



Issue 8 November 2015

“After leaving her violent partner, Claire was struggling to cope with a very active 4-year-old. She met up with a **Family Friend**, which got her out of the house, gave her the opportunity to talk, and helped her to follow parenting advice she’d received. **A Host Family** began taking Daniel on Friday afternoons and overnight every two weeks. This gave Claire a much-needed break. After 3 months Claire feels much more able to cope, and has even applied to go to college.”



Safe Families for Children
SCOTLAND

Safe Families for Children organised the Family Friend and Host Family mentioned above. They have been in Edinburgh for a year, getting church volunteers to support both parents and children. This is a very adaptable short-term support — a mix of befriending, short-term hosting and practical help.

In Edinburgh there are many young isolated parents like Claire.

CROSSTALK

***The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together***

As Safe Families for Children get more referrals from Social Work and Health teams in the Edinburgh South area, they will want to link with more churches and to identify volunteers who can help with 1 or 2 short-term cases in a year. Their website is: www.safefamiliesforchildren/scotland

FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

was the subject of our Awareness Evening on 26th October at Liberton Kirk Centre, which was well attended. We had speakers from Social Work, the Neighbourhood Partnership, Safe Families for Children and Bethany Christian Trust. It was good to know that all these are eager to work with church folk to improve life for local families who are struggling. We hope that help will be forthcoming for Safe Families for Children (above) and for Bethany. Bethany now have Community Development work going on and are involved with some churches in our area — more about their community work in the next issue.



**Bethany
Christian
Trust**

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The AGM this year will be on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm at St. Barnabas' Church, and all are welcome. Future plans for the Group will be discussed, and after the meeting cards will be written to Prisoners of Conscience.

The last event held was on 23rd September at Tron Kirk Moredun, when a speaker from the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society told us about their work and particularly the ongoing help being provided to victims of the Nepal earthquake. The amount raised on the night for EMMS was £450.

The Justice and Peace Group is keen to promote the "Shine a Light for Hope" proposal already adopted by the three R.C. Churches—see back page.

ACTS MOVE

Action of Churches Together in Scotland has moved its office from Alloa to Stirling. The new address is Jubilee House, Forthside Way, Stirling FK8 1QZ. The new office is within the headquarters of Volunteer Scotland and next to Stirling railway station.

ACTS is 25 years old this year—the anniversary service was in Glasgow at St. Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 14th November.

CAMERON TOLL CHAPLAINCY



You should all have seen the August newsletter, which came out around the end of October and was sent round to all churches. It included information about the shopping centre becoming a "dementia friendly" place and about Reuben, one of the chaplains, helping with a parenting group in Gilmerton.

The Chaplaincy AGM is on Wednesday 19th November, 7.30pm at the Faith Mission. The speaker is a Dementia Advisor from Alzheimers Scotland. **All welcome.**

SEECAT'S CAROL SINGING

The first date is Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm in Cameron Toll Shopping Centre. We will be at the top of the stairs in the centre mall. The second is on Saturday 19th December at 12 noon at Morrisons, Gilmerton Road. The Manager usually lets us sing just inside the door.

Please come along to one (or both) of these. It's great to sing for an hour and let people know that the churches are together in wishing them a happy Christmas. We hand out leaflets with our Christmas services, but we don't collect for charity. We sing the Christmas story and wish people well!

FUNERAL POVERTY

A Discussion Panel organised by
Edinburgh Churches Together

Monday 23rd November
7.30pm-9pm

Augustine United Church
41-43 George IV Bridge

The cost of funerals is a major worry to many and this is an evening when the problem will be aired and discussed.

Represented on the Panel will be the Scottish Working Group on Funeral Poverty, Citizens Advice Scotland and the National Association of Funeral Directors. There will also be the Head NHS Chaplain for Lothian and the Bereavement and Local Community Planning Manager for Edinburgh City Council.

NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

Advent Sunday

29th November

3pm in St. Andrew's Square

This is one of the free events as part of "Edinburgh's Christmas". It has been generously donated to Edinburgh by Sir Tom Farmer and organised in conjunction with St. Andrew's and St. George's West and Edinburgh Churches Together.

A LITTLE BIT OF QUIET

Saturday 28th November, the day before Advent begins, is our Quiet Morning at St. Gregory's, from 10.15am to 1.15pm. Tea or coffee will be provided but you should bring a packed lunch. This is a good opportunity to be still for a while before the run-up to Christmas. It will be led this year by Sister Jeanette and Sister Christine on the theme "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest".

A WARM WELCOME!

To Mike Taylor, the new minister at Liberton Northfield, inducted on 15th September. Mike is a South African and was a projects manager before becoming a minister in the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa. He served in Port Elizabeth, in St Martin's Presbyterian Church, during which time he completed a Master in Philosophy Degree in Christian Studies. Mike then took up a post as the head academic at TEE College, the largest theological education provider in Africa, training 3400 people a year. Mike, his wife Samantha, son Dylan and daughter Lauren, emigrated to Scotland last year in December.

CASTLE COMMUNITY BANK should be up and running in the new year and enable us to offer access to a reliable credit union. The search is now on for a local base where people can come for information and have access to the internet.

SHINE A LIGHT FOR HOPE



Here's a suggestion - why not put a lit green candle or lamp in our window for an hour each evening? Green is the colour of hope.

Then perhaps we could pause for a minute of reflection on the host of people wandering the world in search of a new home, to bring them before God, to ask how we might help, to remind ourselves of Jesus' teaching on welcome and hospitality.

The Justice & Peace Group will have a supply of candles and lamps at their AGM (see page 2).

NEW MINISTRY CANDIDATE

Louise Purden, Family Support Worker at KLM Church, has been accepted for training for the Ministry in the Church of Scotland. Louise, who is John McPake's daughter, will start training in the Autumn, and we wish her well.

LIBERTON HOSPITAL CAROLS

SEECAT will be holding a Carol Service at Liberton Hospital on Sunday 20th December at 2.30pm in the Function Hall on the ground floor. Do come along and join in!

PRAYERS NEEDED

- for a joyful witness to our community in our carol singing at Cameron Toll and Morrisons.
- for accommodation to be found locally to enable us to offer credit union facilities to our local community in the new year.
- for the families in our area who are struggling to cope, and for the organisations who seek to help them, that they will find the volunteers they need.
- for all refugees as winter approaches, that they will find shelter and care.
- for people to hear the true message of Christmas and to know its peace and promise.

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in February, and suggestions are welcome—please contact any of the SEECAT representatives in your church or speak to Ruth.

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.