



# St Mungo's Music February 2009

Volume 8  
Issue 2

**A Year of Celebrations!** At a time of such economic gloom, this may seem a strange title but on the liturgical front, there have been a lot of celebrations.

**Celebrating St Paul The Children's Cantata: 'Saul becomes Paul'**



In the last bulletin, we mentioned the new Cantata to mark the Year of St. Paul. The annual schools Cantata is organized by a committee of teachers working with the Director of Music and the Music Committee of the Archdiocese of Glasgow with the support of Glasgow Churches Together and of the Marshall Trust—and last year with the help of the City Council. The purpose behind the 'cantata' is to give the children the opportunity to focus on something or someone significant – usually a biblical story or event or an historic anniversary – and to celebrate it in music, recitation, song, dance and movement. The venue on the 18th November this year was St Mungo's Church in Townhead with its large sanctuary & lots of space for dancers and instrumentalists.

This year's cantata tells the story of the Conversion of St Paul: the change from Saul the Persecutor to Paul the Preacher. The text includes three of Paul's canticles and several short texts - all used in the Divine Office. Two of the canticles are already in common use: 'Though Jesus Christ' (Philippians 2:6-11); and, 'We bless the God and the Father' (Ephesians 1:3-10) while the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Let's give thanks from Colossians 1:12-20) has newly been crafted for the cantata.

Almost every school had something special to sing or recite and each 'number' in the Cantata was led by up to 6 children. The 28 instrumentalists came from St Joseph's, Milngavie, St Joachim's, Carmyle and St Paul's, Whiteinch with the generous support of a few adults. Nowadays, the schools are all under great pressure to fit in so many subjects, and so they were glad to receive an audio CD of the music along with the piano and words score. Amplification has become seriously important and this year we had the full, professional 'bit' – it helped make the Cantata an unforgettable experience for the children.

## **The St. Mungo Singers in the Footsteps of St. Paul**

2008 - time for the next St. Mungo Singers' pilgrimage and where else in the Year of St. Paul but somewhere which would allow the choir to walk in some of his footsteps. The unanimous choice was Malta, which would combine warmth, scenery and history, and so a total of 56 choir members and friends set off on 6 October to St. Paul's Bay. Over the subsequent week they managed to combine a wealth of singing and praying, plus all the usual touristy things.



The service on St. Paul's Island

The pilgrimage started with a sail round the Grand Harbour in Valletta, to be followed by a visit to the small St. Paul's Island in St. Paul's Bay where St. Paul and his companions had come ashore after their shipwreck. The boat turned out to be a Calmac ferry previously called the Kepler and now known as the Hornblower, and to keep everyone feeling at home, on the way back from Valletta the heavens

opened in a deluge which rivalled anything we experienced in Glasgow. However clearly the St. Mungo Singers had been praying hard as the rain went off just they arrived at the island, to hold the service. There were smiles as Fr. Murtagh read the passage from Acts on St. Paul's shipwreck -they had just experienced how quickly the weather could change!

The following day, the choir participated in a Mass in Mdina Cathedral commemorating the Dedication of the Cathedral which was presided over by the Archbishop Emeritus, Joseph Mercieca. The cathedral is a beautiful building with a wonderful acoustic and a splendid organ. The beginning of the celebration was very impressive as the Archbishop was greeted at the entrance to the Cathedral by the assembled clergy and, led by the macebearer resplendent in his red robes, they all processed to the sacristy. Although the service was in Maltese, this presented no difficulty due to the close co-operation throughout of the Master of Ceremonies with the choir's Director of Music.

Malta is reputed to have a church for every day of the year and the choir experienced a good variety of these during their stay: Mosta which has the third largest unsupported dome in Europe; St. Paul's Shipwreck church in St. Paul's Bay, a beautiful little church which could just accommodate the choir plus a few visitors; the Marian shrine of Ta' Pinu on Gozo, where the non-availability of an organ meant the choir had to sing a cappella; and finally the very new church of The Divine Mercy in Naxxaar which is still under construction and where the choir were privileged to lead the music for only the second Mass in the building.

The Malta pilgrims came home with many memories to treasure from their visit, not least the warmth of the welcome they received everywhere they went, and the sense of history that pervades the island's churches as well as the feeling that the Church is alive and flourishing.

