



# George Herbert Festival Brochure

Bemerton ▪ Salisbury ▪ Wilton

Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 July 2014

[www.georgeherbert.org.uk](http://www.georgeherbert.org.uk)

# George Herbert

(1593 - 1633)

Nearly four hundred years have passed since George Herbert lived in and ministered to the parish of Fugglestone-cum-Bemerton, and over that time people's awareness of him and his works has risen and fallen. In the 17th century his verse was in huge demand, with no fewer than thirteen editions of his poetry volume 'The Temple' being printed between 1633 and 1709, but in the 18th century he was scarcely visible. Rediscovered in the 1830s, he became a religious literary beacon for the Victorians only to fade again for much of the first half of the 20th century.

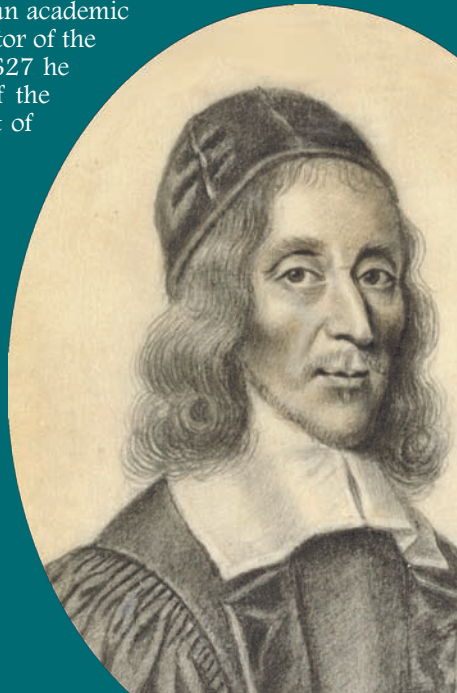
It took the publication in the 1940s of Canon Hutchinson's magisterial collection of Herbert's works to bring him to public attention once again, and since then he has been studied and analysed as never before, especially in the USA. Perhaps only now is it possible to appreciate the enduring depth and relevance of his life and work, and its attraction both to those of many shades of religious belief and to those of no faith at all.

And yet it is for just a handful of hymn settings of his verse that Herbert is best known, and there will be many to whom his name is entirely unfamiliar. To Anglicans, who annually devote 27th February to his commemoration, he has long been seen as the archetypal country parish priest, but anyone who has read and admired his poetry soon appreciates why he deserves to be remembered chiefly for the power and skill of his devotional verse.

Born into a notable Welsh family in Montgomery and kinsman of the powerful Earls of Pembroke, he lost his father at the age of three and was raised by his mother Magdalen, a patron of John Donne. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College Cambridge, where he was an academic high-flier who at the age of 26 was elected Public Orator of the University. In 1624 he was briefly an MP. But in 1627 he disappeared from public view and little is known of the intervening three years before his ordination as priest of his little parish in the shadow of Salisbury Cathedral.

It remains a matter of conjecture why such a well-born and talented man, with all the advantages of family connections and a prestigious academic appointment, should end his brief life in the relative obscurity of a country rectory. But of the importance of his legacy there can be no doubt, and he is now rightly seen as one of the shining stars in our literary firmament and a significant figure in our nation's history.

**'A verse may finde him, who a sermon flies'**



# About the Festival

## A celebration of George Herbert's writings and life

Our programme brings together and illustrates literary, historical, religious, musical and artistic strands of Herbert and his works. We hope that everyone who joins us will find much of interest and enjoyment, and perhaps discover some new insights.

In addition to talks on a variety of themes, we are offering musical performances, workshops in art and calligraphy and even a presentation on stained glass. In addition, we draw your attention to three rather special Festival features:

- ◆ Informal poetry discussion groups, mostly in family homes.
- ◆ Poetry drop-in sessions in both of Herbert's parish churches.
- ◆ Walks in Herbert's footsteps to Bemerton from Salisbury and Wilton.

For those who wish, the programme also affords opportunities for worship. And of course there will be our evening keynote events in Salisbury Playhouse on Thursday and Friday, and at Wilton House on Saturday, featuring our main contributors. We have attracted an experienced and talented gathering of speakers and performers, and in particular we are delighted to welcome for our Symposium three such eminent poets as Gillian Clarke, Andrew Motion and Rowan Williams.

All the events will take place in Bemerton, Salisbury and Wilton, and many will be running concurrently. To help you decide which events you want to attend, please see the map on page 16 and the block programme on pages 18-19.

**Please Note:** Those attending an event shown as **Free\*** will have an opportunity at the conclusion of the event, if they so wish, to make a contribution towards defraying expenses.



Canon Judy Rees

## From The Festival Chairman

It gives us great pleasure to present this programme for the first ever George Herbert Festival in Bemerton, Salisbury and Wilton. We are delighted to welcome our distinguished speakers, and to offer such a vibrant choice of events. Do join us, whether your appreciation of Herbert goes back a long way or whether you would like to be introduced to his life and poetry. We look forward to sharing with you what we expect to be four days of joyful celebration.

