

GOOSEgander

The newsletter of the Wild Goose Resource Group

Spring/ Summer 2009 no.27

EXTRACTED VERSION FOR WGRG SHOP CUSTOMERS



In this extract issue: **A FESTIVAL of arts, culture & faith:** GRAHAM MAULE describes some exciting, recent Scottish scheming; **WORSHIP: the big question:** ALISON ADAM (Worship Works) on focusing the creative liturgical process; plus the usual **GOOSEoose, CATALOGUE gander** and **GANDER at the calendar.**

Additional in the full issue: **NEW SONGS for Lent & Easter:** three unpublished gems from the pen of JOHN BELL; **DREAMS in Nepal at Christmas:** CHITRA KARKI tells of more remarkable happenings.

GOOSEedit

GOOSEgander is the twice yearly newsletter of the WGRG, a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community.

It consists of two resource workers, John Bell and Graham Maule. Gail Ullrich is the administrator to the Group. Jamie Schmeling is the WGRG Project Worker.

The WGRG exists to enable and equip congregations and clergy in the shaping and creation of new forms of relevant, participative worship.

The WGRG has to find a majority of its own funding. As a result, it exists on a provisional basis, only taking on events for the coming twelve months at a time. The WGRG welcomes donations and other forms of financial support (Gift Aid) towards its work. If you are interested in supporting the work in this way, please contact the Group at the address below.

WILD GOOSE RESOURCE GROUP

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HOLY CITY

WEB: www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk;

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?ref=sb#/group.php?gid=5675774949>

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

(Scotland)

WEB: <http://sites.google.com/site/livingth-equationsscotland>;

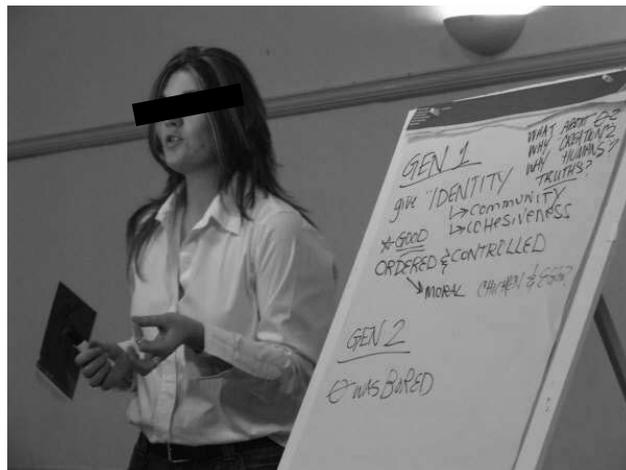
FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38286772721>

WGRG office life goes on... a shift of furniture means we are no longer seeing so much red, and therefore answering the phone in a less aggressive manner. Visitors can now be greeted face-to-face, making redundant Gail's blue-print for an elaborate system of mirrors. Replace 'mirrors' with 'pulleys' and you have the next project for dealing with bookstall transportation. And with the advent of warmer weather, Sauchiehall Street buskers have returned. We plan to suggest they use the nearby Piping Centre practice rooms (sound-proof, you see) until their music is performance quality. Coincidentally, they are ideal places to commit multiple murder...

JOHN has been busy lately travelling about the globe—surprise! However in the next couple of months—after the grieving period—he will most likely begin his search for the next 'Mrs. Bell' (also see news of Jamie below). However, interested parties for this vacancy should not send a photo, a brief description of domestic & culinary abilities or even certificate of insanity etc. as he has resigned himself satisfactorily to the appointment of a 6ft cardboard cutout of Buffy The Vampire Slayer to this esteemed position.

GRAHAM continues his pontifications, explorations, and analyses of all things sublimely sculptural—some of which has been converted to written form, somehow... and a full page article on one of his artwork performances has just been published in the magazine, *The American Century*! Additionally amazing, he has even had a travelling event lately! Wonders never cease.