## Celebrating St. Mungo

Hard on the heels of Christmas, the city of Glasgow now celebrates its patron saint's feast which falls on 13 January. Last year for the first time, to mark the acquisition of a facsimile of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Life of St. Mungo (*Vita Kentigerna*), the Mitchell Library hosted a celebration which clearly worked as the city decided to hold it again this year (on 10 January).



This time, the reading was that of the well-known story of St. Serf's robin in both Latin (by Fr. George Gillespie) and in English (by the Minister of Glasgow Cathedral, Rev. Laurence Whitley). Children from St. Partick's Primary School sang the St. Mungo Rhyme and Song, and the St. Mungo Singers the anthem "Let Glasgow Flourish", as well as the Latin plainsong versicle, doxology and prayer from the Office of St. Kentigern.

The City Council was represented by Bailie Catherine McMaster who welcomed everyone warmly to the start of the celebrations for St. Mungo.

The celebrations continued on the following evening in St. Mungo's Cathedral at an ecumenical service which attracted a capacity congregation to join church and civic leaders and invited guests (including guests from Culross Abbey) to rejoice in St. Mungo in prayer, music and dance.

The 'Dance of Joy' was provided by students of the Dance School of Scotland who gave us both classical steps and a modern take on traditional Scottish dance steps, to enthusiastic applause.

The music was wide-ranging from the welcome by piper Scott Glasgow to the clarsach playing of Theresa Irving and the singing of the children from St. Timothy's Primary School, from the musical support of the Rutherglen Salvation Army Band and the St. Mungo Singers to the singing of Carissa Bovill to her own clarsach accompaniment. It provided a warm, moving and very enjoyable celebration with plenty of opportunity for participation. The congregation particularly enjoyed the children's sketch on St. Mungo and their rendering of the City of St. Mungo song, written for them by Ian Bovill, and performed with great gusto! The performance of Allan Bell's "The Wind in the Willows" by Carissa from the Organ Gallery was also beautifully effective in the soaring cathedral space.

The prayers and readings were led by church leaders: Rev. Thomas Nelson, Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery; Rev. Derek Bibb of the Methodist Church; Sr. Maire Gallacher, Major Steve Huyton of the Salvation Army; Mrs. Betty McDonald, the Session Clerk of Culross and Torryburn; the Rev. Mary Buchanan of the United Reform Church and Archbishop Mario Conti, and political leaders : Bailie Allan Stewart of Glasgow City Council and Mrs. Annabel Goldie MSP. **(cont'd overleaf)**

## St. Mungo Celebrations (Cont'd)

The homily was given by Cardinal O'Brien who recalled how he had spent part of his childhood in Glasgow before his family moved to Edinburgh, as well as the fact that the first rejection of his application to study for the priesthood had come from the then Archbishop of Glasgow! He remembered the spirit of friendliness and of family – neighbourhood, school and parish – from those days and attributed his desire to serve the community in part to those experiences. On a more serious note, he asked those present to consider whether we were now failing our young people by allowing our standards as Christians to slip, and he invited us to go forth from the celebration with joy in our faith and take this into our lives.

The service finished with the church and civic leaders going to the tomb of St. Mungo to lay a wreath there.



## The Mass of St Mungo

Finally on Tuesday 13th January, St. Mungo's Feast Day, Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Conti in St. Mungo's Church with the Deans and Canons, the St Mungo Singers and a healthy congregation. The new Parish Priest of St Mungo's (Fr James) was inducted by the Archbishop and the recently appointed leader of the community, Fr Dermott, was given a warm welcome.

The choir had prepared an arrangement of a Schubert setting of the Sanctus and Memorial Acclamation for the Archbishop's Golden Jubilee Mass earlier in the year and it was noticeable then that people were able to participate — probably because the music was so accessible as well as attractive — so we led the congregation and clergy in the same setting for St Mungo's Day. One of the local cantors— Catriona Glen— also a member of the choir—sang Ps 144 'The Lord is loving, the Lord is kind.' The Mass concluded with 'Let Glasgow flourish' and 'Go ye afar', both very apt for the feastday of Glasgow's own patron saint.



