



George Herbert 1593-1633

3. The Priest

Teach me, my God and King, In all things Thee to see

In 1630 George Herbert became Rector of Fugglestone with Bemerton, near Salisbury, a small parish of about 200 people, many of them farm workers. As priest he led daily services, preached, celebrated Holy Communion, baptised and buried...as did all priests. Here you see the chalice which he would have used to give the wine at Communion. One of his poems states very clearly that he had given his whole life and service to Jesus as His priest:

Lord, Thou art mine, and I am Thine
He wrote a 'guide book' full of practical advice on being a country parson and said:

The country parson is exceeding exact in his life, being holy, just, prudent, temperate, bold, grave in all his ways.

He called the book 'a mark to aim at'. He thought it was good to set high standards: he wrote 'he shoots higher that threatens the moon than he that aims at a tree'.



From "A Country Parson"

A list of priestly skills

Knowledge

Courtesy

Charity

Praying

Preaching

Comforting

Teaching

Healing

Being fatherly

Being joyful

....and more!

Once a week Herbert would walk across the water meadows, a system of open fields and drainage for the city (still in use today), to Salisbury Cathedral. He met with friends, shared in worship and socialised. He was a well-known and respected figure locally. There are many stories of his wisdom and kindness. Izaak Walton tells one of them. On his way to the Cathedral one day, Herbert helped a traveller whose horse had fallen under its load. Look for Salisbury Cathedral in the background. The picture reminds us of a Bible story which Jesus told...which one? Other stories tell of Herbert and his wife visiting the homes of people who were ill or poor. They were well known for giving them comfort and aid.



The Call

Come, My Way, my Truth, my Life,
Such a Way as gives us breath,
Such a Truth as ends all strife,
Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, My Feast,
my Strength,
Such a Light as shows a Feast,
Such a Feast as mends in length,
Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart,
Such a Joy as none can move,
Such a Love as none can part,
Such a Heart as joys in love.



Herbert knew his garden well and that the plants he grew could be used for healing. Many of his parishioners would come to him for help if they were suffering. St. Osmund (an early Bishop of Salisbury) was also known as a 'healing man' and would have used herbs for helping people's illnesses.

Here are some of their uses:

Sage: Pain relief for mouth or throat ulcers

Thyme: An antiseptic

Basil: Prevents sleeplessness

Try growing herbs at school!

Activities

- The Call reminds us that Jesus is at the centre of a priest's life. Find in the Gospel where Jesus says '*I am the way, the truth, the life*' Make a poster about the statement.
- Look at the list of characteristics and skills which Herbert says a priest should have. What else do you think a priest needs to be a good representative of the church?
- Design a special place to worship as an architect would. Make a 3D model if possible. What do you need to consider?
- Visit your local church. What do you notice about the building, objects and furniture in it? Write a 'guide' book to help new members of the church find their way around.
- Find out about Salisbury Water Meadows and draw a picture of Herbert walking to Salisbury Cathedral Evensong (make sure you put the Cathedral in the distance).

Wise Words: He that endures is not overcome

If you keep trying at something you wish to achieve you will succeed and not be beaten

A moment to Reflect.....

***Display** a cross, some herbs and a Bible to illustrate Herbert's life ***Think** about people you may know who do their best for others ***Read** *The Call* and think about how Christians devote their whole life to Jesus by trying to be like Him ***Light a candle** Remember the worldwide family of Christians, ask God to love and guide them in serving others by living according to Jesus' teachings