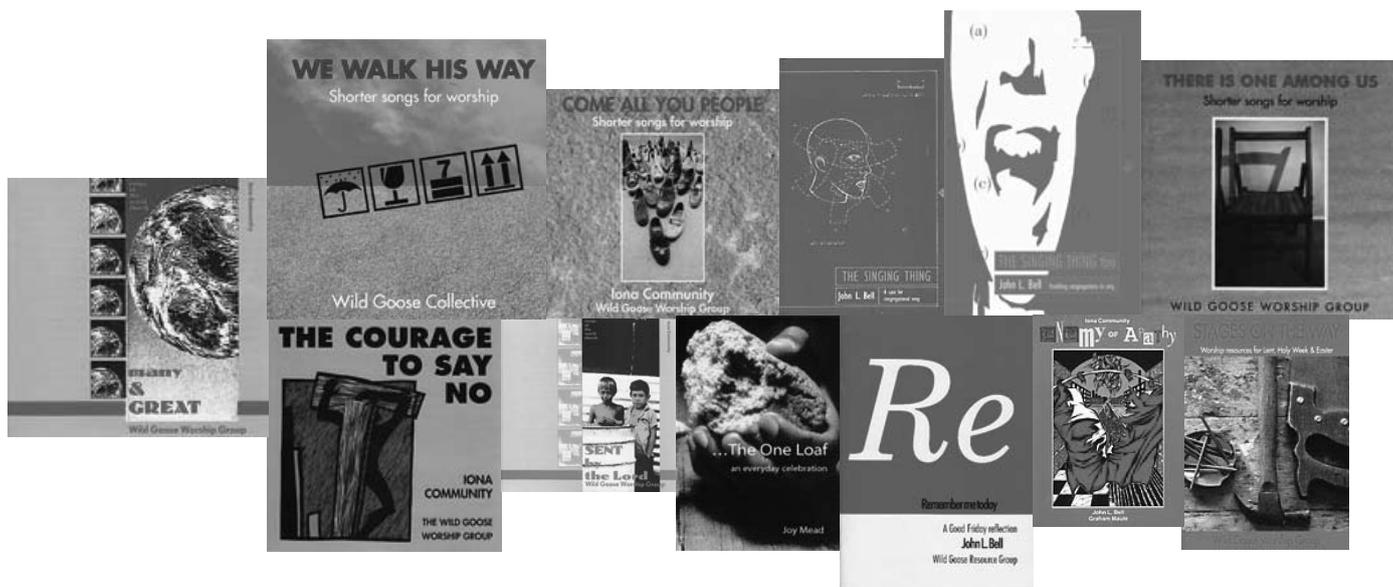
JAMIE, instead of having the winter blues, has managed to be the winter wind—not being cold, but organising, systematising, and rearranging all of the items for sale through our webshop and mail order service, all the while managing to grow calluses on her finger tips because she's been practicing her guitar lately—no, of course not on work time (though you wouldn't think it, as she regales staff members and telephone enquirers on the subject of capos, chord inversions, finger styles and how to make the most of your G-string (as well as Es, As and Ds too)...



But the big news is that Jamie is, tragically, about to leave us! But WGRG's loss is the MacLeod Centre on Iona's glorious gain. For it is there she is bound, to take up a three-year position as the MacLeod Centre Warden, at the beginning of April. We publish an old picture of her (left) to show what she doesn't look like any more (not sure who the other person pictured here on the left of the picture is). Iona staff might note that Jamie will be readily identified by her distinctive bald wig, a recent penchant since her first arrival on these shores.

Certainly her presence will be greatly missed, the office seeming destined to taking on the hushed ambience of a Benedictine monastery (ironically) on her departure.

As an antidote to this new situation, and as a reminder of the glories of the past, GAIL has written a lyric (see *GooseOose* on page 6) celebrating Jamie's contribution to the contemporary Scottish oral tradition, and producing a full length CD of Jamie's laughter. Many Scottish Health Boards have become very interested in this latter project and the NHS is poised to license the CD as a medication, available on prescription, for S.A.D. (Seasonal Amusement Disorder).



At the WGRG Shop, we've decided to give something up for Lent... 15-25% of the price of the a wide range of books and cds.

So do explore these SPECIAL OFFERS to help you experience Lent and Easter! (Offer runs to 31st May 2009).

Here's the web page for full details: www.wgrg.co.uk/pages.php?page=special_offers.

