

Friends of St.Andrew's, Bemerton

2012 Annual Report

Fabric

We finally got the **heating** - and we've been enjoying it! Even when its been -5 outside, we've managed to keep the inside warm. This is not just good for us, but better for the building. Too much temperature change means the materials are shrinking and expanding too quickly and often at different rates, all of which puts the building under stress.

We have got the **pew runners**, and have been able to have our Lent series in church, now that people can sit comfortably for an hour or more. They made more impact than we thought - not in colour, but in softening the appearance of the chapel and making it seem "warmer" and more friendly.

We are still working on the **Bellcote**. Having had very varied quotes for work we've decided we need to inspect the tower and specify exactly what needs to be repaired and what replaced. So there is a delay while we put up scaffolding and produce the necessary documents. We are convinced though that with proper preparation and the right stain the wood should last a good long time.

We are still aiming to put new **cupboards** in the back - a matching pair on either side, designed to hold all the accoutrements and it will really tidy the place up.



George Herbert promotion

We were delighted to have a compline service with Bishop Graham Kings - who is a big George Herbert fan. He was witty and engaging and we learned a lot from his poetry and some of Herbert's' too!

The CD of Another Music continues to sell well, and is a good advertisement for the new settings.

The website is now creeping up to 900 visitors a month! People are usually interested in the poems which appear with a commentary. If you haven't been then do look us up - www.georgeherbert.org.uk



Other news ...

This was the year of the Jubilee and as part of the Big Ring - a small group rang St.Andrews bell for 15 minutes at 8:00am to celebrate and be part of the national ringing.

When this was a Membership Group, with an annual subscription, it made sense to hold an Annual Meeting - to tell the members what was going on. Now we are more of a Friends Group, and particularly since travel and communication have changed the way we live, I am proposing that we no longer have an Annual Meeting in the same way. The Friends have always been a subcommittee of Bemerton PCC, and it will be the PCC who decides how such changes in the constitution will happen. If you have any strong views about it, please let me know.

Finally

When I came on interview 9 years ago, I was greeted in St.Andrews by Doug and Betty Young, who for decades opened and closed the church daily. Little did I realise that I would be met by Betty at every Sunday 8:00am and every midweek communion without fail for the next 7 years. Betty was the most faithful sacristan you could ask for, and a keen member of the Friends Committee. In November she was promoted to Glory and our thoughts and prayers are with Doug and the family. Somehow I always know she's here with us, whenever I pray "with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven"

And

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.

13th March 2013