## The Year of Duns Scotus

The celebration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Centenary of John Duns Scotus formally ended with an evening service at Scotus College on 7 December, mirroring the opening service the previous year on the same date. Again there was a Marian theme to much of the music but there was also a reflection of Evening Prayer with the Shaw setting of “Hail Gladdening Light”, Psalm 68, and Noel Donnelly’s setting of the Philip-pians’ Cantic “Formed in God” (which also brought in the Year of St. Paul!). The Scotus hymn — carefully crafted by Brother Stephen E Smyth to remind people of the breadth of Blessed John’s life and work— brought a joy-filled service to its conclusion.



**A Litany of the Celtic Saints** was sung to remind the congregation that Blessed John Duns Scotus was one of many in our islands whose lives had been distinguished by God’s presence in their actions and by their goodness to others.

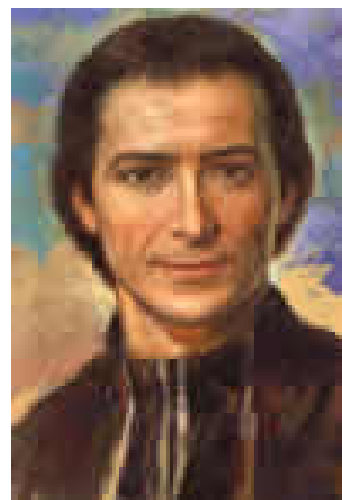
		pray, pray for us.
St Nini - an,	St Mun - go,	
St Cai-lum - ha,	St Tu - nan,	
St Catha-rine,	St Mar - ga - ret	
St Con - val,	St Cou-slan-tine,	
St Kess - og,	St Rou - au,	
		pray, pray for us.
St Bri - gid,	St Fil - lan,	
St Flan - nan,	and St Giles,	
St Ca - doe,	St Key - in,	
St Cuth - ber,	St Ken - noth,	
St Ter - gus,	St Fin - nan,	
		pray, pray for us.
St Macl-ruh - ha,	St Mag - nns,	
St Mir - rin,	St Ma - hew,	
St Don - an,	St Du - thac,	

The Rector, Fr. Willie McFadden, in his reflection on Duns Scotus, highlighted Scotus’ consistency in word and action, his intellectual questioning and his example of living life in hope. These were appropriate thoughts for us all at Advent — a time of questions and review for our own lives and for looking forward.

The service ended with the sung blessing “God to enfold you” and the Scotus hymn, before all present retired to the Refectory to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies, in keeping with the season.

## Celebrating 150 Years of the Marist Brothers in Glasgow

It is 150 years since the Marist Brothers arrived in Scotland or, to be more precise, Glasgow. A number of services were planned to celebrate the fact, the first of which was the Champagnat Mass held on 6 June 2008, in St. Mungo's, Townhead, a parish with strong links to the Marist Community. Archbishop Conti presided for the celebration which was attended by the Marist Provincial, Brother Joseph, and a large number of Brothers from Scotland and further afield, as well as family and friends.



The Scottish dimension of the celebration was set by the playing of a piper (Scott Glasgow) to welcome the congregation as they gathered for the Mass. The Marist contribution to the liturgy was strongly evident with music (Mary the Dawn, Hail Mary, Psalm 102, Benedictus and a setting of Cardinal Newman's prayer) from Dr. Noel Donnelly, a former Marist, and the new Lourdes hymn written by Brother Stephen Smyth, as well as his hymn set to the tune of Highland Cathedral. The cantor for the Mass was also a Marist, Brother Julian Harrison

In his homily, Archbishop Conti reminded the congregation of the problems faced by St. Marcellin Champagnat in his life. His lack of education during the troubled times of Revolutionary France meant he struggled to get through his seminary studies and had difficulty in achieving his aim of becoming a priest. He had a great devotion to Our Lady and a great love of the young whom he wanted to teach about the love of God. But first, he realised, the young needed education, even as he had done. He therefore established an order of Brothers for this purpose. He faced criticism from Church authorities but persisted and, at his death, there were already nearly 280 brothers in the Marist Order teaching around seven thousand children. The readings of the Mass were wholly appropriate in reflecting the growth of the Marists (Sirach 24:28-31), the development of their community round Our Lady (Acts 1:12-14, 2:44-47) and their charism of educating children in the faith (Matthew 18:1-7;10).