WGRG Lenten/ Easter titles 15% OFF

WGRG material, both songs and liturgical meaty bits, perfect for Lent & Easter services:

- COURAGE TO SAY NO** book , was £9.99, now £7.64.
- COURAGE TO SAY NO** cd , was £15.65, now £13.31.
- ENEMY OF APATHY** book , was £10.99, now £9.34.
- REMEMBER ME TODAY** liturgy booklet , was £3.50, now £2.98.
- STAGES ON THE WAY** book , was £14.99, now £12.74.

WGRG general titles 10% OFF

Then there's a selection of WGRG & world songs... most of them wee songs and chants, plus John L. Bell's magnificent, incisive and witty look at why and how we sing, The Singing Thingies:

- COME ALL YOU PEOPLE** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- COME ALL YOU PEOPLE** cd , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- HARD WORDS FOR INTERESTING TIMES** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- MANY & GREAT** book , was £9.99, now £8.99.
- MANY & GREAT** cd , was £15.65, now £14.09.
- SENT BY THE LORD** cd , was £15.65, now £14.09.
- THE SINGING THING** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- THE SINGING THING TOO** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- THERE IS ONE AMONG US** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.

- THERE IS ONE AMONG US** cd , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- WE WALK HIS WAY** book , was £10.99, now £9.89.
- WE WALK HIS WAY** cd , was £11.99, now £10.79.

Others' Lenten/ Easter titles 15% OFF

Lots of liturgical materials from authors associated with the Iona Community:

- EGGS & ASHES** book , was £14.99, now £12.74.
- FIRE & BREAD** book , was £14.99, now £12.74.
- LENT & EASTER READINGS FROM IONA** book , was £9.99, now £8.49.
- MAKING PEACE** book , was £8.99, now £7.64.
- THE ONE LOAF** book , was £10.99, now £9.34.

Others' general titles 25% OFF

Anthologies by Geoffrey Duncan of global liturgical elements, prayers, reflections etc:

- COURAGE TO LOVE** book , was £12.95, now £9.71.
- DARE TO DREAM** book , was £7.99, now £5.99.

Fascinating biblical studies by Barbara Essex and N. Wilkinson Duran, looking at the oddest characters that populate the Scriptures:

- BAD BOYS OF THE BIBLE** book , was £8.99, now £6.74.
- BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE** book , was £8.99, now £6.74.
- BAD BOYS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT** book , was £11.99, now £8.99.
- HAVING MEN FOR DINNER** book , was £12.99, now £9.74.
- KRAZY KINFOLK** book , was £8.99, now £6.74.
- MISBEHAVIN' MONARCHS** book , was £11.99, now £8.99.

Oh yes, and **WGRG badges** are still discounted too... So to see more details, all that remains is to make a wee trip to the Shop... doors always open... at: www.wgrg.co.uk.

4 A FESTIVAL of arts, culture & faith

thePROJECT...

GRAHAM MAULE is one of the folk who've been asked to advance the setting up of a festival of arts, culture & faith in Scotland. Here he reveals a little of developments.

Many of you will have heard of or attended the wondrous Greenbelt, the annual festival of Christian arts in Cheltenham. Over the last decades, Scotland has only occasionally been blessed by similarly adventurous, intelligent adult explorations of faith and all that it touches. However, a groundswell of opinion has been growing in the wee diddy nation above the Tweed.

In August this year, Greenbelt Festival hosted a conversation for anyone interested in exploring the possibility of 'doing Greenbelt in Scotland'. From this 'the PROJECT'... a Scottish festival of Arts, Culture & Faith was born. Around 30 people attended and there was enough interest to arrange a second exploratory meeting in Perth. So in November, another group of around 30 (mostly different people from the first meeting) met to take things a step further.

IDENTITY & SPIRIT

It was clear at both meetings that any future event in Scotland should have its own identity, should grow out of Scottish culture and concerns, and not merely attempt to imitate Greenbelt.

Certainly the 'interfaces of engagement' would be primarily those mapped out by the likes of Greenbelt and others: arts – faith – theology – ecology – politics – philosophy – spirituality – justice... or basically celebration, inspiration, irreverence, laughter, tears, questions, argument, friendship, shivers up the spine (add your own noun to the list).