# Thursday 10 July

3.30pm to 5pm

Garden Party

The Bishop of Salisbury (The Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam) and Mrs Helen Holtam have much pleasure in inviting all those attending the Festival to join them for afternoon tea in the garden of the South Canonry. Free car parking available. Admission by ticket only.

Free

South Canonry (Map 3)

6pm to 7.15pm

Buffet Meal

A light buffet meal served in the Refectory of Sarum College, affording an opportunity to meet and socialise with others attending the Festival prior to the evening's keynote event.

£7.50

Sarum College (Map 1)

8pm to 9.30pm

Why Herbert Matters

Rowan Williams considers George Herbert a surprisingly tough poet; his language at its best is full of sinewy sounds and thoughts, ironic, self-challenging, capable of devastating simplicity. He matters as a poet in two ways. For the religious believer, he is important in showing how the classical language of Christian orthodoxy is a resourceful vehicle for thinking (and feeling) through some of the most difficult areas of human experience – frustration, blankness of emotion, resentment, corrosive self-doubt – without illusions, yet with an almost terrifying intensity of affirmation just around the corner of what is said. For any reader, he matters as someone who models honest poetry, who never lets himself be seduced by easy sounds and solutions, and who presents an extraordinarily rich picture of the diverse tangles of human doubt and human dignity.

£7

Salisbury Playhouse (Map 2)

## Displays

Salisbury Playhouse (Map 2)  
St. John's Church, Bemerton (Map 6)  
St. Peter's Church, Fugglestone (Map 8)

Free

Static displays will be available in all three venues for most of the Festival period. For those wanting to know more about George Herbert, they will feature material about him, and about the local Herbert scene. Whenever possible someone will be present at each display site to provide further information and answer queries.

# Friday 11 July

9.30am to 10.30am

Musical Spaces in ‘The Temple’

**Simon Jackson** will talk about how George Herbert’s *The Temple* is celebrated as much for its architectural properties as its musical verse: but how do these two strands of Herbert’s poetic technique combine? During this talk, which will be illustrated with musical examples, Simon will take his audience on a tour of the various musical and acoustic spaces – real and imagined – that are encountered in Herbert’s life and verse, and listen to the music that Herbert finds in each place.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

10am to 11.30am

Poetry Groups (Session One)

**An opportunity** for you to explore in an informal setting one of Herbert’s poems, and to consider (and, if you wish, talk about) your own interpretation and reactions to it. There will be no more than 15 people in each group, many of which will meet in the homes of local residents. Each group will be led by one of our Festival contributors. The first of three sessions available. For more details, see page 15.

Free\*

Various Venues

11am to 12 noon

Herbert’s Direct Descendants

**Beth Dodd** talks about how George Herbert has been hailed, time and again, as the exemplar of the perfect priest and one of the fathers of Anglicanism, and discusses what impact he had on those who immediately followed him. This interactive session, incorporating visual images, music and group discussion, will explore how poets and priests in the mid to late seventeenth century read, interpreted and developed Herbert’s distinctive poetic spirituality.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

12.15pm to 1.15pm

‘Music at Midnight’

**John Drury** talks about his recently published book *Music at Midnight: the Life and Poetry of George Herbert*, which is the culmination of a lifetime’s interest in Herbert. Free entry, to include a glass of wine. Copies of the book will be on sale. This event is being arranged by The Sarum College Bookshop.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

# Friday 11 July

12.15pm to 1.15pm

‘God Almighty Planted a Garden’

‘Words and Music’ presents an evocation of the natural world of George Herbert in readings and songs. There are extracts from the writings of 17th century healers, poets, divines and gardeners. A poetic picture is revealed in which nature played a role ordained from above. Songs from Purcell, Blow, Dowland, Grainger, Warlock and Alec Roth. Readings from Herbert, Bacon, Newton, and Culpeper. With **Sally Bradshaw** (Soprano), **Rowan Williams** (Reader) and **Michael Haslam** (Piano).

£5

St. John’s Church, Bemerton (Map 6)

2pm to 3.30pm

Poetry Groups (Session Two)

A **second opportunity** for you to explore in an informal setting one of Herbert’s poems, and to consider (and, if you wish, talk about) your own interpretation and reactions to it. There will be no more than 15 people in each group, many of which will meet in the homes of local residents. Each group will be led by one of our Festival contributors. For more details, see page 15.

Free\*

Various Venues

2pm to 3.30pm

‘Studie this Art’ (1)

**Sandi Ferguson** leads an art workshop. She will use the flowers and herbs that George Herbert knew as ideas for your own greetings cards. Beginners are very welcome. All equipment is provided, but if you wish to bring your own materials, please do so.

£5

Sarum College (Map 1)

2pm to 4.30pm

‘To Write a Verse’ (1)

**Marion McKenzie** leads a calligraphy workshop. She tells you about handwriting in George Herbert’s time and will teach you the ‘uncial’ script, which is uncomplicated and yet has a pleasing character suitable for poetry. During this session you should be able to write a whole alphabet and at least one stanza from one of Herbert’s poems of your choice. No previous knowledge required and all materials provided.