At the end of the liturgy, Brother Joseph recalled the start of the Marist mission in Glasgow with 3 Brothers who had little resources but a great vision and trust in God and Mary and a faithfulness to their mission of preaching the Gospel through the Christian education of children, particularly the most needy. Times have changed. The Marist numbers in Scotland have diminished and they no longer teach in the schools but the need for Christian education in an increasingly secular world is just as great. However there are signs of life elsewhere in the world and he was hopeful that the Spirit as ever would show new ways of building the community in faith.

Expressing his thanks to the Archbishop for presiding at the celebration and to Mgr. Fitzpatrick and the St. Mungo Singers for leading the music, he wished all present a share of the same spirit of courage and determination that had characterised St. Marcellin. The service ended with a collection for the Marist "Ad Gentes" mission initiative through which 120 brothers will be missioned to Asia over the next four years.

The second celebratory Mass at St. Mungo's was specifically one of thanksgiving for the Marist presence in Glasgow and the 150 years of St. Mungo's Academy. The congregation included Marist Brothers, pupils and former pupils and teachers of the Academy, their families and friends. The impact of the Academy was seen in the number of concelebrating priests who had been pupils, including the principal celebrant, Bishop Philip Tartaglia. Cardinal O'Brien also joined the community for the celebration.

The music was a broad blend of old and new: the Byrd Kyrie, Arcadelt's Ave Maria (which has particular resonance for the Marists), Tchaikowski's To thee We Call, the St. Marcellin hymn, Br. Stephen Smyth's new Lourdes hymn, and Noel Donnelly's setting of Ps. 97. The design of much contemporary liturgical music takes a cue from congregational plainsong with its preference for music substantially pitched in the middle register, accessible rhythms and faithfulness to the word accent in the texts — so there was more than a hint of the treasures of the past there too!

The homilist was Fr. Paul Francis, the Rector of St. Mungo's who pointed out that in fact the Marists didn't mean to come to Glasgow but stopped off there on their way back from Ireland and met a pushy Parish Priest who talked them into staying. They started their Academy on Garngad Hill with 6 wee boys of whom one, John Maguire, was subsequently to become Archbishop of Glasgow, so their impact was clear from the start.

The Academy had a number of homes in Townhead before moving to the East End. The Marist Brothers no longer are in charge of it but they have left their imprint on it – the imprint of the Marist spirituality of “crib, cross and altar”. Fr. Paul Francis' own memories of his days as a St. Mungo pupil were of being treated as a person, an adult, and taught to aim for the best he could achieve. Addressing the group of current pupils present in the congregation, he suggested that while they might not know what lay ahead for them, anymore than the Brothers who had started their school, they would learn at St. Mungo's what mattered in life and this would give them focus and the strength to do what was best.

Cardinal O'Brien blessed an icon of St. Marcellin which had been commissioned for the celebrations. In doing so, he took the opportunity to highlight the debt owed to so many religious congregations who had brought faith and education to Scotland. In our own day the value of Catholic schooling and the importance of education had been pointed out again by Pope Benedict XVI in a speech given on his recent visit to America, and we should not lose sight of this.

At the end of the celebration, a collection was taken for the St. Mungo Day Centre before the congregation enjoyed the hospitality provided by the St. Mungo Former Pupils Association. The St. Paul's Halls were full to standing room only as former pupils and parishioners took the opportunity to renew friendships and catch up on news.

## Celebrations in Argyll & the Isles

**Argyll & Isles Autumn Pastoral Music Weekend** took place at St. Mary's Kinnoull on 29-31 August, when over 30 parish musicians – some new faces among the regular attendees – from throughout the Diocese met together. We were particularly pleased to welcome back Pauline MacDonald who has been in Vancouver for the last two years and has now returned to Scotland with her family.

The weekend as ever was a mixture of music rehearsals, talks, liturgy and social get-togethers. Fr. Michael and his team took the participants through a wide range of music for the liturgy - Mass and Evening Prayer. Some was familiar and was being refreshed – for example the Peter Jones Gloria, Liam Lawton Sanctus and Acclamation, Ps. 17 (I will Search in the Silence). Much was new – Liam Lawton's Sail the Waves (included as particularly appropriate for a diocese awaiting the installation of a new Bishop to succeed Bishop Ian), the plainchant Mass Orbis Factor, versions of Psalms 15 (16) by Balhoff, Dalgie and Ducote, and 33 (34) by James Moore, and the setting of Psalm 62 by Fr. Fitzpatrick. All the music learned was used in the liturgy of the weekend, giving participants the opportunity to experience in practice what they had rehearsed.