Whatever ends up coming to fruition, while initially inspired by the spirit of Greenbelt, we'd also learn from other Scottish & European models such as Street Level, Carberry Festival, Kirchentag or even the Edinburgh Festival, The Mod, Celtic Connections, etc. A distinct Scottish nature would be developed, responding to the specific conditions, context and needs of this place and time.

All felt that the event should also possess some of the positive values associated with Greenbelt, such as its breadth and depth, in terms

of audience and contributors; its spirit of irreverence, experimentation and daring to ask difficult questions; its independence from any single organisation; its tolerance of difference and its attempts to be inclusive; and its cultural engagement.

So GB will be seen as a 'sister' festival and a willing source of advice, experience and support to the PROJECT.

Of course, a simple cloning of Greenbelt is a great temptation, but would that be healthy? Would Greenbelt be easily translatable into a Scottish context (amongst other things, it tends to rain in Scotland!). There was discussion about what the next step might be, and a strong consensus that it would in reality take a couple of years to get any larger event underway. So we reckoned we should aim for a bigger event at earliest in 2011. This would also recognise that there is much groundwork to be done in the meantime.

One of the unexpected outcomes of Greenbelt over a period of around 40 years has been the creation of a community of people who are personally invested in the festival – they run things, they make things, they volunteer, they look after the toilets – about 2000 of them every year. And one of the great benefits of doing something in Scotland would be to create a similar community of like-minded people engaged in the task of realising the PROJECT.

THE NEXT STEPS

So we reckoned the initial stages should be as follows:

a) Creating community & fleshing out

Developing a community of like-minded folk who might participate in, publicise and enable any potential event/s, larger or smaller, in Scotland over the next two years is seen as highly desirable, indeed highly necessary. So in this interim period, we'll plan a series of small events, maybe 2 or 3 a year which will act as a forum for further discussion (consultation) but also, more importantly, be small-scale models of the kinds of forms and activities (concerts, workshops, exhibitions, etc.) that a potential larger event would contain... in other words, time and space where people will be able to talk, explore, plan and celebrate together.

The aim is to grow organically, encouraging as wide a constituency as possible to get involved. During the process we will start building a volunteer base of people with skills to be able to contribute to a larger 2011 event. So we'll have time to discover what a bigger event might look like – whether it would be in a greenfield or urban location (or a hybrid of these), the time of year it would happen, how many people might come.

c) Creating partnership & organisation

The 2009-2010 period would give us time to begin to create partnerships with sponsors and funders, to create a small organisation

GOOSE oose

that has a bank account and a constitution. Thus acknowledging that creating such a large festival event is not an undertaking unfraught with difficulties and challenges, and given it's also difficult yet to have any clear or predetermined shape or consensus about its form, length, breadth, geography or season, perhaps cautiously, but also hopefully wisely, we reckon we might learn to walk before we start to run.

PROCESS & PEOPLE

The Perth meeting tasked Dot Reid, Graham Maule and John Cross to identify people who would be on an initial interim Steering Group.

There was some concern that the PROJECT shouldn't be owned by larger organisations or become institutionalised. So the brief was to identify people in terms of their interest and ability to take things to the next stage (and not in terms of being 'representatives' of organisations). The remit of this interim Steering Group is to organise a couple of events in 2009 to bring people together and to help think through the possibilities for the future.

WHO MIGHT LIKE IT?

So perhaps obviously, the PROJECT is for those interested in a deliberate exploration of the arts, culture and faith. We would hope to make it a comfortable place for insiders, outsiders and maybe especially those at the margins of the Church.

The festival would primarily be targeted for adults (young and not so young), but importantly, there would be an inclusive provision for children and families.

INTERESTED?

So if you are one of these people, you might like to register your interest, keep up-to-date with developments, find out about the small events in 2009 & 2010, and basically... join us. To do this you can:

Sign-up to **'the PROJECT' Email list:** gmaule@mac.com.

Join **'the PROJECT' Facebook group:** <http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?ref=sb#/group.php?gid=35661837167>

Or visit **'The PROJECT' Google website:** <http://sites.google.com/site/theprojectscotland...> (you'll need to create a Google password).

Here's looking forward to welcoming you as a Projectile!

NEIL GLOVER IS 'HALFWAY TO HEAVEN'...

