

# **Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group**

31 March 2003

To all Parish Musicians

Dear Everyone

With Easter not far away you are all probably very busy with preparing the music for the Triduum and Easter - we hope it's going well!

## **PAST EVENTS**

A music day was held on Saturday 15 March at Smithstone House.

In the morning a workshop on weddings and funerals was led by Laura Gaddis and members of the St John Ogilvie Music Group from High Blantyre. This was a lively and interesting session and we were introduced to some (obviously very successful) non-traditional ideas and suggestions!

After lunch Fr Stephen Motroni gave us a very interesting 'thought for the day' on aspects of the history of church music.

This was followed by workshops on the metrical index (which had us all counting the number of syllables in the lines of hymn texts) and alleluias. We went through a good number of 'new' but effective alleluias at high speed, and hopefully some of these will find their way into use around the Diocese.

## **FUTURE EVENTS AND DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **10 May - Dumfries**

A music ministry day is planned at St Teresa's Church hall in Dumfries for Saturday 10 May. A poster, booking form and bulletin notice is enclosed.

In the morning, we have invited three parish priests to speak for a few minutes each about music in the Mass and how they see it and have experienced it. The musicians present will then have the opportunity to ask them questions. We are intending that this should be a sharing of experiences rather than a formal detailed look at the liturgy, and that it will help us to grow in our understanding of the issues involved with music ministry. We held a workshop like this in Kilwinning last year and it was very successful.

The other workshops will be repeats of the workshops on alleluias (and please bring 'different' alleluias to share), and how to use the metrical index, as described above.

## **And later in the year . . .**

This year's Galloway Music Festival Mass will be on Sunday 17 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 newsletter being sent out early in the summer.

We are also planning a music day in Kilwinning on Saturday 25 October. Paul Wellicome of the Society of St Gregory has confirmed that he will be able to lead this.

## **OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST**

The **2003 Society of Saint Gregory Summer School, 'Grace as From a Fountain'** is from 29 July - 2 August at Worth Abbey (15 minutes from Gatwick Airport). The Director of Music will be Richard Jeffrey-Gray. The SSG summer schools provide a prayerful, purposeful and enjoyable environment in which to refresh and develop liturgical skills, reflect on worship, and experience inspiring liturgy and good liturgical music.

This year's school celebrates the fortieth anniversary of Sacrosanctum concilium, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The talks, workshops and liturgies are all co-ordinated toward the goal of reflecting on the vision of liturgical renewal set out by this document.

For further information, contact Mrs Helen Murphy, 23 Hawthorne Road, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northants, NN9 5DR, tel (01933) 680955, e-mail [helen.murphy@ssg.org.uk](mailto:helen.murphy@ssg.org.uk).

**RSCM Scotland** will be holding a **Triennial Festival** on the afternoon of Saturday 20 September. The venue is Paisley Abbey, which is a wonderful medieval building with excellent musical resources, as well as a magnificently restored choir and spectacular twentieth century stained glass, wood and carved stone. Dr George McPhee, Director of Music at the Abbey, will be leading the event. If you would like more information, contact Martin Ritchie on 0141 649 4070.

The **'Dunblane Singing Break'** is from 14 - 17 July at Scottish Churches House and Dunblane Cathedral. For more information, contact the RSCM on 01306 872800.

## **YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .**

Well they may not be your favourites, but there is an interesting story behind many of the older/traditional hymns. Unlike more modern hymns and worship songs, the music and words were often written by different people and completely independently.

We thought we'd feature a hymn in the next few editions of the newsletter and how it came into being. Let's start with **Dear Lord and Father of mankind . . .**

- 1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper rev'rence praise, in deeper rev'rence praise.

- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee, rise up and follow thee.
- 3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love! interpreted by love!
- 4 With that deep hush subduing all our words and works that drown  
the tender whisper of thy call, as noiseless let thy blessing fall  
as fell thy manna down, as fell thy manna down.
- 5 Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace, the beauty of thy peace.
- 6 Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm! O still small voice of calm!

The tune **Repton**, which it is usually sung to, is from C H H Parry's oratorio Judith (1888) - 'Long since in Egypt's plenteous land'. This tune was first used to the words of Dear Lord and Father of mankind in *The Repton School Hymn Book* in 1924. Repton is a famous English public school. (Parry died in 1918).

The background to the words is somewhat amusing! They were written by John Greenleaf Whittier, who was a poet, and as a devout Quaker didn't intentionally write hymns. 'Hymn notes for church bulletins' by Arthur C Lovelace (GIA Publications Inc) goes on to explain that the words came from a poem entitled *The Brewing of Soma*. After describing the religious frenzy produced by drinking Soma, he prays that God will 'forgive our foolish ways' and 're clothe us in our rightful mind'. The words that follow are full of allusions to Scripture and very beautiful. (Whittier died in 1892.)

This is a favourite hymn of many (as seen by its popularity on *Songs of Praise*) and it is interesting that the words were never intended to be sung, and the tune and words were not linked until after both the composer and author were dead.

## MISCELLANEOUS

We have received an e-mail from Jonathan Buchan (jonathan.buchan4@ntlworld.com), telephone 0141 571 8810. Jonathan explained that he can be available as a stand in organist, including at services (for example weddings) held on weekdays. He has been an organist at West Parish Church, Hamilton, for about seven years and is a Licentiate of the Guild of Musicians and Singers.

## **THE CORE GROUP . . . SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING MUSIC . . .**

As ever, we welcome any suggestions for what the core group should be doing, and ways in which we can support and promote music. At times it can be hard for us to know whether we are meeting your needs and aspirations or not!

A list of suggestions for things which we could run workshops on follows. Please be in touch - let us know what you think - what would you like? Or do you have other ideas?

- The role of music in the liturgy and within the liturgical seasons
- The use and strengths of particular instruments - organ, piano, keyboard, guitar, strings, wind, percussion etc (both separately and in combination)
- Psalms
- Training for cantors and singing technique
- Adapting to the organ from the piano
- Accompanying congregational singing
- Sharing (and mentoring) between parishes
- Music technology
- How to teach new hymns and new music (to the congregation and to choirs)
- How to train young and/or inexperienced musicians
- Books and resources available

Volunteers to lead workshops are always welcome!

Is there anything we could be doing in addition to (or instead of) organising events and sending out newsletters? Have our activities had any lasting effect on music in your parish!?

If you know of other people 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](http://www.gallowaymusic.net)). Please also show newsletters to your Parish Priest so that he is aware of our activities.

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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