Mgr. James MacNeil used the readings of the Sunday as the basis for his main talk. The people who come to the liturgy are those who have confronted the paradox and tension at the heart of the Christian experience – the fact that life is not tidy, that we come face to face with suffering and the apparent silence of God. If we reject the suffering, then we cease to live properly. In the Eucharist, we learn to forgive our own bad qualities which cause much of our suffering and isolation and become part of a community.

The weekend was also the occasion for the launch of the new St. Mungo Music publication of settings of the **Canticles of St. Paul**, for the year of St. Paul. Some of the settings are to well-known tunes such as Plaisir D'Amour or Be Thou My Vision. Others have been set to new music by Noel Donnelly and Fr. Gerry Fitzpatrick.

\*\*\*

## Bishop Ian's Farewell Mass

Following the announcement in October of the appointment of a replacement for Bishop Murray, his farewell Mass was held in St. Columba's Cathedral on 6 November. Despite the poor weather and road travel problems, there was a strong representation of clergy and parishioners (including the Diocesan choir) at the celebration to say farewell to Bishop Ian and to thank him for all that he had done for the Diocese during his time as Bishop. It may have been cold and windy outside but inside the atmosphere was warm.

Fr. Donald MacKinnon in his homily reflected on the contribution Bishop Ian had made to building up the diocese and healing the hurts experienced as a result of the departure of his predecessor. He asked the congregation also to keep Fr. Toal in their prayers as he prepared for his ordination.



As Bishop Ian left the altar at the end of the Mass to the rousing strains of Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance March No.4, the congregation broke into spontaneous applause, a fitting tribute. In the Cathedral hall, several presentations were made to the Bishop for his retiral, including a microwave and pots and pans for his new house in Edinburgh



Bishop Ian at his presentation. Photo  
©

### **The Ordination of Bishop Toal**

The Cathedral of St. Columba was filled with parishioners from throughout the Diocese, the extensive family of the new Bishop, friends and relatives from near and far (including Ireland and Spain) and invited guests. Some had even come the night before to ensure they got good seats for the celebration!

The music of the liturgy reflected both the Celtic heritage of the Diocese and the Toal family (Be thou my Vision, the Hymn of Columba in Gaelic and English, a Litany which included many of the Celtic Saints, Liam Lawton's Sail the Soul) and the Spanish links of Bishop Joe (Lord, You have come to the Seashore, sung in Spanish). Pauline MacDonald wrote and sang a new version of Psalm 97 in Gaelic for the occasion.

There were also well-known Latin pieces which the congregation could join in (the Kyrie from the Missa Orbis Factor, the Veni Creator, Salve Regina) and some big, joyful pieces which reflected the happiness of the celebration - the Peter Jones Gloria, Christopher Idle's "God we Praise you" to Beethoven's music, and Dan Schutte's "Blest be the Lord".

Prayer was an important theme of the celebration. Cardinal O'Brien, at the beginning of the Ordination rite, highlighted the need to pray unceasingly as a necessity of our faith, and something which would strengthen the new Bishop in his witness to the Gospel and each person in his or her daily struggle to be true to conscience.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Muñoz, in his address at the end of the service, urged the congregation to pray for their new Bishop even as he must pray for them. To the delight of the congregation, he then took the opportunity to congratulate Bishop Joe's mother, saying that, as one of a large family himself, he knew how much was due to her.

## **Glasgow Celebrations**

### **Glasgow the Welcoming City**

This ecumenical service, hosted annually by the City Council, was possibly the most colourful celebration yet, involving so many diverse groups from the city: children from the Southside Fiddlers, Scott Glasgow on pipes, the Rutherglen Salvation Army Band, Carissa Bovill and Theresa Irving on harp, children from the High School of Glasgow, the Asian Christian Group, the Rysy Polish Folk Group, members of the Afro-Scottish Heritage Group, the Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project Theatre, and a number of other instrumentalists as well as the St. Mungo Singers.

