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>And him we take.</b>
<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Who hath dealt his mercies so,</b>	<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Wherefore since that he is such,</b>
<b>Angels</b>	<b>To his friend,</b>	<b>Angels</b>	<b>We adore,</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>And to his foe;</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>And we do crouch.</b>
<b>Chorus</b>	<b>That both grace and glorie tend</b>	<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Lord, thy praises should be more.</b>
<b>Angels</b>	<b>Us of old,</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>We have none,</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>And us in th'end.</b>	<b>Angels</b>	<b>And we no store.</b>
<b>Chorus</b>	<b>The great shepherd of the fold</b>	<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Praised be the God alone,</b>
<b>Angels</b>	<b>Us did make,</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Who hath made of two folds one.</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>For us was sold.</b>		

### Activities

- Herbert's poem *Antiphon* is about God's great love for all mankind and how men on earth and angels in Heaven cannot find enough ways and words to praise Him. Write your own list of things that Christians believe make God great.
- Design and make a mixed-media banner which would illustrate Herbert's poem. Ask a local church if they would display it for you.
- Divide into 3 groups and read the poem out loud and dramatically as if it were a 'choral' piece
- Visit your local church to find any other ways artists or writers have praised God with words or images.
- Invite a member of the Christian community into school to talk about their faith.
- Using what you have found about George Herbert write a letter to a friend telling them about this great poet.
- The window (top right) can be found in Salisbury Cathedral. Look closely and talk about the symbols you can see.

**Wise Words: One stroke fells not an oak**

*Sometimes much hard work is needed to do a difficult task and it might take several attempts to get it right!*

**A moment to Reflect.....**

\*Display pictures of people you consider to have done great things \*Think about what YOU can do and what you might like to achieve in the future \*Read *Antiphon* and think about why God is important to Christians such as Herbert \*Light a candle Take time to be thankful for your gifts and skills