

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

1 November 2004

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

Since we last wrote we've held two events - a music day with Fr Michael Hutson and an evening with Ian White. Both were very successful and much appreciated with everyone present.

The core group have met recently to discuss next year's programme and there will be more about that in our next newsletter - for now we're going to keep you in suspense.

But back to the recent events. . . .

PAST EVENTS

Workshop on Saturday 18 September

Fr Michael (Diocesan Director of Music for Argyll and the Isles) started the day by talking with us about how music can effect us, change us, and give expression to what is important in our lives. It is a tool in prayer, and in song an assembly is united in a special way.

During the day we looked at pieces of music suitable for use in parishes, including some psalm settings and a setting suitable for the final commendation and farewell at funerals.

In the early centuries of the church, music was for all the people to sing all the time, not for choirs to sing and others to listen. God gave us the voices we have, and nowhere in the Bible does it say that only those who 'can sing' have to sing!

The day ended with a celebration of Mass.

Concert on Wednesday 6 October

Fifty people gathered to hear Ian White perform some of his music and talk about his faith at this specially arranged evening. Ian is a Christian singer with an international reputation and has made many recordings - and most of the music we were introduced to came from the album 'Pre revival days'. Ian's message focussed on God's healing love.

Our thanks again to Smithstone House for hosting both of these events.

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

A modern hymn again - **Lord Jesus Christ (Living Lord)**.

Again, we're not going to reproduce the words for reasons of copyright, but this is a very popular hymn that you will all know well. Both words and music were written by Patrick Appleford, born in 1925, who for part of his life was Dean of Lusaka Cathedral in Zambia.

However, when this was written in 1958 (at the time Cliff Richard was singing 'Living Doll' - so why not 'Living Lord'?), Patrick Appleford was one of six curates serving in the (Church of England) parish of All Saints, Poplar, in London's East End. At this time, the people in the pews were becoming increasingly involved in church worship, and 'Living Lord' is a unison piece for the whole congregation to sing as a Communion hymn.

BOOK REVIEWS

Living Liturgy published by the Liturgical Press (USA).

A copy of this (for 2004 - it is an annual publication) was purchased from a shop in September for £2! Unfortunately we're not sure what the usual price is but it's definitely more than that!

As well as background information and articles, there are four pages of text (approximately A4 size) for each Sunday of the year. For each Sunday there is a section on 'spirituality' which includes reflecting on the Gospel, living the Paschal mystery, focussing on the Word, connecting the Word and understanding the Word. The 'celebration' section looks at the introductory rites, the responsorial Psalm and provides model general intercessions. 'Catechesis' provides thoughts about the liturgy and about liturgical music.

For more information, visit the publisher's web site at www.litpress.org.

Sounds good by John Norman and Jim Berrow

This is a short booklet on organs (predominantly pipe organs although there is a section on electronic organs) and their care and maintenance. It is an 'easy read' for anyone who would like to know more about organs and their repair and preservation. (It is published by Church House Publishing for the Church of England).

OUR ANNUAL SURVEY . . .

This year's survey has been our most popular so far and we have received nineteen replies. Many people wrote interesting and helpful comments on their forms and some of them are reproduced on the summary enclosed - unfortunately there isn't space to include them all. Overall the results were positive - you enjoy your role as a church musician. However, reading the statistical analysis shows that there are some trends that may be of concern, for example the number of musicians who have difficulty concentrating and 'praying the Mass'. That's enough for here - read the summary and see what people are saying!

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! Hurry and come forward now if you want to be involved in something in 2005!

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). 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

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