

April 2009 Newsletter

Here's hoping you've all had an enjoyable Easter, and that all the hard work that went into parish music preparations resulted in memorable and rewarding celebrations.

Regrettably, Margaret Sharkey has resigned from the Galloway Music Network committee due to the pressure of other commitments, and we wish to thank Margaret for her much valued contribution over the years; she will be greatly missed.

Information about our annual Galloway Music Festival Mass (to be held this year on Sunday 16 August) is included in this newsletter - we hope to see you there And we also hope to see you on Sunday 31 May, and there's more about that inside Have a good summer!

A FREE MAGAZINE

We're pleased to be enclosing with this newsletter a complimentary copy of 'Different Voices' - a new magazine which describes itself as 'a new quarterly about music and worship in the Scottish churches'. The editorial board is the Music Panel of the Church of Scotland, but the magazine would be of interest to musicians working in any denomination, and there are consulting editors from the different churches.

The magazine enclosed is the third edition, and in each so far there have been an interesting mix of articles by leading names in church music, factual/informative pages, contact information for organisations etc. If you want to subscribe on an ongoing basis, see page 43.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Vespers for Pentecost

Galloway Music Network are involved in preparations for Sung Vespers to be held in St Margaret's Cathedral on Sunday 31 May. More details about this are being sent out direct to all parishes via their priests.

Singing the Mass

Another 'Singing the Mass' event was held in Our Lady of Lourdes and St Patrick, Auchinleck on Saturday 14 February. The church was full (nothing of course to do with the scheduled football match on Sunday!) and the music provided for the Vigil Mass was much appreciated (except for the occasional comment that the hymns were too fast . . .).

A group of singers and instrumentalists had met for lunch, and then spent the afternoon preparing for the Mass. It was

particularly pleasing to have several solo singers who were able to lead the psalm and processional hymns. We learnt some new hymns and new parts of the Mass, descants to well known music, and tried some four part harmony.

Our thanks are due to Auchinleck parish for hosting this event. We intend to continue arranging 'Singing the Mass' events and if any other parishes would like to host one please let us know. We expect that the next will be held in St John Ogilvie's in Irvine on Saturday 19 September, but there will be more about this in the next newsletter.

Galloway Music Festival Mass

Our tenth annual (open air) Galloway Music Festival Mass will be held at 2.30 pm on Sunday 16 August at Smithstone House. 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 is available, 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.

We will be preparing a list of music as in past years - if you would like a copy of this please contact Nicola. 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.

Please invite your Parish Priest to concelebrate the Mass. Bring a picnic for after!

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In brief, and in no particular order

The Society of St Gregory's Liturgy and Music Summer School is being held from 3 - 7 August at St Gabriels's Conference Centre, Ditchingham, Norfolk. For more information, visit www.ssg.org.uk.

Forth in Praise, the music advisory group of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh e-mail regular organists' newsletters, as well as more general newsletters for parish musicians. They have a new website at www.forthinpraise.co.uk.

The National Network of Pastoral Musicians have a vacancy for a (volunteer) Scottish Area Secretary

The RSCM's Triennial (3-yearly) festival is being held at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on 6 June. The music will celebrate St Columba and will include music by Haydn, Leighton and local composer Norman Nicholson. For more information contact Pat Lynch on 01620 892228 or pat@rscmscotland.org. The RSCM now send out a free e-mail newsletter - visit www.rscm.com for more information.

The Argyll and the Isles Diocesan Choir are going to Salamanca from 3 - 10 September, staying at the Royal Scots College. They are hoping to be able to give public recitals of Scottish liturgical music as well as enjoying tours to Avila and Segovia.

The Liturgy Office (for England and Wales) publish regular liturgy newsletters - for more information visit their web site at www.liturgyoffice.org.uk. This web site also contains much other useful information relevant for parish musicians and other ministers involved in liturgy.

THE NAME OF GOD

At the end of June last year the Congregation for Divine Worship sent out to Bishops' Conferences directives on the use of Hebrew Tetragrammaton - YHWH (Yahweh or Jehovah) in the liturgy. Bishop Arthur Roche, the Chairman of the Department for Christian Life and Worship of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has since issued a statement. In it, he welcomes the attention the Congregation has given to the due reverence we owe to the name of God, and also notes that the use of Yahweh is highly offensive to the Jewish people.

Bishop Roche observes that the name is found in some liturgical songs, and parishes in England and Wales are asked to either omit or amend any such texts. The term is also to be avoided in composed texts such as the prayer of the faithful.

In the popular hymn, 'Yahweh, I know you are near', a suitable alternative may be 'Lord God, I know you are near'.

A BOOK AND A CD

'Guide for Music Ministers'
by Jennifer Kerr Breedlove and Paul Turner

This book is part of the Liturgical Ministry Series Published by Liturgy Training Publications (Chicago). This is a short and easily readable book covering all aspects of music ministry; including chapters on theology and history of music ministry, the spirituality and formation of music ministers and serving as music ministers.

'The Priests'

This CD was released just before Christmas, and rapidly became a 'best seller'. It contains (mainly) sacred music sung by three Irish priests, Fr Eugene O'Hagen, Fr Martin O'Hagen and Fr David Delargy. 'The Priests' are giving a concert in Glasgow on Tuesday 16 June at Clyde Auditorium. Doors open at 7 pm and tickets can be obtained from www.livenation.co.uk.

MUSIC (AND OTHER) SNIPPETS

Are you suffering from stress and anxiety? Is church music driving you to distraction? If so, in the words of a church bulletin, *'Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help'*.

On a related topic a small boy pointed to the list of names on a war memorial in the church porch and asked the priest what it was. He replied that they were the names of the people who had died in the service. The boy was very worried - and asked, 'Was that the Vigil Mass or the Sunday morning Mass?'

And some further quotes from church bulletins:

'Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale - a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.'

'At a recent Mass a soloist sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the assembled faithful.'

'At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early, and listen to our choir practise'

Love your neighbour as yourself *'Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community, smile at someone who is hard to love, and say 'hell' to someone who doesn't like you.'*

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