The wonderfully relaxed tone of the service was set by the harpists playing to welcome the congregation as they climbed the stairs to the Banqueting Hall, and by the joyful fiddle music of the Southside Fiddlers in the Hall. To the singing of “God our Creator” (Tune: Highland Cathedral) Baillie McMaster, representing the Lord Provost, and the Church leaders led in a bright procession of participants in national costume – Asian, African and Polish –to begin the celebration.

Baillie McMaster welcomed everyone present as pilgrims who had come to pray for the City. Looking round the congregation, she described it as a colourful mosaic of Glasgow in its diversity which had come to take part in a service which conveyed pride in Glasgow’s history, optimism and openness over the centuries to people of many different nationalities, cultures and creeds. She recalled the city’s past high-points as a centre of industry, then culture, art and architecture, and latterly its recovery of its close links with Europe and the wider world community. Quoting from the hymn which would close the service “Let Glasgow Flourish” (with text from Psalm 121), she invited all present to join in praying for peace within the city and for each other as brothers and sisters.

The beginnings of Glasgow were recalled in the singing of a hymn from the St. Mungo Cantata and in a presentation by the children from the High School of the story behind the components of the Glasgow City crest, with accompanying images on a screen to illustrate the text.

Members of the Asian Christian community then led the congregation in the singing of the Magnificat to the tune of “Wild Mountain Thyme” with a difference – the chorus was sung in Urdu and the musical accompaniment was on a traditional keyboard instrument.

After a reading from the Book of Revelation, the Rev. Laurence Whitley, Minister of Glasgow Cathedral, gave the reflection, inviting the congregation to consider how the reading gave a blueprint for the Holy City of God which was not yet here but was on its way—’ as good as!’ Glasgow could go some way towards making it present by being a city which was inclusive, undivided and capable of being holy if it confirmed the purpose of God. He suggested that those present could have the gleam of the City of God in their eyes as they worshipped together in joy.

Members of the Archdiocesan Arts Group did a lovely, funny but quite telling piece which covered so many aspects of Glasgow from its history, its move away from sectarianism, to its new building and industrial developments and its multi-cultural cuisine. They even managed to get in a plug for the Archbishop's new cloister and the multicultural festival at Mugdock Park!

The Afro-Scottish Heritage group then sang an African hymn to the accompaniment of drummers with such verve and joy that the congregation were left wishing they could have joined in, and the Polish group in their colourful national costumes sang a hymn based on Psalm 102.

As always, a collection was taken up for the Lord Provost's Charities Fund and the service ended with the singing of "Let Glasgow Flourish". We had a brilliant post service encore from the Afro- Scottish Heritage group who had changed costumes and treated us to a lively dance which brought the afternoon to a wonderful close. The City then provided hospitality while the Southside Fiddlers played some great dance music to send us on our way, feeling it had been a great day.

### Carols for Peace

This celebration provided both a contrast with and echoes of the June service. Again we had a diversity of musicians and singers involved: Asian, Gaelic, Irish and Scots. It was a joyful event as a capacity congregation joined in the singing of a number of well-known carols to mark the birth of the Christ Child, but there were some more serious notes as we recalled the lack of peace particularly in the Holy Land. Bailie Catherine McMaster, in her welcome, invited us to take time out to think of the real meaning of Christmas and pray for those less fortunate than ourselves, who do not have the freedoms and quality of life that we take for granted.



Left: some of the instrumentalists and conductors at Carols for Peace 2008.

### Forthcoming Events:

The Archdiocesan Music Committee is organising a **workshop on 'Evening Prayer in the Parish' on Wednesday 11th February**. Then there will be the annual **RCIA Service** on the 1st Sunday of Lent. The St Mungo Singers are planning a **'Malta Evening'** in late February, and in March a **Requiem Mass** for deceased members. They will also lead an **Evening Prayer for the Vigil of the Feast of St John Ogilvie** in St Aloysius' on Monday March 9th, and later on an **Evening Prayer of St Paul**. February marks that time in the year when we look to renewing repertoire so the choir can look forward to some good rehearsing.



**Bishop Ian's Farewell Mass in November**

**The Polish Group at 'Glasgow the Welcoming City' in June**



**Bishop Toal with family and friends after his Ordination in December**

**Some of the Asian Scottish fellowship at Carols for Peace in December**



St Mungo's Music is printed by Martin McGinty at Milton Press, Clydebank Business Park: 0141 952 8545 Graphic © Netta Ewing