£5

Sarum College (Map 1)

# Friday 11 July

2.30pm to 3.30pm

Herbert and the Material World

**Helen Wilcox** will explain how Herbert and his contemporaries are often described as 'metaphysical' writers, but when we look more closely we find that the devotional poems in Herbert's collection are actually quite firmly grounded in the physical environment. The material world – as perceived, for example, in stones, trees, water, scents, clothes or tools – is never far from the speaker's conversations with God. This talk will investigate the ways in which Herbert's poetry works with earthly matter in order to explore spiritual experience, transforming (as Herbert himself put it) 'things of ordinary use' into 'lights even of heavenly truths'.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

4pm to 5pm

'A Blaze of Crying Birds'

**Colleen Wethered** will look at the poetry of George Herbert, R S Thomas and Rowan Williams: three Welsh poets who are priests, between whom there are many connections, focussing on a shared metaphor of birds. The title is taken from Rowan Williams's poem 'Deathship', a memorial poem to R S Thomas.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

6pm to 7.30pm

Finger Buffet

**Finger snacks** and a glass of wine served in the Salisbury Playhouse Restaurant for those who would like a light meal before the evening's keynote event.

£10

Salisbury Playhouse (Map 3)

8pm to 9.30pm

'Hearken Unto a Verser'

**Gillian Clarke, Andrew Motion and Rowan Williams** join together in a **Poets' Symposium**. These distinguished poets will talk about how George Herbert's poetry has touched and inspired them, and why his verse deserves to be studied. They will discuss several individual poems, discovering where they share the same reactions to them and where they differ, and they will each suggest how others may best approach Herbert's poems in order to enjoy them to the full.

£7

Salisbury Playhouse (Map 3)

# Saturday 12 July

9.30am to 10.30am

Who Was George Herbert?

**Sonia Woolley** takes you on a brief journey through the life of the celebrated poet who lived such a formative part of his life in Salisbury. Illustrated with readings from his prose, poetry and the works of his biographers. **This talk is aimed particularly at those not already familiar with Herbert's life and works.**

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

10am to 11.30am

'Studie this Art' (2)

**Sandi Ferguson** will use the flowers and herbs that George Herbert knew as ideas for your own greetings cards. A repeat of yesterday's workshop (see p 6).

£5

Sarum College (Map 1)

10am to 12.30pm

'To Write a Verse' (2)

**Marion McKenzie** tells you about handwriting in George Herbert's time and will teach you the 'uncial' script. A repeat of yesterday's workshop (see p 6).

£5

Sarum College (Map 1)

11am to 12 noon

'Espying Heav'n'

**Adrian Barlow** on George Herbert and stained glass. He will talk mainly about representations of Herbert and his poetry in stained glass, but also about the glass that Herbert would have been familiar with, and the way he discusses it in his poetry.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

10am to 4pm

Poetry Drop-In

**Want to read Herbert's poetry in one of his own churches?** Drop in at any time during the day to either or both churches and read aloud a poem or poems of your own choice. All welcome - no need to book. Light refreshments provided.

St. Andrew's Church, Bemerton (Map 5)

St. Peter's Church, Fugglestone (Map 8)

Free\*



# Saturday 12 July

11am to 12.30pm

Poetry Groups (Session Three)

A **third opportunity** for you to explore in an informal setting one of Herbert's poems, and to consider (and, if you wish, talk about) your own interpretation and reaction to it. Each group will be led by one of our Festival contributors. For more details, see page 15.

Free\*

Various Venues

11am to 12.30pm

Walk in Herbert's Footsteps

**Walk One: From Salisbury to Lower Bemerton** – a poetry infused walk led by John Cox, former head of English at Bishop Wordsworth's School. An easy 2 mile walk beginning at Salisbury Cathedral with a talk by Jay Battle about his sculpture of George Herbert before crossing the water meadows to Harnham and then to Lower Bemerton.

**Walk Two: From Wilton to Lower Bemerton** – a child friendly walk led by Rev Mark Wood, Rector of Wilton. An easy 2 mile walk through areas of Wilton House gardens not normally open to the general public, through the village of Quidhampton to Lower Bemerton. Suitable for parents with pushchairs. No unaccompanied children.

Bring your own picnic to eat together at the Recreation Ground, Lower Bemerton. Coffee, tea, toilet facilities and playground available.

**Booking essential – start point will be shown on ticket.**

Free\*

12.30pm to 1.30pm

Picnic Lunch

**Bring your own picnic lunch** and join other Herbert enthusiasts on the banks of the River Nadder. The large grass ground provides plenty of space and is close to St John's and St Andrew's Churches. Coffee, tea and toilet facilities available. No seating.

