

Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group

26 August 2002

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

We hope that you've all had a good summer (apart from the weather!)

Our third annual Galloway Music Festival Mass was held on Sunday 18 August at Smithstone House, Kilwinning. Last year it drizzled a little and we were unsure whether the weather would hold out - this year we were in no doubt as it was pouring down when we arrived at Smithstone House! We therefore set up inside. There were plenty of musicians including about seven guitars, keyboard and two violins. A mandolin and bagpipes also made appearances at times!

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Con Botter, and he was joined by Stephen McGrattan from Ardrossan (who will be ordained next year). Local parishes helped by providing readers, leading the bidding prayers, taking the collection and serving as Eucharistic ministers.

Despite the weather, we were pleased that there were over fifty people altogether!

FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rev John L Bell - 26 October 2002

'Full, active and conscious' - these words from the documents of the Second Vatican Council have had an abiding affect on the reform of the liturgy, not just of the Roman Catholic Church, but of other churches in its wake.

For many, Mass in the vernacular and a higher profile of lay leadership have been indicative of the major changes. But, in many cases, how the congregation in its singing fulfils the expectations of the Council has yet to be realised.

Over the past 15 years, John Bell and his colleagues in the Wild Goose Worship Group, which is a project of the Iona Community, have been working with Roman Catholic Dioceses in Great Britain, but more particularly in North America and Australia, to develop the song of the people.

During the day we will explore the reasons why people sing and the ways in which an assembly is encouraged to offer its full voice in the liturgy.

John will also allude to the roots of the music and worship which comes from the Iona Community and which has been taken up by major Christian traditions throughout the English speaking world and beyond.

Publicity materials (posters, booking forms, and bulletin notices) are enclosed. Since John is such a sought after speaker we want as many people as possible to be given the opportunity to attend. We are therefore asking for payment to be made at the time of booking so that we will know for sure how many people we are expecting, and we will send confirmations that bookings have been

received. The maximum number that Smithstone House can host is 50. If you have any friends who would like to be there, please let us know, they are very welcome.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

A Christian Resources Exhibition is being held at the Royal Highland Centre, adjacent to Edinburgh International Airport, on 3, 4 and 5 October. There will be around two hundred organisations attending offering advice and resources in all areas of Christian ministry (including music) . There is also a comprehensive seminar programme offering training workshops and lectures on a wide range of topics and issues relevant to the church today.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The praise and worship team instant tune-up - by Doug and Tami Flather

This is an easily readable, practical (American) book. The following adaptation from the book's own introduction is a good description of its contents -

‘This book assumes you are already involved in a praise and worship ministry. It also assumes you sometimes feel frustrated, guilty, or unorganized. . . . It has been our observation that this is mostly because people lack some of the organizational, musical and/or leadership skills necessary to do a good job. If that describes you, this book will help you in those areas.

In this book you will find musical and leadership tips, tools, and tricks of the trade from the professionals that you can adapt and begin using right now. The book contains plenty of short, right-to-the-point advice, as well as lengthier sections. Some of the things won't apply to you, but most of them will. It is probable that you won't agree with everything in this book, which is okay. Wherever you are on the musical skills continuum, you are sure to find ideas and resources that can have a real impact on your ministry.’

A COMPETITION!

The Dr William Baird Ross Trust was established in 1965 to encourage the study of church music by offering a prize every third year for a composition in church music. This year a prize of £500 is offered. Entrants may choose between writing a setting (in harmony or unison, accompanied or unaccompanied) of a sixteenth century Scots carol ‘All sons of Adam’ or a setting for treble line and organ of Jubilate Deo.

The closing date is 30 September. For more information contact Dr Philip W Ross, The Old Yard, 38 High Street, Pittenweem, Fife, KY10 2PL.

FOR THOSE WHO LIKE SURFING THE WEB . . .

Accord (the newsletter of the National Network of Pastoral Musicians) has listed a selection of websites with information on worship and music.

www.nnpm.org.uk
www.decanimusic.co.uk
www.chime.org.uk

www.sarum.ac.uk
www.cjmmusic.com/liturgy
www.cantusfirmus.org.uk
www.ssg.org.uk
www.westminsterdiocese.org.uk
www.manchester.anglican.org
www.taize.fr/en
www.ocp.org
www.giamusic.com
www.brentwood-music.org.uk
www.nycos.co.uk
www.ohscatalog.org/herhowfivepie.html
www.londonbiblecollege.ac.uk
www.hhmv.org.uk
www.priory.lancs.ac.uk/ncs.html
www.mwf.org.uk
www.abmus.org.uk

If you have any sites you think should be included on this list, e-mail margblaney@yahoo.com. (Our own website, www.gallowaymusic.net appeared on the list, so there is no need to send an e-mail to get it included!)

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 on 26 October, 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

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www.gallowaymusic.net

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