

Results of information gathering questionnaire

Mailed in January 2016

The questionnaire was sent to 43 parishes. Of these, 29 have a music representative and for the other 14 the contact is the priest.

Altogether 11 replies were received. (In reality, this is a good response rate.)

One respondent indicated that they are unable to remain as parish contact.

Only one respondent indicated they are happy to lead events.

Summaries of answers to questions

How many musicians are involved in your parish and what do they do?

There are organists, keyboard players, singers/cantors, guitarists, flautists and a 'DJ'.

1 musician	2
2 musicians	-
3 musicians	2
5+ musicians	5
Choir/singers	5

The music at Mass usually includes

Hymns	YES - 10
Sung parts of the Mass	YES - 10
A cantor singing the psalm	YES - 5, SOMETIMES - 3, NO - 2

Would you usually be able to attend events?

Weekdays	1
Evenings	5
Saturdays	5 (1 was mornings only)
Sundays	3

Would you like us to start sending out newsletters again?

Yes	7
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Do contacts want to be contacted by post or e-mail?

Post	5
E-mail	5

What are the music arrangements at each of the weekend Masses?

‘Singing of hymns and Mass settings each week accompanied by organ (keyboard).’

‘Organist 18.30 Sat, DJ 10.15 Sun, Musicians 12.00 Sun.’

‘Accompanied singing at every Mass. Choir once a month plus feasts.’

‘1 weekend Mass (Sunday 11.00 am). Singing and guitars/organ (and sometimes bongo drums).’

‘6 pm Vigil led by priest unaccompanied. 9 am Sunday - unaccompanied. 11 am usually sung Mass with organist and about 8 - 10 singers (unison).’

‘All services accompanied by either organ, keyboard, guitars or a mixture.’

‘We have one Vigil Mass which is accompanied by the organ.’

‘Singing accompanied by one of the organists.’

‘Saturday Vigil sometimes an organist, usually a small choir to lead singing. Sunday morning organist, no choir. Both Masses have hymns and Mass parts sung and psalm sung by a cantor.’

‘The three Masses are covered.’

Specific responses to fact finding questions

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about music in your parish?

‘We are currently learning Mass of St Paul the Apostle. Most parishioners are willing to join in but no-one is keen to come forward to help with provision of music or cantor singing.’

‘Move is on to get musicians for 10.15 Mass.’

‘Don’t have regular practices, but usually arrange some for Christmas and Easter. Father gives “free rein” (within reason) to the musician to choose music for Masses.’

‘Once per month youth group. Some brass instruments.’

‘We use six Mass settings and try to rotate their use - Mass of the Resurrection, Mass of Renewal, Mass of Light, Mass of Christ the Saviour, Mass of Sacred Heart, Mass of St Paul the Apostle.’ In addition, we are currently learning Mass for a New World by David Haas.’

‘As our organist can be any one of four each is responsible for hymn choice on their evening on and we use a Mass setting agreed with Father which changes with each church season. I organise the cantor/psalm rota and give each organist a copy.’

'If there is a choir, eg at Christmas and Easter, the congregation don't sing.'

What future events would you like to see being arranged?

'I would like to see all of the above continuing, especially, if possible, more 'Singing the Mass' events.' (The 'above' was events led by Galloway musicians, events led by experts, open air Masses, rehearsal afternoons which have ended with Vespers or Mass.)

'Children's Masses? Young adults (11 - 18) Masses. Music workshops for youth.'

'Events to help parish musicians to learn how to map the musical needs of the parish to the liturgy in the most effective way. Events looking at the availability of new resources on the market and their suitability to various times of the year eg Lent, Easter, Advent, Xmas etc.'

'Because we are the southernmost parish it can be difficult to attend these events, although they are always enjoyable and worthwhile.'

'I think the Singing the Mass sessions are good.'

Is there anything in particular that you would like information, support, or help with? (eg practical help with playing skills, choice of repertoire etc).

'I would really like practical help with playing skills as I am not very good. I would also like help with widening the repertoire of hymns, and with suggestions for choosing hymns for weekly Masses.'

'New Mass settings and psalms. Learning to chant psalms (psalm tones). Some cantors find it difficult to keep learning new tunes so to have a repertoire of psalm tones would be useful.'

Are there any other ways in which you think Galloway Music Network could help you in your ministry?

'Just continue with the events and encouragement, thanks.'

'Just getting together occasionally and talking to other musicians in other parishes is helpful.'

Any other comments?

'I have found the music network very helpful with Mass settings and events which have given me confidence to use the settings and occasionally to lead the singing.'

'Hope you get plenty replies. Thanks for all the work you do.'

'I am a full time musician and work weekends and most nights therefore I find it difficult to commit to anything regular.'