Free

Bemerton Recreation Ground (Map 7)

1pm to 2pm

'Dancing Proverbs'

**Barry Ferguson** found watching **Paris Helen** take a ballet class and demonstrate the movements an unforgettable experience. He immediately realised that Herbert's *Outlandish Proverbs* - long admired by him - was the starting point for the ten piano pieces he composed for her. Paris responded with flair, imagination and skill. The late David Hilliam, writer and lecturer, was also inspired by her dancing and wrote a scholarly script. Alas, he died shortly before the first performance in 2012, which was dedicated to his memory. This is the second performance, to a revised script.

Free\*

Sarum College (Map 1)

# Saturday 12 July

1.30pm to 2.30pm

‘The Country Parson’

**John Chandler and Simon Woodley** will discuss what it was like to serve the Bemerton community as its priest when George Herbert came here in the 17th century, and compare his challenges and rewards with those experienced today. The social and geographical make-up of the parish is very different now, but how does Herbert’s advice to a country parson, written nearly four centuries ago, measure up to the life and work of his 21st-century successor?

Free\*

St. John’s Church, Bemerton (Map 6)

3pm to 4pm

Herbert, the Sidneys and the Psalms

**Helen Wilcox** talks about the Sidney Psalms, which formed the single most important poetic influence on George Herbert’s devotional verse. The translation of the Psalms into English verse was begun by Philip Sidney before his death in 1586, and completed in 1595 by his sister Mary Sidney Herbert, wife of the 2nd Earl of Pembroke. Helen will explore Herbert’s poetry in the light of its relationship with the Bible and the Sidney Psalms, bringing alive these vibrant poetic partnerships in Wilton House, the home of Mary Sidney and, in the subsequent generation, Herbert’s patrons.

£10

Wilton House (Map 9)

5.30pm to 7.30pm

Festival Dinner

**The Palladian Restaurant** in the grounds of Wilton House is the venue for the Festival’s final social event. Diners will be offered a drink on arrival, followed by a two-course set menu meal including wine or soft drink, and coffee afterwards. This promises to be a great informal opportunity to meet many of the Festival’s contributors, and chat about the events of the past three days.

£30

Wilton House (Map 9)

8pm to 9.30pm

‘One Harmonie’

**The Farrant Singers** will perform settings of George Herbert’s poetry in a concert of words and music illustrating how he has been the source of inspiration for composers and writers over almost four hundred years. The programme will include readings of his verse and selected excerpts showing how other poets and critics have reacted to his works, together with appropriate music for solo voice and for the lute. The concert will take place in the sumptuous setting of the Double Cube room, by kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Pembroke, and the trustees of Wilton House.

£15

Wilton House (Map 9)

# Sunday 13 July

10.30am to 11.45am

Festival Eucharist

Rev Canon Mark Oakley preaches at the Festival Eucharist, exploring how Herbert's understanding of God corrects some contemporary beliefs, and how poetry redeems the curse of liberalism that threatens the resonance of faith. The Cathedral's normal Sunday morning service will include music and readings specially selected to commemorate and celebrate the ministry and writings of George Herbert.

Free

Salisbury Cathedral (Map 4)

## Linked Events

The following events are linked with the Festival and will be taking place over this period:

### Senior Schools' George Herbert Event

This project will bring together Year 12 students from maintained schools in and around Salisbury. It has its origins in a special request from Rowan Williams, who is keen to have an opportunity to work with young people during his visit to Salisbury. It will provide an informative and stimulating introduction to the poetry of George Herbert in the context of the Festival and contribute to the students' wider reading. Following an introductory talk from Dr Williams, teachers will lead group discussions and readings of selected poems. The project will be funded by the Festival and there will be no charge to the schools and students involved.

### Junior Schools' George Herbert Project

A few local junior schools have been offered the chance to run a competition based on *The Flower* poem. Children will be encouraged to either paint or draw a card based on the poem or write their own poem reflecting the ideas expressed in 'The Flower'. Winning entries will be displayed in the Salisbury Library window.

### Services in Salisbury Cathedral

Over the period of the Festival, Choral Evensong will be sung each evening by the Cathedral Choir, Thursday – Saturday at 5.30pm and on Sunday at 4.30pm. Appropriate music for these services, reflecting the ministry and influence of George Herbert and his contemporaries, has been selected by David Halls, the Cathedral's Director of Music. On Sunday morning Choral Mattins is sung at 9.15am.

# Contributors



**Gillian Clarke** has been National Poet for Wales since 2008. She was born in Cardiff and lives in Ceredigion. Her work is widely studied for GCSE and A Level. She is President of Tŷ Newydd, the Welsh Writers Centre which she co-founded in 1990. She has published ten collections of poems and a book of prose, *At the Source*. Her latest poetry collection, *Ice*, was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Award, 2012. In 2010 she was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.



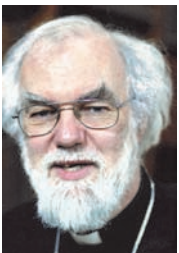
**Dr John Drury** is Chaplain and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. Previous appointments include Resident Canon at Norwich Cathedral, Head of Religious Studies at Sussex University, and Dean and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. From 1991 to 2003 he was Dean of Christ Church, Oxford. His recently published book *Music at Midnight* is the culmination of a lifetime's study of George Herbert.



