

January 2007 Newsletter

Just when you thought Christmas was over, Lent is nearly upon us!

So we're planning another music ministry evening, and (since the session we held on materials for Advent was so popular) it will include resources for Lent and Holy Week. This will be combined with a brief workshop entitled 'What is Lent?' So please come along! Booking materials are included with this newsletter.

A PLEA TO HEAR FROM YOU

We know that there are many good things going on musically in the diocese, and we would like to publicise them!

So we would like to include in newsletters and on the web site

- 'Case studies' of parishes

How has music developed in your parish?

What do you presently do? (What do you do well? What do you do not so well? What needs improving?)

Where do you see things going, and how do you see them developing?

And anything else you would like to tell us about

- 'Personal profiles' of musicians

. . . . or choirs or music groups

How did you get involved in church music?

What is your role?
How does it fit in with other parish activities?
How does it fit in with the rest of your life?
And anything else you would like to tell us about

So please send something to Nicola (address on back cover), or telephone if you want a little more encouragement in getting started.

The purpose of Galloway Music Network is for us to encourage and support each other, and we're sure many musicians would be curious to know how others do things!
So even if the prospect of writing something about yourself or your parish may seem daunting, you can guarantee that it will be well received and appreciated.

www.gallowaymusic.net

We are continuing to add to and develop the website, and some new things will be being included in the next few weeks.

Since our last newsletter we have added a write up and photographs of the music ministry evening held on Thursday 9 November.

Don't forget that the site contains plenty of 'reply opportunities' - forms and so on for you to comment on articles and materials posted, and for you to make suggestions. Please use them!

FEEDBACK

For those of you who were present on 9 November, were you able to use any of the music resources we introduced in your

parishes during Advent? How successful was this? If it was successful, why do you think this was? (Similarly if it was not successful, what do you think caused the problems?) Any feedback you can give us will help us in meeting parishes' needs when planning future events.

PAST EVENTS

Music ministry evening

Our latest evening workshop was held on Thursday 9 November and there were a (record!) 39 people present.

The first half of the evening was a discussion on 'Practicalities of parish music', hosted by Bishop Taylor. The primary importance of singing the parts of the Mass (especially the four acclamations - the Gospel acclamation, the Sanctus, the Memorial acclamation and the Amen) was emphasised; and that hymns, if used, should be of good quality (for example based on the words of Scripture). The Gloria and Psalm should also be sung if possible.

Issues covered included coping in the absence of a musician, speed and pitch considerations, organisational issues - practices and rotas and teaching congregations new music.

We talked about weaknesses of some Mass settings where the same melody is used throughout - should the Sanctus really be sung to the same tune as the Lamb of God? 'Paraphrases' can also be problematical, for example the Peruvian Gloria which scarcely reflects the full Gloria text.

After a short break, Les Hendren (from St John Ogilvie's in Bourtreehill) led a session on music from Advent. Music was taken from 'Veni Emmanuel' published by Decani Music, and our thanks are due to them for permission to photocopy

materials for the workshop. We went through a wide range of materials including Gathering songs, Psalms, Gospel acclamations and some miscellaneous songs. Some of the music would be very easy for congregations to learn, and some of it was harder, but in general it was 'accessible' and 'tuneful' and enjoyed by workshop participants. We were accompanied by a music group consisting of guitars, keyboard, flute and violin.

Our thanks are due to Smithstone House, once again, for their hospitality.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are planning another music ministry evening on Wednesday 7 February (again at Smithstone House). As indicated on the cover, it will include music ideas for Lent and Holy Week. There will also be a talk and discussion entitled 'What is Lent?'

The format will be similar to in November. Refreshments will be available from 6.45 pm, and the workshop will be starting promptly at 7 pm. There will be a short break half way through, and the evening will finish at 9.30 pm.

Publicity materials are enclosed - please advertise the event as widely as possible within your parish.

For those of you in Dumfries and the south of the Diocese . . . We have not forgotten you! We hope to be able to organise a Saturday event in the summer. (However, if you would prefer an evening, please let us know).

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

The Music and Worship Foundation are organising 'Presenting futures'; to be held at Gartmore House, near Stirling, from Friday 13 - Saturday 14 April 2007. It is a two day workshop for those involved in music and worship in churches of all sizes and denominations. The programme will include

- looking at what early church worship was really like, and what the lessons are for today and tomorrow
- a session for those wanting to enjoy and improve their singing, and find new material for their congregation
- a session for those wanting to understand the new music notation programs and their possibilities.

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) organise courses and workshops throughout the year across the UK. These include short choral courses and organ courses. 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.

St Mungo's Music (based at St Leo's, 5 Beech Avenue, Glasgow, G41 5BY) send out regular newsletters, and you can write and ask to be added to their mailing list. They also hold events in the Glasgow area. They will shortly be publishing a book of music for the Eucharist, in conjunction with Kevin Mayhew's.

(Independent of her role within Galloway Music Network)
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.

MUSIC SNIPPETS . . .

From the National Network of Pastoral Musicians' annual conference in 2006 held at Worth Abbey

Abbot Christopher Jamieson of TV series 'The Monastery' fame spoke to 'a group of mainly middle-aged parish musicians' (description from NNPM's own newsletter write up!) about the ways of young people today. They get meaning from life by searching for community and shared interests not so much by physical contact but by means of websites such as 'myspace'. The Second Vatican Council isn't even a memory. Fr Christopher asked 'What does this mean for liturgy?'

Fragmented parish music?

An article by Bob Hurd in the same NNPM newsletter commented on an unhealthy 'niche' approach to music in the US; with pop/rock praise music for teens, traditional choral music for the 'organ' mass, and a vaguely 60s-70s-80s pop style for the middle-aged guitar-piano assemblies. Are we in danger of doing the same in our parishes?

The karaoke machine rules

Do musicians have a role within the Catholic liturgy?! In a recent Kevin Mayhew flier for their latest hymn book, Hymns Old and New (God is Good), you can get a free copy of 'No organist? No Problem!' high-quality CD accompaniments for 200 of the most popular hymns if you buy two hundred word books sorry but the offer expired on 30 November 2006!

Galloway Music Network

Visit our website at www.gallowaymusic.net

We are (in alphabetical order)

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Galloway Music Network

MUSIC MINISTRY EVENING

Wednesday 7 February 2007
6.45 pm (for 7 pm start) - 9.30 pm
Smithstone House, Kilwinning

What is Lent?

a talk and discussion
led by Fr Stephen Motroni

and

Music ideas for
Lent and Holy Week
led by Les Hendren

Cost - £5 (to be collected at the event)

Refreshments provided

TO BOOK

Please fill in a booking form and post it to arrive by Friday 2 February. (Booking forms are available from your parish priest or parish musicians.)

Please will you pass this notice to your Parish Priest for inclusion in the bulletin (together with a copy of the booking form). Many thanks.

Bulletin notice

A music ministry event is being held on Wednesday 7 February 2007 at Smithstone House, Kilwinning, from 6.45 pm (for 7 pm start) - 9.30 pm. The first part of the evening will be a talk and discussion on 'What is Lent?' led by Fr Stephen Motroni. This will be followed by a session on music for Lent, led by Les Hendren (from Bourtreehill). Cost £5. Booking forms are available from your parish priest or parish musician.

Booking form - Music Ministry Evening

Wednesday 7 February 2007 at Smithstone House

I would like to attend this event

Name Parish

Address

Postcode Tel number

Please return this form to

Mrs Nicola Lawrence, 26 Louisa Drive, GIRVAN, Ayrshire,
KA26 9AH, tel (01465) 714797, by Friday 2 February.