

# October 2007 Newsletter

The Galloway Music Festival Mass was a great success this year (with more people than ever attending) and there's a fuller report inside the front cover.

We're going to try something new this autumn - a retreat day for church musicians. 'And God said . . . chill!' It will be held on Saturday 10 November, and again, read on for more information.

## PAST EVENTS

### Galloway Music Festival Mass

Unfortunately we didn't make it in the Scottish Catholic Observer this year, but the eighth of these Masses was held on Sunday 19 August in the grounds of Smithstone House.

The day before was memorable as perhaps the wettest day so far in 2007, but despite a grey and cold start on the Sunday morning things improved and conditions were almost ideal - it was neither too hot nor too cold, and only slightly windy!

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Taylor and Fr Stephen McGrattan to celebrate the Mass along with Fr Stephen Motroni from Smithstone House. Musicians included a keyboard player, two guitarists, a flautist, a violinist and a tambourinist. The St Anne's Mass by James MacMillan was interspersed with very different hymns and instrumental music, and Scottish music (Highland Cathedral) during the presentation of the gifts.

There were about seventy people present from different parishes, and some of these served as readers and special ministers of Holy Communion.

At the end of the Mass we processed singing a Taizé chant to Smithstone House's new labyrinth (with Stations of the Cross), and this was blessed by Bishop Taylor.

There will shortly be photographs from the Mass on our website - visit [www.gallowaymusic.net](http://www.gallowaymusic.net).

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **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 pleased that Fr Stephen Latham (from St Joseph's, Kilmarnock) will lead a day for us on Saturday 10 November at Smithstone House. The title for the day is 'And God said . . . . chill!' Amongst other things, we will be looking at the commandment to seek proper peace, relaxation and rest. Everyone involved in parish music is welcome, including cantors, instrumentalists, choir members and organists.

Publicity materials are enclosed (a poster, booking form and bulletin notice).

The day will start at 10.30 am (with coffee available from 10 am) and will finish by 3.30 pm.

### **South of the Diocese**

Dumfries and the South of the Diocese - we have not forgotten you! We are going to host a day on Saturday 19 January in St Andrew's, Dumfries, which will include music resources for Lent and Easter. (Easter is very early next year.) There will also be a talk by Fr Stephen Motroni.

We will be sending out another newsletter before Christmas which will contain fuller information and publicity materials.

## 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](http://www.rscm.com). In the next few months they are hosting (in Scotland)

- Perth singing day, Saturday 3 November, from 2 pm at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. Led by Richard Walmsley, Director of Music. The music will include 'Zadok the Priest' by Handel.

If you want to go further afield, there are courses for organists in Salisbury (25 - 28 March 2008) and York (16 - 19 June 2008). There are young people's courses in East Yorkshire (25 - 28 March 2008) and Bath (18 - 24 August 2008). Their international summer school is 11 - 17 August 2008 in Canterbury.

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.

The Music and Worship Foundation (mwf) are holding a workshop on planning and leading all-age worship from 10 am - 4.30 pm on Saturday 3 November at the Renfield Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow. The event is aimed more at people from non-Catholic denominations, but will cover the principles and practicalities behind informal and all-age worship. For more information about mwf visit [www.mwf.org.uk](http://www.mwf.org.uk).

## BOOKS (AND OTHER) RESOURCES

**Music in Catholic Worship and Liturgical Music Today**  
**Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy -**  
**National Conference of Catholic Bishops (USA)**

Music in Catholic Worship was published in July 1972, and has greatly assisted renewal of the liturgy, particularly within the USA. The companion document, Liturgical Music Today was issued ten years later.

Both these documents are widely referred to in liturgy text books, and both have much to say that is relevant and practical all over the western world (even though now slightly 'dated' and American in outlook). They contain guidance and a common sense approach. Similar documents in the UK would have been helpful in the post Second Vatican Council years, and had such things existed much grief and anguish may have been avoided.

If you would like to borrow these documents and read them yourself, contact Nicola.

## YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

### Charles Wesley

December marks the tercentenary (300 years!) of Charles Wesley's birth. There are about 70 million Methodists worldwide (290,000 in the UK) and Charles Wesley is remembered as co-founder, with his elder brother John, of the Methodist movement. However, his chief legacy is probably his hymns. It is estimated that he wrote between

7,000 and 10,000 hymns, one every couple of days throughout his adult life. These include 'Hark, the herald angels sing' and 'Love divine, all loves excelling'.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century hymns often used secular tunes, and for the working classes were the primary means by which church members learnt Christian doctrine and grew in faith.

## Bunessan

A review of a hymn tune rather than a hymn itself? The reason - Bunessan is used for many hymns - most commonly for Catholics these are 'Morning has broken', 'Child in the manger', 'This day God gives me' and 'Christ be beside me'. Also, the words for most (if not all) of these are in copyright, and so we are unable to reproduce them here!

For many people, though, the tune of a hymn can be more important than the words. The Gaelic melody comes from a Gaelic collection published in 1900, 'Macbean's Songs and Hymns of the Gael'. The tune 'Bunessan' is named after a small village on Mull. The first text set to it was 'Child in the manger'. 'Morning has broken' was recorded by Cat Stevens in the 1970s.

Perhaps because of Cat Stevens' hit, and because it was used a lot in schools in the 1960s/70s/80s, 'Morning has broken', has become a favourite hymn for weddings, and so much so that some specific 'wedding' hymns have been written to the tune, 'Bunessan'. Examples include 'Lord of all loving' by Averil Norton (417 in Laudate), 'We bless the God and Father' by Stephen Smyth (in Music for Celebrating Marriage by St Mungo Music) and 'Be our chief guest, Lord'.

Perhaps a comment about speed (especially for those of us who are fast accompanists). 'Morning has broken' can go quite

quickly; but if you are using other words (for example 'This day God gives us' - a bit of a tongue twister) you need to play it a bit more slowly as it can be impossible for singers to fit the words in if it's fast!

## **MUSIC (AND OTHER) SNIPPETS . . .**

Perhaps this church didn't like its organist . . . .

The BBC web site posted an article on 27 September entitled 'Thieves escape with church organ'. Apparently an organ worth £60,000 was stolen from a Lanarkshire church. It is believed to have been taken by two men driving a white van, who parked in the church driveway. The police have described it as a highly unusual theft.

Perhaps it wasn't the church that didn't like the organist, perhaps the organist wished to be relieved of his/her duties . . .

And a question and answer . . . .

Question: Why do the Church's rubrics not condemn some of the things parishes do/include in celebrations which are clearly not good liturgy?

Answer: Because the writers of the rubrics never imagined or envisaged some of the inappropriate ideas that have been dreamed up!

# Galloway Music Network

*Visit our website at [www.gallowaymusic.net](http://www.gallowaymusic.net)*

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