**Sir Andrew Motion** read English at University College, Oxford and subsequently spent two years writing about the poetry of Edward Thomas for his M. Litt. After teaching English at the University of Hull, he edited the Poetry Review and then became Editorial Director and Poetry Editor at Chatto & Windus. He is now Professor of Creative Writing at Royal Holloway, University of London, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He was Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2009 and was knighted for his services to literature in 2009.



**Prof Helen Wilcox** is Head of the School of English at Bangor University (Wales), having previously worked at the universities of Liverpool (England) and Groningen (The Netherlands). Her research interests lie mainly in Renaissance literature and she has published widely on seventeenth-century devotional poetry, women's writing, drama, autobiography, and the relationship of words and music. She is the editor of the acclaimed annotated edition of *The English Poems of George Herbert* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and co-editor of the forthcoming essay collection *Locating George Herbert: Family, Place, Traditions*.



**Dr Rowan Williams** took up his present appointment as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge in 2013 following ten years as Archbishop of Canterbury and three as Archbishop of Wales. He is also Chancellor of the University of South Wales. Acknowledged internationally as an outstanding theological writer, scholar and teacher, he is also a published poet with an abiding interest in the life and works of George Herbert. In 2013 he was elevated to the peerage as Baron Williams of Oystermouth.

# Contributors

**Adrian Barlow** retired in 2011 as Director of Public and Professional Programmes at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. He is particularly interested in Victorian architecture and ecclesiology, and is currently writing a book on the stained glass of Charles Eamer Kempe. He is President of the English Association, and George Herbert and his poetry have always meant a great deal to him.

**Sally Bradshaw** has sung in concerts, opera and recordings throughout the world. Known for versatility, she has recorded Handel roles, notably Agrippina for Harmonia Mundi, as well as Debussy songs for Warner and many contemporary pieces. Judith Weir, Alec Roth, Howard Skempton and Nicola Lefanu have all written music for her, much of which has been recorded. She teaches singing at Cambridge University and in France.

**John Chandler** is a historian who has studied and written about the Salisbury area for more than thirty years. Under the imprint Hobnob Press he has also published many books about Wiltshire. In 2011 he was appointed editor of the *Victoria County History for Gloucestershire*, and now lives in Gloucester, but retains an active interest in Wiltshire local history. In 2005 he researched the social history of Bemerton and Fugglestone in George Herbert's time.

**Dr Beth Dodd** is Academic Tutor and Director of Studies for STETS, the ordination training course based at Sarum College. She is co-editor of a forthcoming collection of essays on *Thomas Traherne and Seventeenth Century Thought* (Boydell and Brewer). She is also interested in the theme of innocence in religious literature, and is currently organizing a collaborative research project on the 'Histories of Innocence'.

**Barry Ferguson** was advised by his mentor, the composer Herbert Howells, to "Meet interesting people!" He has been blessed by meeting many such people: Reginald Moore, his inspiring Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral; Stanley Vann, the incomparable choir trainer at Peterborough Cathedral, to whom he was assistant in the 1960s; friendships with poets, authors, actors, poets, photographers, singers, dancers, church music colleagues - especially at Rochester Cathedral; clergy; George Herbert and Thomas Hardy devotees...a lifelong succession of 'muses' ....none more so than his artist wife Sandi and his professional violinist daughter Rachel.

**Sandi Ferguson** taught Art in England and abroad, and also has pursued her love of opera and theatre by designing sets and costumes. For the last 10 years her passion for fabrics has been reflected in quilting, and she has recently exhibited in Dorset Art Weeks. For as long as she can remember she has been designing her own cards, and her card illustrating George Herbert's '*The Flower*' has been sent worldwide.

**Michael Haslam** is known as a virtuosic pianist as well as an accomplished Music Director. He has directed musical shows at the National Theatre and the Royal Opera House. He is also known for arrangements and was the Music Director and arranger of Maria Friedman's one woman show and of Miriam Margolyes' 'Dickens' Women'.

**Paris Helen** has been teaching Dance in North Dorset since 1992. Her professional theatre career started when she was 14 and still at school, singing in the chorus in a summer season at Glyndebourne. She celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday whilst dancing with the Sadler's Wells Opera Company in a Handel Festival. Paris is currently a freelance dance teacher and choreographer and organises the International Summer School for Young Dancers.

# Contributors

**Dr Simon Jackson** is Organist and Director of Music at Little St Mary's, Cambridge. In 2011 he completed his doctoral research on The Literary and Musical Activities of the Herbert Family, and now teaches at Cambridge University. He is currently working on a book on the important place of music in Herbert's Temple, and his choir has recently completed a CD recording of choral settings of poetry by Herbert, Crashaw and their contemporaries, due for release later this year.

**Marion McKenzie** studied calligraphy at Roehampton University. She teaches both privately and in adult education, takes commissions and has exhibited both locally and nationally. Marion is an elected Fellow of both The Society of Scribes and Illuminators, and The Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Society, of which she is the current Chairman.

