

June 2007 Newsletter

Information about our annual Galloway Music Festival Mass (to be held this year on Sunday 19 August) is included in this newsletter.

You may notice that the 'feel' of the paper is slightly different from usual! We've gone 'ecological' - and printed on recycled coloured paper. (For those interested in buying some, it's Steinbeis Vision)

One last diversion before we move on to matters to do with church music - we hope you all have a really good summer!

NEWS

We had a positive meeting with Bishop Cunningham in early June to talk about what we have been doing and the impact it is having. We recognise that it is important to have the support of the diocese behind our work, which aims to support and encourage the diocese's musicians.

PAST EVENTS

Music ministry evening

Our latest evening workshop was held on Wednesday 7 February. It was intended as a follow up to November's evening when we had 39 people but, oh dear, there were only about 10 people present (mainly ourselves)!

We listened to a brief talk on Lent, and then Les Hendren (from St John Ogilvie's in Bourtreehill) shared new music ideas for Lent and Holy Week (taken from 'Resurrexit'). We went through a wide range of excellent materials. Our thanks are due to Decani Music for permission to photocopy materials for the workshop, and to Smithstone House for their hospitality.

So where were you? We had a good evening, and we're sure people would have enjoyed it? Any feedback you can give us which will help us in meeting your needs when planning future events would be greatly appreciated.

FUTURE EVENTS

Galloway Music Festival Mass

As indicated on the cover, our annual Galloway Music Festival Mass will be held on Sunday 19 August at 2.30 pm, at Smithstone House, and this will be our eighth 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. We will again be singing the virtually unknown Kyrie and Lamb of God from James MacMillan's St Anne's Mass. 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!

Retreat day for musicians

We recognise that it is valuable for people involved on a

regular basis in parish liturgy to go on regular retreats for refreshment and renewal. We are therefore trying to arrange something in this line, and it will probably be on a Saturday in the autumn. Do you think this is a good idea, and would you like to attend such an event?

South of the Diocese

Dumfries and the South of the Diocese - we have not forgotten you! We made initial attempts to organise an event in June, but were defeated by dates, other commitments etc. We will keep trying. To make sure you don't 'miss out' we were thinking of presenting half the day in a similar format to the two recent evenings on music for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, but were going to base it on materials in the general hymn book published by Decani Music, Laudate. We haven't reached a firm decision for the rest of the day, but are open to and would welcome suggestions from you.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

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. In the next few months they are hosting

- Dunblane Singing Break, at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, from 16 - 19 July and led by Gordon Appleton.
- Voice for Life Workshop, at Giffnock United Reformed Church, 2 - 4 pm on Saturday 22 September, led by Nicola Corbishley and Drummond McNicol. (For more information about the 'Voice for Life' scheme, visit the RSCM web site).

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.

(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. They have a web site at www.ssg.org.uk.

- The Society of St Gregory Liturgy and Music Summer School, 'Becoming the Body of Christ: Community and Mission', is being held from 30 July to 3 August at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.

BOOKS (AND OTHER) RESOURCES

**The Singing Thing too
Enabling Congregations To Sing
John L Bell**

Like all John Bell's writings, the book is easy and enjoyable to read. Of particular help are the suggestions for teaching new music to congregations, who may or may not want to be engaged! . . . including the use of humming, singing to 'la', and 'signing' new music to show how and when the melody rises and falls.

A very interesting later chapter looks at how we accompany hymns, and the very different methods that could be effectively used for materials from different ages, from different places, and of differing styles.

Music for the Eucharist Settings from Scotland St Mungo Music

Gerry Fitzpatrick writes in the introduction to this book that 'there is something awesome and almost overwhelmingly beautiful in being present at Mass when priest and people are able to participate fully, consciously and actively in song'. This book provides settings of the Eucharistic Acclamations and lots of material for the Communion Rite to help churches achieve this - they are tuneful, attractive and straightforward. The authors and composers are all from Scotland and the Scottish 'flavour' is evident throughout. There is plenty of material for all to enjoy.

However, it is sad that the 'popular' hymn books often contain so little appropriate material for singing Mass parts, and while this book is to be commended for achieving this, it would be good if we could find more of this kind of musical setting in our hymn books.

HymnQuest 2007

HymnQuest 2007 is a tool to help you search the contents of hymn books, and find texts for use in worship. You can also hear the opening phrases to thousands of tunes. The software is comprehensive and apparently has the backing of almost all the major publishers and copyright administrators in Britain. Annual updates are published. There are two versions, a Standard Version and a Copyright Licence Users' Edition. Find out more by visiting the web site at www.hymnquest.com. A free 'trial' version may be available.

MUSIC (AND OTHER) SNIPPETS . . .

or an excuse for some jokes

It was a glorious warm Sunday afternoon, and a family were about to enjoy a barbeque. However, the two wee boys were fighting over who should get the first beefburger. Mum said, 'If Jesus were here, he would say, "I'm happy to wait until other people have had theirs"'. The older boy said to the younger 'You be Jesus'

A little girl was heard praying 'Lord, if you can't make Mummy a better cantor, don't worry about it. Now, I go to the children's liturgy, I don't have to listen to her sing the psalm.'

'Daddy, why can't we sing *Go the Mass is ended* at the start of Mass'? Daddy replied; 'Why'? The answer, 'Then we could get home quicker'.

Galloway Music Network

Visit our website at www.gallowaymusic.net

We are (in alphabetical order)

Marguerite Crolla, 43 Darnley Crescent,
Troon, KA10 6JH, tel 01292 319754

Sheila Ford, 33b North Shore Road,
Troon, KA10 6QZ, 01292 317795

Rosina Gordon, 109 Sophia Crescent,
Irvine, KA12 9BW, tel 01294 277655

Les Hendren, 21 Gigha Crescent, Broomlands,
Irvine, KA11 1DH, tel 01294 218704

Nicola Lawrence, 26 Louisa Drive,
Girvan, KA26 9AH, tel 01465 714797

Michael McCulloch, 17 George Aitken Court, Park View,
Ardrossan, KA22 7DD, tel 07747 800067

Margaret McGrath, 9 South Hamilton Street,
Kilmarnock, KA1 2DW, tel 01563 542130

Father Stephen Motroni, Smithstone House, Dalry Road,
Kilwinning, KA13 6PL, tel 01294 552515

Margaret Sharkey, 12 Murray Avenue,
Saltcoats, KA21 6DA, tel 01294 601435