

## FATHER MIKE IN TANZANIA

Father Mike Fallon had a wonderful six weeks in Tanzania, working with a friend who had been working out there with the church for many years. He had hoped to visit for some years and this was the fulfilment of a dream.

The joy the people there feel in their faith is very infectious and the photographs showed Father Mike's enjoyment of his time with them. When I said he seemed to be enjoying the children's company he said they were like sponges. How great to be so thirsty for the life-giving water of the gospel!



Father Mike says that the Cluster churches are consulting on the possibility of having partnerships with parishes in Tanzania in the same way as a number of primary and secondary schools have already done.

More details can be found on the internet, as shown below: [www.twendepamoja.org.uk](http://www.twendepamoja.org.uk)

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**CROSSTALK** is the Newsletter of SEECAT and is published by Ruth Davies, Liberton Kirk Centre, 28 Kirkgate, Edinburgh EH16 6RY.

The churches in SEECAT are Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield, KLM, Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun), St. Barnabas', St. Catherine's, St. John Vianney's and St. Gregory's. Our website at [www.seecat.org](http://www.seecat.org) has links to individual churches.

## PRAYERS NEEDED . . .

- For the folk of KLM Church as they seek clarity for their future and hope to appoint a new leader.
- for the folk of Liberton Northfield as they continue with the process of filling their minister vacancy.
- for the summer events for children and young people in churches and community; for sufficient helpers; for the love of God to be known.
- for the family of Keane Wallis Bennett and the staff and pupils of Liberton High School as they re-adjust following her tragic death.
- for all those who use the Food Bank in Southhouse, that their circumstances improve and that they are able to feed themselves and their families.

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This newsletter is also on our website.

The next issue will be in August. Comments and suggestions are welcome—please contact one of the SEECAT representatives in your church or speak to Ruth.

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SEECAT

Issue 2 May 2014

## A HOLY WEEK TO REMEMBER

It began with the **Passover Meal**



on Monday, when we were reminded of the Jewish roots of our faith and the events of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, when he startled them by washing their feet. Good company, lovely food—thank you St. Catherine's!

On Wednesday, the **Stations of the Cross Service** moved to a Church of Scotland church for the first time. "Different, but good!" was one comment. The images of hands at each Station were photographs by Gerry Simpson and Christine Sindall from an exhibit at St. Cuthbert's United Reformed Church on Holy Island. All the readers rose to the occasion and it was as always a very moving service



# CROSSTALK

*South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together*

Blue sky and crosses as far as the eye could see across Morrisons car park as all the churches met up for the **Open Air Service** on Good Friday morning.



What a great witness to all who saw us walking, and to those shopping at Morrisons!

Later on Good Friday there were very few spare seats out of 300 at the **Gracemount High School Service**. What a wonderful feeling of unity as we all gathered round the cross of Jesus and remembered his sacrifice for us. Lovely singing and good to hear John McPake again. No hot cross buns left at the end!



## PEOPLE

**Dave Rankin**, Associate Minister at KLM Church, will be ordained as parish minister at Perth Riverside Church on Wednesday 7th May, and we wish him and Ruth and Sophia every happiness there. He will be much missed by the folk at KLM and in the schools and the surrounding area, as will his wife Ruth, who was Arts and Drama Worker at the Hub and very well known and loved by the young people there and in the schools.

Sadly, one of SEECAT's most well-known supporters, **Elizabeth Phillips**, died peacefully at her home in Ellen's Glen House in March. Elizabeth overcame physical disability and recurring illness in her life. She was a loyal member of St. Barnabas' Church, where she was a lay reader, and was also devoted to ecumenism. She will be much missed.

## FOOD BANK IN SOUTHHOUSE

The Food Bank at the Blythswood Shop at 47 Southhouse Broadway is much in demand. In the last year 3 days supply of food was given to 527 children and 924 adults, over 80% from the local Liberton/Gilmerton area. In total 12,732kg of food went out. John Ross is very grateful for the help received from individuals and from churches. Tinned food, pasta and rice, long-life milk and juice, sugar and biscuits (and a few treats) are much appreciated.

## REFERENDUM HUSTINGS

One of our Hustings Evenings is confirmed—Tuesday 26th August at the Hub, Ravenscroft Street. The speakers for the Yes and No campaigns will be Kenny MacAskill MSP and Kezia Dugdale MSP. Put the date in your diary now— more information later.

Another is planned for either 24th or 25th June at Liberton Northfield but speakers and final date have yet to be confirmed. Keep the dates open and look out for more information on posters or in church newsletters.

## HOMELESSNESS HIGHLIGHTED

Bethany's work with the homeless in our city will be highlighted at an evening run by SEECAT's Justice and Peace Group on Wednesday 7th May at St. Catherine's. Paul Drury is the speaker. £1 entrance can be paid at the door and there will be a Tombola and a Traidcraft Stall. Don't miss it!



## DIARY DATE

The next Justice and Peace Evening will be Wednesday 24th September at 7pm at Tron Kirk Moredun. The speaker will be Olivia Giles, who set up a charity (500 miles) providing prosthetic limbs to children in developing countries. She was disabled herself by meningitis, and is an inspiring speaker.

## EASTER EGGS AT CAMERON TOLL

The Chaplains at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre were actively involved in the appeal for Easter eggs this year. 70 were donated, and were distributed to the Basics Bank (29), the Salvation Army (28), and Howdenhall Children's Unit (13).

## SERVICES AT LIBERTON HOSPITAL

SEECAT has run a service at Liberton Hospital on the fourth Sunday of the month since 2006. We meet at 2.30pm in the Function Hall so that patients don't miss any time with their visitors, who come at 3pm. The service is very much appreciated by those who come.

Christine Scott from Liberton Kirk has come along with her keyboard since the beginning (and before that she helped with the Chaplains' occasional services) but she is now retiring. Many thanks to her for her contribution to the worship over the years.

Is there anybody out there who could bring a keyboard and play for four hymns with perhaps a little bit of music before 2.30? That means about an hour of your time once a month. If you could help please contact Ruth on 664 3608.

We also need more general support for the Ellen's Glen House Service on the first Sunday at 2.30pm. Help with setting up, finding hymns, helping patients is urgently needed. Please contact Fiona on 666 1004.



## WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?

Messy Church is a new sort of church for young families who for whatever reason don't come to Sunday church. Held on another day of the week, with a relaxed atmosphere, it has crafts and games, a time of worship, and a meal together. Usually the crafts (and even the food) are linked to the theme.

There are three Messy Churches in our area, one at Liberton Kirk on the last Saturday of the month, 4-6pm, one at Tron Kirk on the first Saturday from 4-6pm and one at Ferniehill Evangelical Church, usually on the third Saturday from 10am to 12.30pm. If you know any families with young children who might be interested why not suggest they try it? Check the date and time with the church concerned.

Messy Church began in an Anglican church near Portsmouth, and there are now over a thousand in the U.K. and abroad.

## MEETING TOGETHER IN LENT

50+ people met for five weeks in Lent in six groups to talk about the values they would like to see in Scotland from a Christian point of view. In church halls and people's homes we had a chance to get to know folk from different churches a little better. Thanks to those who led the groups, and to the hosts.