Ex-Wild Goose Worship Group tenor, NEIL GLOVER, is currently a minister on the south side of Glasgow and he's recently launched an interesting website which he describes thus...

" 'Halfway To Heaven' is a place for interesting thoughts needing to find a public outing without being commissioned by a publishing house, refined over the course of a fourteen day retreat, or escaping the self-consciousness that suppresses our most innovative inklings.

The site emanates from the liminally titled Halfway in Lanarkshire but has grand plans to host the ideas of anyone 50% of the way to paradise, no matter their current location on planet earth."

You might not agree with every point of view on it, but it's certainly worth a look: <http://www.halfwaytoheaven.org.uk>

BE SICK OF THE CHURCH

...or *'Health Tips For Nauseous Ecclesiastics'*

... or again, a wee reflection from the aforementioned NEIL GLOVER.

Be sick of the Church when the cross road between Word and world is abandoned.

When attacks are launched from safety and the flesh wound is far away.

When divine words are embezzled to bless gut prejudice; when opponents are denied the journey that got them there.

Be sick when we say
"This is the only issue."
Be sick when we say
"If this doesn't go our way, then we leave."

Be sick of the place
of the acting
of the weightless words.

Be sick
when meaning is twisted
and context is censored
and soundbite stands for the whole.

Be sick when one Shibbolleth decides the tribe.

Be sick when silence is confused for peace,
when indignation is craved and savoured,
when the bile is disappointment with ourselves.

Be sick and sick again,
but discover the soreness is not long gone...
no other way but this.

LETTER FROM IONA

As mentioned in the editorial on page 2, here's GAIL's lament for the passing north and westwards of the redoubtable Ms. Jamie Schmeling... now, sing along, you wans in the back row...

WHEN YOU GO, WILL YOU SEND BACK
A LETTER FROM I-O-NA?
TAKE A LOOK UP THE SHEEPTRACK
FROM CALVA HILL TO LAG ODHAR.

Got out of my bath the other night,
I'd spent the evening shaving my back
and thinking of you as you sail away
across the sound to the other side.
I wonder how you'll get on when you reach the golden sand.

WHEN YOU GO, WILL YOU SEND BACK
A LETTER FROM I-O-NA?
TAKE A LOOK UP THE RAIL TRACK
FROM QUEEN STREET TO UPPER TYNDRUM
(em, you're on the wrong line).

We've looked at your desk,
tried hard to imagine
how you escaped the day you ran
from Savoy House to Lansdowne Crescent.
We should have bound you,
we should have tied you,
but you know our sense of spatial awareness,
we cut the rope too short.

"Awesome!" no more; "Diaper" no more;
"Faucet" no more; "Man!" no more;
"Laideh" no more; "If you will..." no more;
"Aye" no more; "Chuff" no more.

We wonder, our friend,
will you ever return
to help us put the back back
on your backless office chair?
Do you not love it?
Do you not say you loved it?
Or do you have to roam the world
to prove how much it hurt?

WHEN YOU GO, WILL YOU SEND BACK
A LETTER FROM I-O-NA?
TAKE A LOOK FOR THE RUCKSACK
YOU LOST IN ADDIS ABABA.

"Oatcakes" no more; "Beetroot" no more;
"Lipstick" no more; "Big hair" no more;
"Thank God" no more; "Sybil" no more;
"Fawly" no more; "Cackle" no more....

(ad lib to coda, with tearful emotional expression)

AMBUSH LITURGIST SPOTTED IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

Over twenty years ago when John and Graham were at the Kirchentag in Frankfurt, they met a young Baptist minister from the Philippines whose name was NESTOR BUNDA.

Outgoing and gregarious as many Filipinos are, he was also actively involved in resisting the excesses of the Marcos regime. One of the strategies was to engage in 'Ambush Liturgy.' Essentially this involved a number of people making a din with instruments and/or voices sufficient to gather a crowd in a public thoroughfare.

When people had assembled, there would be some story presented from the Bible, and a comment made regarding its relevance to the oppressive regime. This and any singing might be shorter or longer depending on whether the police arrived to break up the crowd. Lookouts normally warned if this was likely and thus the leaders of the liturgy would simply melt into the background.