**Rev Canon Mark Oakley** is Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and a Visiting Lecturer of King's College London. A former Chaplain to the Bishop of London and Rector of the Actors' Church, Mark's main interest is the relationship between literature, especially poetry, and faith. His new book *The Splash of Words: Believing in Poetry* is out later this year. Mark also reviews for the Church Times, Tablet and other journals and is a regular broadcaster on Radio 4.

**Colleen Wethered** read English at St. Anne's College, Oxford. She has an MA in Theology from Sarum College. She is now a doctoral student at Bangor University supervised by Professor Helen Wilcox and Professor Tony Brown.

**Rev Simon Woodley** was born in Northampton (home of John Clare), grew up in Bedford (home of John Bunyan), before training as an architect in Liverpool and Birmingham. After training at Cambridge he was ordained in 2000 and served his title at St. Martin's in the Bullring, Birmingham before moving to Bemerton in 2004.

**Sonia Woolley** is a professional actress and director. For many years she was a regular member of the Salisbury Playhouse company and has also appeared in the West End. She has directed four Benjamin Britten operas in Salisbury Cathedral, one of which was televised by the BBC. Now also working as a free-lance consultant in Voice and Presentation Skills, Sonia is a member of the Voice Care Network (UK) and runs workshops for groups as diverse as teachers, local churches and businesses. She has been a frequent contributor to the Summer Evenings with George Herbert.

## The Farrant Singers

**The Farrant Singers** is the longest-established chamber choir in Salisbury. It was founded in 1958 by the composer Richard Lloyd (then Assistant Organist of Salisbury Cathedral), initially to give performances of church music in the diocese. Conductors since then have included Mark Deller, Richard Shephard, Colin Howard and Daniel Cook. **Andrew Mackay** took up the baton as the current conductor in December 2011. The choir currently comprises around 38 singers and its repertoire includes a wide range of sacred and secular music, spanning many periods and styles. In 2009 it took part in the world premiere of Bob Chilcott's Salisbury Vespers, and it has also featured on BBC Radio 4's 'Sunday Worship', in a service dedicated to George Herbert broadcast live from his own church of St. Andrew's Bemerton.

# Poetry Discussion Groups

You are most welcome to take part in our poetry discussion groups whatever your previous knowledge of George Herbert's poetry. Everyone can contribute to the discussion (or just listen, as they wish), and the object is to gain a deeper mutual understanding and appreciation of his works. There will be no more than 15 people in each group, many of which will meet in the homes of local people. The following contributors have kindly agreed to lead one or more of the groups:

Beth Dodd  
John Drury  
Andrew Motion  
Mark Oakley  
Colleen Wethered  
Helen Wilcox  
Rowan Williams

And, in addition:

**Rev Canon Susan Bell** holds a Master of Divinity from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Arts in English and History from McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. She is preparing a Doctoral thesis on George Herbert's *Courtney Parson* at the University of Toronto. Susan is also the Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Toronto. She combines this work with the position of Chaplain at Havergal College, and Associate Priest at the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto.

**Rev Canon David Durston** was Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral for eleven years, then Team Rector of the Wylde and Till Valley. He has a particular interest in the poetry of the Old Testament and has written a book on the Psalms - *A Light on my Path*. He is also Vice-Chair of Alabare Christian Care & Support, working with homeless people in the South-West and Wales.

**Prof Chris Hodgkins** is Professor of Renaissance Literature at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Author and editor of four books on George Herbert and on Seventeenth-Century literature, he also is co-founder of the George Herbert Society, which organizes events in Britain, Europe, and North America. With Robert Whalen, he co-edits *The Digital Temple* and has started work on *The Complete Digital Works of George Herbert*. He directs UNCG's Atlantic World Research Network, has published extensively on the British imperial imagination, and is currently completing a textbook on the literary study of the Bible.

**Prof Greg Miller** is the Janice C. Trimble Professor of English at Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. He is the author of a number of books including George Herbert's *"Holy Patterns": Reforming Individuals in Community* (Continuum, 2007). He has also written for *The George Herbert Journal* and earlier this year saw the publication of a collection of his own poetry entitled *The Sea Sleeps: New and Selected Poems* (Paraclete Press).

There will be three discussion group sessions and you may request tickets for one or more. A list of leaders and poems selected for discussion will be sent to you in advance, with an invitation to submit your preferences in order of priority. We will do our best to meet these preferences but reserve the right to make allocations in order to balance numbers.

# Venue Map





# Travel Information

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## Trains

There are regular South West Train services to Salisbury from London Waterloo and the South West (Exeter and Bristol) - up to two an hour Monday to Saturday, fewer on Sundays. The journey time from London is about 90 minutes. First Great Western also operate a good service to Salisbury from Cardiff and Portsmouth.

