

# February 2008 Newsletter

Our recent music day in Dumfries gave us an opportunity to renew acquaintances, and it was good to get to the south end of the Diocese again.

We are planning another event in April at St Margaret's Cathedral, led by Noel Donnelly, so look inside for more details.

If you would like us to organise an event at your church, and feel able to provide a comfortable room and refreshments, please let us know. The more places we can visit, the more accessible our music ministry days will be!

**PAST EVENTS**

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

Although we were low in number, this was a successful day, enjoyed by everyone. Les Hendren led us in an inspirational day looking at music for Lent and Easter, and we all went home with new ideas which we hope to try out in our parishes in the not too distant future! We also listened to a talk on Lent by Fr Stephen Motroni.

We are very grateful to St Andrew's Church for hosting this event.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Music Ministry Day, St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr Saturday 12 April

We are very pleased that this will be led by Noel Donnelly, who last led a day for us as long ago as 2001!

We will be looking at music for the Liturgy of the Word and for the Eucharist, and adding a little plainsong to the mix! The day will end with sung Vespers of Our Lady.

Noel has been actively involved in Catholic music for many years and is well known as a composer and liturgist. Some of his best known compositions (that are in Liturgical Hymns Old and New) include

- 222 Come to me and I shall give you rest
- 377 I, the Servant-Lord
- 386 I will walk in the presence of God
- 629 Spirit hovering o'er the waters
- 631 Springs of water, bless the Lord

In addition, he has written an extensive repertoire of 'song' settings of the psalms, many in 'In the name of God' published by St Mungo's Music. The 'Celtic Invocation' (Christ be near at either hand) is also in these books.

Noel has chosen the apt title 'Singing of God's love: Keeping up to date with the past'. 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> National Network of Pastoral Musicians' conference is being held next July at Worth Abbey. Information can be obtained from Jennifer Burrridge on 01792 775598 or e-mail [jeni\\_burrridge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jeni_burrridge@yahoo.co.uk).

Visit [www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk) (or [www.wgrg.co.uk](http://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 also continue to publish a range of materials. Contact 0141 332 6343 for more information or e-mail [wgrg@iona.org.uk](mailto:wgrg@iona.org.uk).

## BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

### Publications by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

A holiday to Canada a few years back brought back a copy of 'Catholic Book of Worship III'. This is a hymn book (the third in a series) for use by Catholic churches within Canada, published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. It contains lectionary music, music for the Eucharist, and hymns, psalms and canticles; much of it known in the UK, but some of it unfamiliar to us. It is interesting to see the differences in approach between a publication designed by the Bishops to meet the needs of the church, and the publications we use in the UK, where commercial interests play a larger part in what is produced.

A holiday to Canada at the end of last year brought back a copy of 'A companion to the Catholic Book of Worship III'. Again published by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, this contains guidelines for liturgical music. The contents include chapters on the role of music in the liturgy, the ministers of music, music during the Sunday liturgy, and guidance for selecting music for the various parts of the liturgical year, the sacraments, and other rites. At the end of the book, suggested music choices are listed from the associated hymn book.

Although small sections refer specifically to Canada and Canadian culture, the book is well worth reading and contains a great deal of practical help and guidance.

## YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

Lent is very early this year, so following our Advent hymn in November's newsletter, we thought it appropriate to consider something suitable for Lent.

### O sacred head sore wounded

The (German) text of this hymn, based on the 'Salve caput cruentatum', was written by Paul Gerhardt (1607 - 1676).

There are various translations in various hymn books. Two of these appear in Liturgical Hymns Old and New at numbers 551 and 552.

The music (Passion Chorale) is a traditional secular melody from Hans Leo Hassler's 'Lustgarten neuer teutscher Gesäng', 1601 and was harmonised by J S Bach.

The original Latin poem, sometimes ascribed to Bernard of Clairvaux, or possibly by Arnulf von Loewen, consisted of seven parts on the suffering Saviour. The verses beginning 'Salve caput cruentatum' were the seventh section. The poem was an example of a 'crucifix hymn' and used for long intense meditation while kneeling at the altar.

The words we use (whichever version) have been translated from two different languages, yet still retain the intensity of the original Latin.

Bach used the music (Passion Chorale) in his St Matthew Passion.

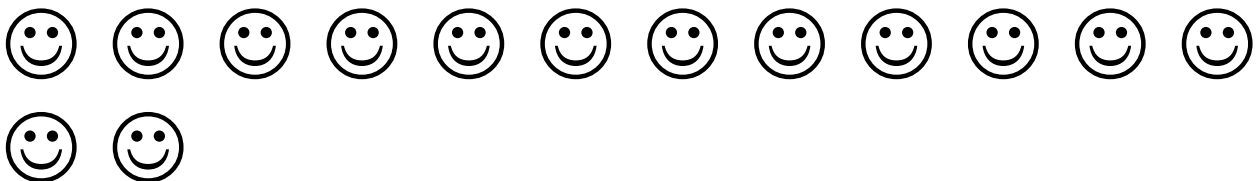
## MUSIC (AND OTHER) SNIPPETS . . .

Last week the BBC web site revealed that a major record label, Universal Music, is on the lookout for a group of monks to record an album of Gregorian chants.

In fact the opportunity is open to 'monks, men of the cloth and sacred singers' and advertisements have since appeared in the religious press, including The Tablet. Interested parties are being asked to send in audition tapes.

Most of us will remember that Gregorian chant had some chart successes in the 1990s. Maybe being a church musician is an opportunity to become a millionaire after all!

Apparently one group from Scotland has already responded.



## Galloway Music Network

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

*We are (in alphabetical order)*

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