He also spoke of an interesting practice which his church engaged in each Good Friday. People would gather in the small church and surround a Western oak crucifix.

When all were assembled they destroyed the cross and the figure and then disappeared into the village. Some people would cut down native bamboo wood and with that make an indigenous cross. Others would hunt for rags to sew together and stuff into a distinctly Filipino Jesus.

This would then be erected in the church and people would begin their devotions remembering the passion and death of Jesus.

When asked why this wanton act of ecclesiastical iconoclasm took place, Nestor replied, 'We do this because we believe that Jesus cannot be the saviour of the Filipino people unless we liberate him from being a Western idol.'

Now married with a family and a PhD on the history of Baptist missions in the Philippines, Nestor works as a chaplain in a 1400 bed hospital in Dallas, Texas. His passion for the Gospel and for justice is still unremitting.

PETER MACDONALD

Last issue we mentioned that the Iona Community's esteemed leader, KATHY GALLOWAY was coming to the end of her tenure in that position.

It's now public knowledge who her successor will be... and that person is PETER MACDONALD. Peter will be leaving his current charge as minister of St. George's West Church of Scotland in the west end of Edinburgh in August to take up his new incarnation. In the 80s, Peter was one of the WGRG's first student placements and lived and worked in one of the volunteer flats John and Graham oversaw as part of the Iona Community's Youth Volunteer project.

Our best wishes and hopes go to Peter for the delights and challenges that wait ahead over the next few years.



ANDREW SPURR

ALISON ADAM of Worship Works has been over on the other side of the 'Pond'... no, she wasn't primarily there to give her personal greetings to the new President, but to do some worship planning. Here she ponders the charm and the challenge of this significant stage of the liturgical creation process... oh yes, she's also asking for your wisdom!

Is it a privilege or a chore to be on a worship planning committee?

I expect most clergy will know they should say yes it's a privilege to work alongside lay people in preparing an act of worship but know that it feels easier to do it yourself. No meetings to call, no-one to disagree with you and no problem writing prayers at 7am on a Sunday morning!

What about us lay people ?

Well, us lay people might not get the chance to plan worship otherwise. So we may well see it as a privilege, but as we agonise over how to write prayers and squeeze in another midweek meeting, so we too might acknowledge it's a bit of a chore.

So why bother?

We know why – we grow in understanding as we work together, as we hear things perhaps in a new way, as we see with eyes different from our own and learn from the lives of others.

So, it was with some trepidation that I travelled to Michigan in January to be part of a worship committee. 15 of us from 9 countries – strangers called together to a daunting task – to prepare worship for the 2010 gathering of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC).... acronyms, D.Y.J.L.T?

Not only that, but also to mark the historic unifying of the WARC and the Reformed ecumenical council (REC) to create WCRC (World Council of Reformed Churches)

It's a coming together of different strands, right meeting left, if you like, something challenging and new. And so we gathered and we got right into the thick of it, having only 3 days.

For me the big downer about the whole thing was that not only were we to begin to plan worship for the event but that also on our agenda was that we might prepare a statement about Reformed worship for this time of transition.

Frustration and finding a focus

The talk went round and round as folk found their voices in a new group and strove to make themselves clear in languages which were not their mother tongue.

And some of us, who were not theology graduates, found we went a bit silent at times. It was hard going, stimulating and frustrating.

And by the end of the first day so much had been said and struggled with, but it was hard to see where we could go with it all. We slept on it, and in the morning, someone brought one wise question, which transformed the process:

What wisdom about worship and worship practices do we want to pass on to our children?

That focused our conversation very quickly and moved us from long and involved conversation to clear and concise statements that people wanted to add to rather than disagree with. We were on our way!

One of the significant things I learned through my work in WGRG was the value of a good question to get folk talking. We would spend time phrasing the right question, the best way to put it so that folk would feel they had something to contribute.

The question above might be a good one to try out with folk in our own churches to help us focus when, in the midst of all the new possibilities and all the people to please, we try to do new things in worship.

And feedback?

And if you have time, AND if you are from a Reformed tradition, you might answer it for me! My homework is to get responses from ten people – you could be one of them – but keep it concise please!

