

"I WOULD WALK 500 MILES . . ."

These are Proclaimers' lyrics you might recognise! Olivia Giles chose "500 miles" as the name of her charity, whose aim is to get disabled people in Africa up and walking. The phrases that jump out at you from the website are "Getting People Moving" and "Giving People Back their Lives" - have a look yourself at www.500miles.co.uk.

Olivia will be the speaker at SEECAT's next **Justice and Peace Evening on Wednesday 24th September at 7pm at Tron Kirk Moredun**. An Edinburgh lawyer,



she was disabled herself by meningitis. The help she received prompted her to set up the charity, and she is a truly inspiring speaker. Come along and hear for yourself!

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 has links to individual churches.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . .

- for our nation of Scotland following the Referendum on 18th September, that whatever the result everybody will unite to work for a just and fair society and a country we can be proud of.
- for the SEECAT Annual General Meeting on 14th September, that all posts would be filled and that there would be anticipation about the year to come and real enthusiasm for what we can achieve together.
- for the folk of KLM Church as they seek God's vision for their future and look to appoint a new leader.
- for the folk of Liberton Northfield as they continue to search for a new minister, that the right person would come forward.

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in November.

Comments and suggestions are welcome—please contact one of the SEECAT representatives in your church or speak to Ruth.



Issue 3 August 2014

A BIG DECISION

Scotland faces a big decision on 18th September, and the high numbers watching the televised Salmond/Darling debate show just how much people want to be well informed before they cast their vote. All over Scotland the churches are facilitating Hustings events in their areas so that people can hear both sides of the argument and raise questions if they wish.

In this area we have already held one Hustings Evening on 24th June at Liberton Northfield Church, the speakers being Jim Eadie, MSP, deputising for Fiona Hyslop, and Gavin Brown, MSP. Each spoke for 15 minutes and then answered questions.

There will be a **second Hustings on Thursday 28th August at the Hub, Ravenscroft Street**. The speakers for the Yes and No campaigns will be Kenny MacAskill MSP and Kezia Dugdale MSP. The evening will run from 7.30pm to 9pm and there will be time for questions, which should be handed in by 7.20pm on the evening. All are welcome.

CROSSTALK

South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

CHAPLAINS AT CAMERON TOLL

The Steering Group which manages the chaplains on behalf of SEECAT and NCT (Newington Churches Together) has entered into an agreement with Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland which means that day-to-day supervision and training will be handled by WPCS, who have considerable expertise in this area. They have links with the STUC and businesses in Scotland.

If you look at their website (www.wpcscotland.co.uk) you will see that we are mentioned.



Reuben and Danielle, our two Chaplains, talking to Brian, who works in Security at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre.

GIFT FROM ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

Elizabeth's family felt that her involvement in SEECAT had been something she held very dear, and therefore asked that the offering at her funeral service at St. Barnabas' Church should be given to SEECAT. At the May meeting we decided to buy a roll-up banner which could be used at the Open Air Service, at the service in Gracemount High School, and at any event such as carol-singing to advertise ourselves. Elizabeth was always very supportive of our community events, and we feel she would approve! The rest of the gift will be retained for similar specific requirements in future.

PEOPLE

Who is David McNeish? The speaker at our Open Air Service on Good Friday, and the Chairman at our first Hustings Evening is the Probationary Minister at Liberton Kirk. He has completed his academic training to be a Minister in the Church of Scotland, but now has a 15-month parish attachment to learn the practicalities. He will be at Liberton until Christmas, but in the last three months he will be able to apply for a minister post.

David lives in South Queensferry with his wife, Sally, and his three children. He has done various jobs prior to this (doctor, C.A.B. Lobbyist), he is a member of the Iona Community, and he writes (and sings) songs.

DONATIONS

The Justice and Peace Group raised £405 for Bethany Christian Trust at the evening at St. Catherine's in May.

From the offering on Good Friday afternoon it has been possible to donate £265 to the Food Bank at Southhouse. A similar sum will be donated in September to the charity 500 Miles, which is the subject of the Justice and Peace Group Evening on 24th September (see back page).

CREDIT UNION

SEECAT has a group of people led by Jacqui Sanger which has been beavering away in our corner of Edinburgh trying to raise the profile of Credit Unions generally and Castle Credit Union in particular.

It has become apparent that in the present financial climate small credit unions like Castle struggle to survive, and yet there is clearly a need for Credit Unions which are accessible to people who need finance which is affordable and who cannot risk getting into debt.

A working party set up in conjunction with the Leith Churches has been investigating setting up an Edinburgh-wide Credit Union for this purpose, and it looks as though Castle will be part of this wider set-up, which could give it stability and a more secure future. This is an exciting development which we hope will achieve our objectives

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Everybody is welcome to come to **SEECAT's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 14th September, 3pm at St. Gregory's**, Walter Scott Avenue. (SEECAT's business meetings are always open to anyone who wishes to come.)

"A.G.M.s are boring" people say—but they shouldn't be, because this is the time when we review what we've done in the past year, when we make sure that all the necessary posts are filled to take us forward, and when we approve our programme for the year to come.

We have a full programme of events over the year, but in addition we are involved with a number of other things—and people are representing us on the Chaplaincy Steering Group, the Justice and Peace Group, at the Hospital Services, and with the Credit Union. We are also represented on the Neighbourhood Partnership and on both the Liberton Community Council and the Gilmerton and Inch Community Council. Lots of people doing things on SEECAT's behalf, and it's good to hear from them.

The agreed programme for 2014/15 will be circulated to churches in October—watch out for it and make sure you get a copy.

The November issue of Crosstalk will include a "Who's Who" for SEECAT so that you know all the people who are doing things on your behalf.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS EVENING.

At a Neighbourhood Partnership Event earlier this year, when SEECAT was represented, we encountered a Christian couple from Portobello who ran a service in people's homes for those with dementia. Andrew Senew offered to come along to talk about dementia to people from our churches, to help our understanding of the disease and what could be done to alleviate its effect.

SEECAT agreed to take up this offer, and there will therefore be a Dementia Awareness Evening at Tron Kirk Moredun at some point in October. Watch out for details nearer the time.

This meeting will be open to anybody interested in the subject. Please encourage people to come.

MESSY IN THE PARK

Some of the SEECAT churches, along with Ferniehill Evangelical and one or two others from further afield, will be hosting an outdoor (hopefully) event on the green space near the Moredun flats and Goodtrees Community Centre on 20th September from 2pm.

There will be something for all the family, including a Youth Band, some Messy Church crafts and Steph McLeod, a gifted singer/songwriter with a story to tell. Please pray for fine weather, and encourage any families you know from that area to come along and join in the fun—and think about coming along yourself!