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## Local Buses

Bus services (R3 and R8) run between Salisbury city centre, Bemerton and Wilton up to four times an hour during the day and hourly in the evenings until 11pm. Wilton Park & Ride buses (502) run every 15 minutes during the day until 6pm. Allow 30 minutes to travel by bus between Salisbury and Wilton.

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## Car Parking

Because car parking in Salisbury city centre is often difficult during the day, particularly in Salisbury Cathedral Close, you are advised to use one of the five Park & Ride facilities. Evening parking is easier. Parking is usually available in Bemerton and Wilton. Some individual venues will have private parking.

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## Disabled Access

All main venues have good access for wheelchair users. A few of the poetry discussion group venues may not be easily accessible. When booking, please advise if wheelchair access is required.

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## Map Key

### Salisbury

1	Sarum College	SP1 2EE
2	Salisbury Playhouse	SP2 7RA
3	South Canonry	SP1 2ER
4	Salisbury Cathedral	SP1 2EJ

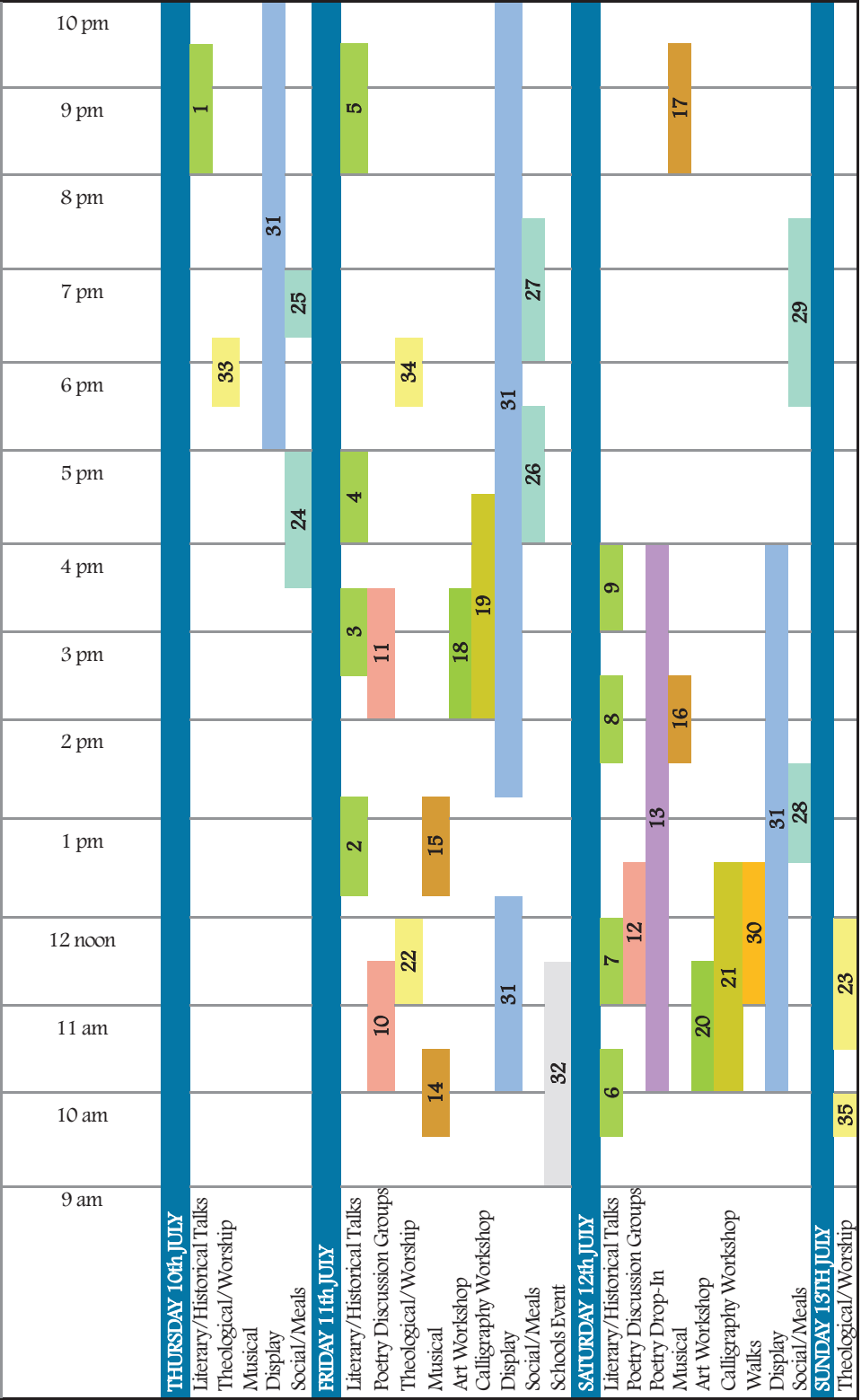
### Bemerton

5	St. Andrew's Church	SP2 9NR
6	St. John's Church	SP2 9NP
7	Recreation Ground	SP2 9NP

### Wilton

8	St. Peter's Church	SP2 OBJ	9	Wilton House	SP2 OBJ
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# Block Programme