Responses by email and by early April please:

alison.adam@worshipworks.co.uk.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Worship Works

A selection of dates for Alison's Worship Works activities in Spring/ Summer 2009.

Contact Alison at: *Worship Works, St. Mark's Centre, 22 Greenwich South St., London, SE10 8TY. E: alison.adam@worshipworks.co.uk; T: (office) 020 8853 0565; Mob: 0798 929 0107.*

April 2009

19th: The Forum, Trafalgar Rd, Greenwich, LONDON. 'The Journey'. On the third Sunday of each month, 6.45 pm. 'The Journey' is a welcoming and open space for all those who wish to gather for reflective worship (Martyn Coe: 020 8853 0563; www.greenwichunited-church.org.uk/thejourney.htm)

23rd: All Hallows by the Tower, LONDON. A wee sing on the theme of Resurrection and running the race (might be interesting or those running the London Marathon?) Continuing the regular monthly series of singing gatherings run by Alison, Bertrand Olivier and Emily Walker. For all-comers, and is free, though donations welcome. Tea and coffee from 6pm, singing from 6:30 – 8pm; and folk can take up the option of dining out together afterwards! (www.ahbtt.org.uk)

25th: EVESHAM. A weekend of workshops and celebration with Alison Adam and John Bell. (Andrew Spurr: vicar@evesham-parish.com)

May 2009

10th: St. Paul's, Hainault, LONDON. An early evening Big Sing at 5:30pm (Chris Cant: chriscant@tiscali.co.uk)

17th: The Forum, Trafalgar Rd, Greenwich, LONDON. 'The Journey'. See 19th April above.

28th: LONDON: A Wee Sing on the theme of justice. See 23rd April above or details.

June 2009

6th: East Didsbury, MANCHESTER. A day of workshops run by the Methodist Church's new Arts Network. Focusing on 'Celebration and Concern'. Alison's workshops are on 'Just song' and 'Praying in song and sign' (Chris Lawley: clawley@hotmail.com)

7th: KETTERING. Afternoon workshop and evening worship on Trinity Sunday with the Methodist Circuit (Rev. Dr. Jennifer Smith: metaphorsrule@yahoo.co.uk)

14th: CANTERBURY. A singing workshop and evening worship for young people and whoever else might come along! A Methodist Circuit event (Helen Letley e: h.r.letley@kent.ac.uk)

21st: The Forum, Trafalgar Rd, Greenwich, LONDON. 'The Journey'. See 19th April above.

25th: LONDON. A big Big Sing... indoors this year, after a very wet 2007 one and a rather dull and chilly 2008 one! See 23rd April above or details.

August 2009

12th: HEREFORD. A Big Sing as a fringe event to the Three Choirs Festival (Barbara Glasspoole: barbara.glasspoole@googlemail.com)

September 2009

26th: BACKWELL, Somerset. A day of workshops (Eleanor King: eleanor@king14.demon.co.uk)

Wild Goose Resource Group

A selection of open WGRG events for Spring/ Summer 2009.

Local contacts in brackets, otherwise details from the WGRG office, 0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk.; www.iona.org.uk/wgrg_home.php; www.wgrg.co.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.

April 2009

4th-5th: PONTEFRACT & NORMANTON area church. Big Sing/Workshop with John Bell on Why God's People Sing and the Hidden Humour in Holy Scripture, Sunday worship (Deb Storey, Pontefract & Norman-ton Methodist Circuit, 01977 644843, deborah.storey@googlemail.com)

24th-26th: EVESHAM, All Saints Church. Re-thinking Worship: workshops on contemporary music and contemporary Church, with Alison Adam and John Bell, & Sunday service (Andrew Spurr, 01386 446219, vicar@eveshamparish.com)

26th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's Church, 260 Bath Street. Holy City's 08-09 'SubWAYS' programme looks at the demands, delights & dilemmas of discipleship'. This month: 'Kneeling Road' on prayer... (0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)

27th-30th: HIGH LEIGH Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts. 'On Fire Mission through Word & Sacrament' conference. Speakers - John Bell & Alison White (www.onfiremission.org.uk, 01494 525602)

May 2009

3rd: EDINBURGH, Morningside Parish Church. A Big Sing, 6.30pm led by John Bell (Derek Browning, 0131 447 1617, minister@morningsideparish-church.org.uk)

