

# **Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group**

19 August 2004

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We hope you've had a good summer, and are back for your holidays refreshed in time for the Christmas rush!

We're delighted that Les Hendren, from St John Ogilvie's in Bourtreehill, has joined the core group. Les has just started a new career as a teacher of chemistry and general science at Cumnock Academy. Les' musical connections in the church started at St Sophia's in Galston when he was 14. When he moved to Irvine, he managed to remain anonymous in the congregation for about one Sunday, but ever since someone found out he was musical he has been involved - for about 16 years now. Les plays keyboards of all descriptions and can also play the guitar.

We've two exciting events arranged for you in the autumn, and the Galloway Music Festival Mass held last weekend was a great success! Read more . . . .

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Galloway Music Festival Mass - Sunday 15 August**

Our fifth open air Mass was held last weekend on the Solemnity of the Assumption. When we arrived at lunchtime we couldn't decide whether it was going to rain or not but eventually decided to set up outside . . . . However, all went well, and sunburn became more of an issue than getting wet.

We had a strong group of musicians including violins, recorder, trumpet, guitars, flute and bagpipes. There weren't as many people in the congregation as usual (perhaps because we were clashing with other events) but those that were there really enjoyed it. The Mass ended with a procession to the newly completed prayer garden at Smithstone House.

So many thanks again to everyone who came along, and to Smithstone House for putting up with it all!

## **FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Workshop on Saturday 18 September**

We are planning a music ministry day in Smithstone House, Kilwinning on Saturday 18 September. This will be led by Fr Michael Hutson from Lochgilphead, Diocesan Director of Music for Argyll and the Isles (and formerly from Cumnock).

In the morning Fr Michael will lead us in reflections on liturgy in general and what we should sing. There will be music to learn and try out (useable material for regular parish liturgies),

and the day will end with a celebration of Mass, drawing everything together. You will go home with new ideas to try out in your parishes, and positive ideas about what is involved in good liturgy.

The day is open to everyone - as everyone is a musician at Mass! No prior knowledge or experience is necessary, so please will you publicise it as widely as possible in your parish.

### **Concert on Wednesday 6 October**

Ian White will perform some of his music and talk about his faith at a specially arranged concert at Smithstone House on Wednesday 6 October at 7 pm. Ian is a Christian singer with an international reputation and has made many recordings - this is an evening not to be missed.

### **OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

The Diocese of Argyll and the Isles are holding their annual pastoral music weekend at Kinoull, Perth from evening (Friday 3 September) to after Mass and brunch (Sunday 5 September). If you would like to go, send a £15 deposit (the total cost is £80) to Irene O'Neill, Glenbreck, Stronvaar Avenue, Campbeltown, PA28 6SW. This covers meals and accommodation (probably a double room). The weekend will be a mixture of music workshops aimed at providing useable material for regular parish liturgies, presentations on liturgical issues, liturgical celebrations and social gatherings

The Methodist Church Music Society (in association with the Royal School of Church Music) are organising a weekend conference, *Worshipping Through Psalms*, at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick Derbyshire from 22 - 24 October. Booking forms are available on the MCMS website, [www.methodistmusic.org](http://www.methodistmusic.org).

Garden Praise (an open air celebration) is being held in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on 22 August, 29 August and 5 September from 1 - 3 pm. This is an informal gathering of open air praise and celebration and is an 'outreach' event to visitors to Edinburgh. For more information visit [www.GardenPraise.org](http://www.GardenPraise.org).

The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh are having an instrumental get-together on Sunday 26 September at Christ the King Church, Bowhouse Road, Grangemouth, starting from 2 pm. This will be an afternoon of shared music for groups and their singers. 'New Praises' is on Sunday 14 November at St Mary's, Poldrate, Haddington, commencing at 2.30 pm, and is an afternoon for church singers and choirs. The Archdiocese also have two new publications, 'The Cambuskenneth Mass' by Cath Doherty and 'Children's Praise' by Beryl McGuire. For more information about the events or publications, contact Evelyn Stell on 01506 510366 or [evelynstell@scotsorgan.org](mailto:evelynstell@scotsorgan.org).

### **YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .**

An older hymn this time - **Be thou my vision.**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;  
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.
- 3 Be thou my breast plate, my sword for the fight,  
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise,  
thou mine inheritance through all my days;  
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,  
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!
- 5 High King of heaven, when battle is done,  
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun;  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The words are from an original Irish poem, which probably dates from the eighth century. They were translated by Mary E Byrne (1880 - 1931) and versified by Eleanor H Hull (1860 - 1935).

The words were linked to the popular Irish tune, Slane, in 1927. Slane is an Irish traditional air from Joyce's 'Old Irish Folk Music and Songs', 1920. It is the melody of a song, 'With my love on the road'.

The words themselves, even without being sung, can be used as a prayer. Despite the 'age' of the words, they are as relevant today as when they were first written, and remind us of the importance of, and fulfilment that comes from, dedicating our lives to God.

### **OUR ANNUAL SURVEY . . .**

This year's survey is slightly different. Don't take it too seriously . . . ! As ever, we'd like as many responses as possible and this one is for individual people involved in music (rather than parishes) and so feel free to photocopy it and circulate it to as many people as possible.

We will compile the results and enclose them with our next newsletter.

## **THE CORE GROUP . . . SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING MUSIC . . .**

As ever, we welcome any suggestions for what the core group should be doing, and ways in which we can support and promote music. At times it can be hard for us to know whether we are meeting your needs and aspirations or not.

Volunteers to lead workshops are always welcome!

If you know of other people who would like a copy of this newsletter, please copy it for them - or direct them to the web site to read it ([www.gallowaymusic.net](http://www.gallowaymusic.net)). Please also show newsletters to your Parish Priest so that he is aware of our activities.

If you are receiving this newsletter, and you are no longer involved in music in your parish, please will you let Nicola know so that the mailing list can be updated.

With best wishes

The Music Core Group

**Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group**  
**[www.gallowaymusic.net](http://www.gallowaymusic.net)**

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