

November 2007 Newsletter

We are pleased to welcome to our committee Fr Stephen McGrattan who is parish priest of Our Lady and St Cuthbert's, Maybole, and St Ann's Mossblown. He has been organist in St-Peter-in Chains, Ardrossan and the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, the seminary where he trained for the priesthood. Fr Stephen has a long standing interest in liturgical music and encourages the communities where he ministers to use song and music well to lift people in prayer.

Look inside for a write up of our recent retreat day.

PAST EVENTS

Retreat day for musicians

A group of sixteen gathered at Smithstone House on Saturday 10 November, not quite knowing what was going to be ahead of us!

The theme of the day was 'And God said chill!' During the first session Fr Stephen Latham introduced this theme and the principles of Sabbath rest. After coffee, we celebrated Mass in the chapel at Smithstone House.

After lunch, we went for a 'prayer walk' - which could be described as prayer in motion, walking calmly and confidently with an openness to God's revelation. After sharing our experiences of this, we finished the day with a concluding liturgy.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Music Ministry Day, St Andrew's Dumfries,
Saturday 19 January**

Most of the day will be spent looking at music for Lent and Easter, and this will be led by Les Hendren (from Bourtreehill). We will also enjoy a talk and discussion on 'What is Lent?' led by Fr Stephen Motroni.

The cost will be £10. Publicity materials are enclosed (a poster, booking form and bulletin notice).

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.

(For those looking for a holiday!) 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.

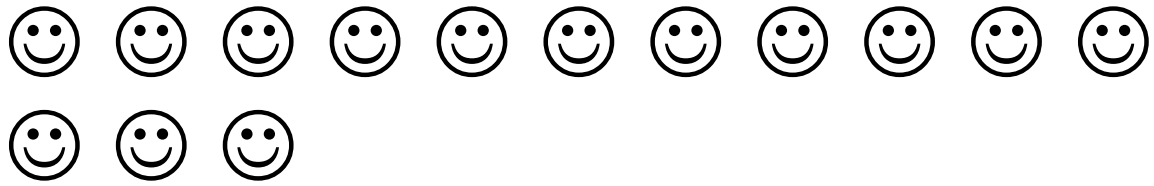
St Mungo's Music (based at St Leo's, 5 Beech Avenue, Glasgow, G41 5BY) send out regular newsletters, and you can write and ask to be added to their mailing list. They also hold events in the Glasgow area. The St Mungo Music Catalogue has been revised and is available from Mary Bradley at St Leo's.

The 7th National Network of Pastoral Musicians' conference is being held next July at Worth Abbey. Information can be obtained from Jennifer Burridge on 01792 775598 or e-mail jeni_burridge@yahoo.co.uk.

Visit www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk (or www.wgrg.co.uk) for information about the 'holy city' events enabled by the Wild Goose Resource Group. These look at issues that are shaping global contemporary life and faith; they focus on the realities of choice, lifestyle, personal agenda and the relevance of faith for today.

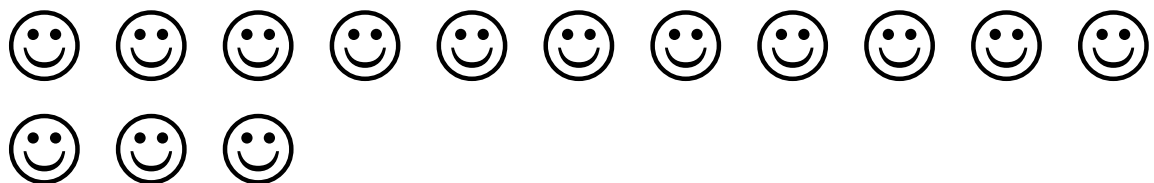
The Wild Goose Resource Group continue to publish a range of materials. They are currently offering WGRG cassettes at the bargain price of £1 only. Ideal as stocking fillers for Christmas! Contact 0141 332 6343 for more information or e-mail wgrg@iona.org.uk.

A SUCCESS STORY

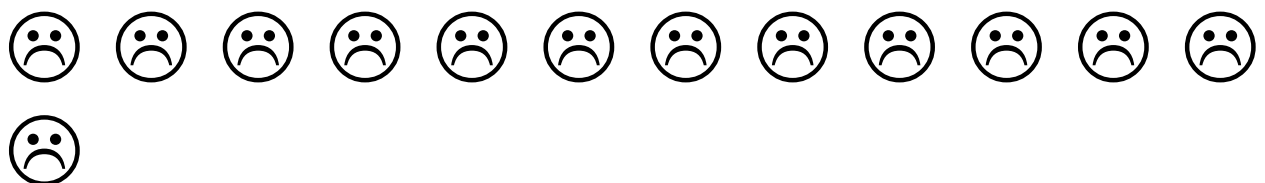


Les Hendren has been assisting with the music at St Ann's, Mossblown. Over a period of four weeks, Les led a midweek singing practice to introduce new material and to strengthen familiar repertoire, and also came along to Mass on Sunday morning to help lead the congregation into greater participation. Ken, the resident guitarist, and all of the choir, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Many young people were encouraged to join the choir and the group now has a new secondary school aged guitarist. Altogether an all round success story!

Is this kind of input something other parishes could benefit from?



FOR THOSE OF US FEELING LESS SUCCESSFUL . . .



Remember that criticism can 'cancel itself out'! You are therefore perfect!

Remember that

- for every person who tells you your playing is too slow, there will be someone who tells you it is too fast
- for every person who tells you the hymns are too 'high', there will be someone who tells you they are too 'low'
- for every person who tells you the organ is too loud, there will be someone who tells you it is too soft
- for everyone who says you have the same hymns each week, someone will complain that there is too much new music

but

- for every person who tells you that you are a 'distraction' by moving music around and opening and closing books, prove them right by throwing a hymn book at them!



YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

Advent is approaching, so we thought we'd write about what is probably the best known Advent hymn.

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
- 3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
- 5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Seven antiphons were sung in the medieval Roman Church at Vespers before and after the Magnificat, just prior to Christmas (starting on 17 December). Each of these began with the word 'O' and so they were called the 'Great' or 'O' antiphons. The word antiphon means a psalm or anthem.

The Biblical references to the five that are included in this hymn are

Emmanuel	Isaiah 7 v 14
Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11 v 10
Dayspring	Malachi 4 v 2
Key of David	Isaiah 22 v 22
O Lord (Adonai)	Exodus 3 v 15

The refrain 'rejoice, rejoice' was added. The hymn is

thought to date from the twelfth century. The text was translated by John Mason Neale (1818 - 1866). Neale was ordained into the Anglican ministry in 1841, but poor health and Catholic leanings (he was influenced by the Oxford movement) prevented him from gaining a parish ministry. He was appointed instead as the director of Sackville College, a home for elderly men. This was ideal for him as he was a compassionate man, but also a scholar in need of time for research and writing. He also wrote or translated other hymns including 'Good King Wenceslas', 'Good Christian men, rejoice' and 'All glory, laud and honour'. The tune 'Veni Emmanuel' is from a French missal.

A modern hymn, based on the 'O' Antiphons, is 'O Wisdom, source of harmony' (found at Liturgical Hymns Old and New 566). The words are by Damian Lundy. They are set to the folk tune 'O Waly Waly', but could also be sung to 'Old 100th' (the tune for 'All people that on earth do dwell').

Galloway Music Network

Visit our website at www.gallowaymusic.net

We are (in alphabetical order)

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