

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

July 2006 Newsletter

As part of our ongoing review of our activities - we've decided that 'Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group' isn't the best of names to describe who we are and what we do. So we'd like to invite you to make suggestions for a new name to more accurately correspond to our role in supporting parish musicians.

We will choose a new name from the suggestions received. Unfortunately we cannot offer a generous cash prize for the 'winner' - but we will mention you by name in our next newsletter!

Since the summer is upon us, and you're bound to be concentrating on other things than church music just now, this is a short newsletter to provide you with information about

our annual open air Mass.

PAST EVENTS

The evening with Mgr Gerry Fitzpatrick on 'Celtic Music and Community Prayer' went very well. There were more people present than there have been at our last few events - reflecting that perhaps you prefer an event held of an evening. We were pleased also to see some new people present.

We worked very hard at singing through hymns, canticles and psalms (accompanied by organ, flute, guitar and violin) and went home tired but happy!

Our thanks once again to Smithstone House for their hospitality.

FUTURE EVENTS

Our annual Galloway Music Festival Mass will be held on Sunday 20 August at 2.30 pm, at Smithstone House (our seventh open air Mass). Booking forms, a bulletin notice and a poster are enclosed.

We hope to see as many people as possible present. If you are able to, bring a musical instrument, or simply come along and sing. Seating should be available for most people, but if you prefer bring a rug to sit on. It is not essential to book, but if you did it would help to give us an approximate idea of the numbers who will be attending. However, if you need a power point for a musical instrument, please telephone Nicola on (01465) 714797 and we will do our best to arrange it.

A list of the music planned is also enclosed to give everyone the opportunity to practice and to know what music to bring on the day. If you can't find or aren't sure about anything, please telephone and we will try and help sort it out! We will be rehearsing from 1 pm (the Mass starts at 2.30 pm) so that everyone who can be there early will have had the opportunity to try out the music beforehand.

Please invite your Parish Priest to concelebrate the Mass. Bring a picnic for after!

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) organise courses and workshops throughout the year across the UK. For more information, visit www.rscm.com. They are now sending out a Scottish newsletter to their members, with information about what's going on in Scotland. Since the second edition of this states that 'this newsletter may be copied and shared' we have decided to enclose a copy with this newsletter so that you can be more aware of their activities.

The National Network of Pastoral Musicians are holding their annual conference at Worth Abbey from 21 - 23 July. The NNPM began in 1996 with 'Music in the Mission of the Church', and a Catholic, an Anglican and a Presbyterian each gave their thoughts on this title. It was a chance for musicians of different traditions to experience, through singing and praying together, that their common bonds as Christians are much stronger than their divisions as members of separate denominations. The title of this year's event, 'Gather your people', is taken from a song by the composer Bob Hurd, who will be at the conference. A gifted melodist, adapter of scriptural texts and communicator, his music is well known to Roman Catholics in this country. Contact Margaret Blaney on

0161 225 8910 for more information.

The Society of St Gregory summer school, 'Being the Church without Walls', is also being held at Worth Abbey from 31 July - 4 August. The week includes a full programme of talks, workshops, seminars and liturgical celebrations as well as opportunities for rest, recollection and socialising. More information is available from Gill Ness-Collins on (01903) 812480, or visit www.ssg.org.uk.

(Independent of her role within the Music Core Group) Nicola is now the Scottish national representative for the Society of St Gregory, so if you want to know more about its activities, please contact her.

An event entitled 'Small is beautiful' is being held on Saturday 11 November at Kincardine led by Andrew Maries (organised by the Music and Worship Foundation). This will be a workshop specifically for musicians and singers and leaders involved with smaller churches.

BUT I CAN'T SING

Does it really matter? And who said you can't sing? John Bell is often quoted as saying something about not being ashamed of the voice that God has given you - it is the voice of an apprentice angel!

The Natural Voice Practitioners' Network is an organisation for Practitioners who share a common philosophy and approach to voice work. They believe that singing is everyone's birthright and are committed to teaching styles that are accepting and inclusive of all, regardless of musical experience and ability.

Visit their web site at www.naturalvoice.net for more

information. Membership is for natural voice practitioners (or trainee practitioners) but their philosophy and working principles make interesting reading, and are relevant to singing in churches. They are a fairly new organisation, and their members aim to provide a range of opportunities for people to explore their voices and enjoy song including voice and song workshops, training, short courses, creative projects, and running community choirs.

THE ST ANNE MASS BY JAMES MACMILLAN

The Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation (When we eat this bread) are widely used within the Diocese, but did you know that there is also a Lamb of God and Kyrie as part of this Mass? Settings of these appear in CH4, the new Church of Scotland hymn book, and they complement the Sanctus and Acclamation (which appear in Liturgical Hymns Old and New without the rest of the Mass). The key for these two settings is D minor, with the other settings for this Mass being in D major (and not C major as in our usual books).

However, if you want to use these, the copyright situation is complicated. If you have a Christian Copyright music reproduction licence, you would have to buy a copy of CH4, and then take photocopies. But beware - the St Anne's Mass seems to be copyrighted by Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd, who may not be part of the Christian Copyright scheme.

Whereas the principle of copyright protection is obviously important, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could get the 'small print' of the reality of applying it simplified. Perhaps this is something we should all be working towards.

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Visit our website at www.gallowaymusic.net

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