

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

1 April 2002

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We hope that your Easter celebrations have gone well, and look forward to seeing you at some of the events we have planned for the summer.

FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The publicity material for the day at Smithstone House (20 April) was sent out with the last newsletter, and bookings are beginning to arrive. If you would like another copy of the poster, bulletin notice or booking form, please contact Nicola.

We enclose publicity materials for the day being organised in Dumfries on 18 May. In the morning we will look at accompanying the parts of the Mass on the guitar, and try out some new hymns with a Scottish flavour. This will be led by Michael McCulloch. After lunch, we will have an informal workshop sharing what we do in our parishes in small groups, and we will end with a workshop on music for children (for use during the year and for special occasions) which will be led by Christine and George Gardner from Darvel. Please will you let your Parish Priest know about this event (and priests are very welcome to attend).

This year's Galloway Music Festival Mass will be on Sunday 18 August at 2.30 pm at Smithstone House in Kilwinning. There will be the usual rehearsal beforehand. More about this, and the music selected, in the next newsletter.

And finally a reminder of the workshop booked with Rev John L Bell of the Wild Goose Resource Group on Saturday 26 October 2002. John is a very good and much sought after speaker and we hope for a good attendance!

OTHER MUSIC EVENTS AND COURSES

As notified in the last newsletter, the National Network of Parish Musicians are organising 'Crossing Borders, Coming Home' in Newman College, Birmingham from 25 - 28 July 2002. There is a full programme being organised, with participation from John Bell, Marty Haughen, Jaime Cortez, Marian Tolley, Christopher Walker, Bernadette Farrell, Paul Inwood, Richard Hubbard, Andrew Maries, Stephen Dean and Bill Tamblyn. There will also be a concert to raise funds for the refugee charity, Restore. For more information, contact Sue Dean on 01638 716579.

The Royal School of Church Music have a programme of events for March - October 2002, held at locations around the UK. A copy of this can be obtained from Cleveland Lodge, Westhumble, Dorking Surrey, RH5 6BW, tel 01306 872800. The only event we discovered in Scotland seems to be a singing break for adult singers from 15 - 18 July in Dunblane.

St Andrews University has its annual organ school this year from 4 - 11 August, costing £429. There is also a choral week from 28 July - 4 August, also £429. The university has a well established Scottish Certificate/Diploma in Church Musicianship, a distance learning qualification in organ and choral music. Contact 01334 462226.

PAST EVENTS

Nicola attended a music day led by Stephen Dean in Edinburgh in January. The main focus was worship from Lent to Pentecost. The emphasis was on enabling congregations to gather and operate as a real community in worship at this key time of the church's year. There was an impressive and useful display of books, CDs and worship aids from Decani, Wild Goose and St Mungo's publications.

SCOTS SCHEME

To remind you, this is an (ecumenical) scheme which aims to help improve the skills of church organists whatever their level of ability and to encourage others to take up the instrument. Each participant is linked with an Adviser of some experience who monitors progress and provides encouragement. Special training days are held in different parts of the country. The scheme has three stages, and you enter at the stage which best suits your needs, and progress at your own speed. When you complete each stage you are presented with a certificate.

For more information, an application form, and a copy of the syllabus contact Robin Bell, 89 Robertson Road, Cupar, KA15 5YR, tel 01334 650073. The Roman Catholic contact is Mrs Evelyn Stell, Beechmount, Borrowstoun Road, Bo'ness, EH51 9RS, tel 01506 510366.

HYMN SURVEY

So far we have twelve responses and we are very pleased with this! However, we are hopeful that we will receive a few more yet, and this should result in some interesting statistics and new ideas for everyone. If you still have forms, please will you complete them and either post them in or give them to us at the Kilwinning or Dumfries events. We will make 18 May the final date for submitting these forms and let you know the results of the survey with the newsletter we will be posting in June.

MUSIC CONTACTS

A list of parish music contacts is enclosed. Please will you check your own entries and let Nicola know if there are any mistakes, or if your entry has changed. Please will you also sneak a look at the entries for your neighbouring parishes, and 'whistleblow' on them if their information has changed and they haven't let us know!

MUSICIANS WHO CAN STAND IN FOR OTHERS

We have still had little reponse to our attempt to compile a list of musicians who would be able to stand in for others at weekends, and who would also be able to play at other churches for weddings and funerals. Perhaps this is because you are all too busy in your own parishes!

However, if you are ever in difficulties finding cover, the following core group members may be able to help you out.

Michael McCulloch

sometimes available for Saturday vigil, Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings
plays guitar
lives in Ardrossan - is prepared to travel an hour in any direction to help out.

Nicola Lawrence

sometimes available for Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings
plays organ and piano
lives in Girvan - is prepared to travel an hour in any direction to help out
would be available to help for weddings and funerals.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Pastoral Music in Practice 5 - The Pastoral Musician (edited by Virgil C Funk)

This book contains ten articles, which explore the multidimensional role of the pastoral musical as artist, minister, educator and team member. The articles also consider how the music minister can grow as a person, as a Christian, and as a servant of the assembly. As you will probably have guessed, the book is American (published by the Pastoral Press) but it still makes interesting and encouraging reading. It is available from Decani Music, 30 North Terrace, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 7AB, tel 01638 716579.

TO CONCLUDE . . . SPREADING THE MESSAGE

As ever, we welcome any suggestions for what the core group should be doing, and ways in which we can support and promote music. We hope very much to see you at one of the forthcoming events or to hear from you.

If you have other musicians in your own parish who would like a copy of this newsletter, please copy it for them - or direct them to the web site to read it (www.gallowaymusic.net). Please also show newsletters to your Parish Priest so that he is aware of the activities the core group is involved in.

If you are receiving this newsletter, and you are no longer involved in music in your parish, please will you let Nicola know so that the mailing list can be updated.

With best wishes

The Music Core Group

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group
www.gallowaymusic.net

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George Gardner, 8 Mairs Road, Darvel, KA17 0LA	Tel 01560 322257
Margaret McGrath, 9 South Hamilton Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 2DW	Tel 01563 542130
Nicola Lawrence, 26 Louisa Drive, Girvan, KA26 9AH	Tel 01465 714797
Michael McCulloch, 17 George Aitken Court, Park View, Ardrossan, KA22 7DD	Tel 01294 604517
George McKeand, 5 Greenside, Irvine, KA11 1LP	Tel 01294 214837
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