# Block Programme

No	Event	Venue	Day	Start	End
<b>Literary/Historical Talks</b>					
1	Rowan Williams	Salisbury Playhouse	Thursday	8.00 pm	9.30 pm
2	John Drury	Sarum College	Friday	12.15 pm	1.15 pm
3	Helen Wilcox	Sarum College	Friday	2.30 pm	3.30 pm
4	Colleen Wethered	Sarum College	Friday	4.00 pm	5.00 pm
5	Poets' Symposium	Salisbury Playhouse	Friday	8.00 pm	9.30 pm
6	Sonia Woolley	Sarum College	Saturday	9.30 pm	10.30 pm
7	Adrian Barlow	Sarum College	Saturday	11.00 am	12 noon
8	John Chandler/Simon Woodley	Bemerton (St. John's Church)	Saturday	1.30 pm	2.30 pm
9	Helen Wilcox	Wilton House	Saturday	3.00 pm	4.00 pm
<b>Poetry</b>					
10	Poetry Groups (Session 1)	Various	Friday	10.00 am	11.30 am
11	Poetry Groups (Session 2)	Various	Friday	2.00 pm	3.30 pm
12	Poetry Groups (Session 3)	Various	Saturday	11.00 am	12.30 pm
13	Poetry Drop-In	Bemerton (St. Andrew's Church) Fugglestone (St. Peter's Church)	Saturday	10.00 am	4.00 pm
<b>Musical</b>					
14	Simon Jackson	Sarum College	Friday	9.30 am	10.30 am
15	Sally Bradshaw/Rowan Williams	Bemerton (St. John's Church)	Friday	12.15 pm	1.15 pm
16	Barry Ferguson/Paris Helen	Sarum College	Saturday	1.00 pm	2.00 pm
17	Festival Concert	Wilton House	Saturday	8.00 pm	9.30 pm
<b>Art/Calligraphy</b>					
18	Sandi Ferguson (1)	Sarum College	Friday	2.00 pm	3.30 pm
19	Marion McKenzie (1)	Sarum College	Friday	2.00 pm	4.30 pm
20	Sandi Ferguson (2)	Sarum College	Saturday	10.00 am	11.30 am
21	Marion McKenzie (2)	Sarum College	Saturday	10.00 am	12.30 pm
<b>Theological/Worship</b>					
22	Beth Dodd	Sarum College	Friday	11.00 am	12 noon
23	Sung Eucharist	Salisbury Cathedral	Sunday	10.30 am	11.45 am
<b>Social/Meals</b>					
24	Garden Party	Salisbury (South Canonry)	Thursday	3.30 pm	5.00 pm
25	Buffet Meal	Sarum College	Thursday	6.00 pm	7.15 pm
26	Cream Teas	Salisbury Playhouse	Friday	4.00 pm	5.30 pm
27	Finger Buffet	Salisbury Playhouse	Friday	6.00 pm	7.30 pm
28	Picnic Lunch	Bemerton (Recreation Ground)	Saturday	12.30 pm	1.30 pm
29	Festival Dinner	Wilton House ( Restaurant)	Saturday	5.30 pm	7.30 pm
<b>Other</b>					
30	Walks to Bemerton	Salisbury and Wilton	Saturday	11.00 am	12.30 pm
31	Displays	Various	Every day	Varies	Varies
<b>Linked Events</b>					
32	Senior Schools' Event	Salisbury (BW School)	Friday	9.00 am	11.30 am
33	Choral Evensong	Salisbury Cathedral	Thursday	5.30 pm	6.15 pm
34	Choral Evensong	Salisbury Cathedral	Friday	5.30 pm	6.15 pm
35	Choral Mattins	Salisbury Cathedral	Sunday	9.15 am	10.00 am

# Acknowledgements

The organisers of the George Herbert Festival 2014 wish to acknowledge with much gratitude the generous support of the following:

Sarum College, Salisbury

Trinity College, Cambridge

Individual benefactors:

Mrs J Blakeway

Mr & Mrs W Collings

Mr I Henderson

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Mr P Post

Mrs M Richardson

Mrs A Seacroft

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Mrs J Squarey

Mr & Mrs J Thomas

Mrs S Thomas

Mrs E Turton

Mrs F Wain

and 9 others

We are also most grateful to those who have so kindly offered the use of their homes for our Poetry Discussion Groups.

## Festival Committee

Canon Judy Rees (Chairman), Jenny Brownhill, Lesley Burton (Secretary), Linda Carley, Rev Tom Clammer, Linda Cooper, Pam Court (Administrator), John Cox, Chris Dragonetti, Christine Nielsen-Craig, Terri Seaton, Kate Weale, Peter Webster, Rev Mark Wood, Charles Woodd, Rev Simon Woodley, Lis Woods, Eleanor Wordsworth

[festival2014@georgeherbert.org.uk](mailto:festival2014@georgeherbert.org.uk) | 01722 321771

George Herbert Festival 2014 is a restricted fund of Bemerton PCC which has charitable status