7th: BUCKLEY, North Wales. Ecumenical Big Sing, evening (Shirley Whyte, Cornerstone Group, john.whyte5@btinternet.com)

8th: WARRINGTON. 'Songs the Spirit Brings', an evening experiencing songs, which celebrate the diversity of the Church, as witnessed at the first Pentecost, led by John Bell (Anne Preston, 01925 631833, anne.preston@ntlworld.com)

9th: MANCHESTER, St. Peter's House Church & Chaplaincy. A day event with workshop sessions led by John Bell, including a Big Sing (Sally Thomas, sally.mi@ntlworld.com)

10th: BANGOR ABBEY, N. Ireland. A worship workshop & Sun eve service, Mon eve talk, with John Bell (Gifford Savage, Friends of Bangor Abbey, gifford-savage@supanet.com)

16th - 22nd: IONA, Macleod Centre. The Cost of Discipleship, how we live sacrificially, yet joyfully as Christians, led by John Bell (www.iona.org.uk/media/programme.pdf, mac.bookings@iona.org.uk, 01681 700404)

24th: YARROW. Sun service & singing workshop for Eitrick & Yarrow Parish, with John Bell (Samuel Siroky, 01750 82336)

30th: NEWCASTLE, City Hall. 'Fire Works! Pentecost 09' evening celebration plus, during previous week, workshops on Art, Drumming, Dance, Breathe (an interactive experience for people wanting to explore the beliefs and ideas of the Christian faith), Godly Play, a film (at the Tyneside Theatre), Children's activities, City Guides, Bell Ringing, Cathedral Evensong, Healing, Prayer Walk and Taizé - further details of all these available nearer the time (Fire Works! task group, 07836 354843)

31st: GLASGOW. Holy City (see 29th March). This month: 'Speaker's Corner' on telling... (0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)

June 2009

3rd: PRESTON, Goosnargh Oliverson's C of E Primary School. 'Tuning in the Family of God', exploring why we sing, & experiencing new ways of praising God, led by John Bell (Fellside Team of Churches, Margaret Sherdley, 01772 691109, m.sherdley@sky.com)

(continued overleaf)

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GANDER at the calendar (continued)

4th: WAKEFIELD. Joseph Winter Lecture, 7.30pm, delivered by John Bell (Terry Keen, Methodist & URC Churches, 01924 255363, keenterry@aol.co.uk)

6th: LONDON. 'Singing the Unseen Jesus' & 'First Steps in Musical Integrity', participative music event for singers & instrumentalists across Westminster RC Diocese, c. 10.30am - 4pm (Westminster Diocesan Music Committee, Frances Novillo, francesnovillo@yahoo.co.uk)

13th - 14th: CHEADLE HULME, Manchester. 'Sing a New Song', Saturday workshops with John Bell & Graham Maule, Sunday service (Paul Barnsley, Heartnotes Ministries, 0161 485 3088, www.heartnotes.org.uk, paul@heartnotes.org.uk)

18th: DORKING, St. Martin's. John Bell delivers a talk on the Church Hymnary, 4th Edition, as part of lecture series, 'The Making of Many Books' (Martin Ellis, ellismjma@sweethaven.biz, 01306 884229)

28th: GLASGOW, Partick. Holy City. This month: 'Festival Gardens' on celebrating... This is a one-off Holy City event, as part of the West End Festival (0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)

Aug 2009

15th - 21st: IONA. 'Voices from the Edge', a gathering to share the songs and experience of those who are not 'mainstream' but who have much to offer for the renewal of the Church's worship and witness. FULLY BOOKED.

28th - 1st September: CHELTENHAM, Racecourse. Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival. John Bell seminars & WGRG/ Holy City worship (www.greenbelt.org.uk)

Sep 2009

1st-3rd: PLUSCARDEN ABBEY, Moray. Symposium on 'The Scottish Tradition of Sacred Music' (Fr Benedict OSB, Secretary, 01343 890257, monks@pluscardenabbey.org)

OVERSEAS

John Bell will be working in North America 19th June-16th July, and from 12th-27th September, and in Australia from 10th October - 1st November.

