



Issue 9 February 2016

# ***CROSSTALK***

*The Newsletter of  
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together*

**WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO  
DO ON GOOD FRIDAY?**  
*Are you planning to be here?*



*Or here?*



Don't miss the chance to witness to our common faith at the **Open Air Service at Morrisons at 11am** (walking if you can from your churches) and at the **Joint Service at 3 o'clock in Gracemount High School**.

*Let's tell our communities together just what it means to us to know we are children of God, forgiven and loved for ever!*

## **THE PLIGHT OF THE REFUGEES**

This will be the focus of the next fund-raising and awareness event on Wednesday 20th April in St. Catherine's Church Hall, Gracemount Drive, at 7pm. The Justice and Peace Group warmly invite you to support this event. The speaker will be Jeanne Bell, who, with her husband, founded the charity EDINBURGH DIRECT AID, which provides help to refugees. Their original focus some years ago was the crisis in Bosnia, but we will hear about the charity's involvement in this current refugee crisis.



Admission (by ticket or at the door) is £1, and there will be a tombola, and refreshments after the talk. All funds raised on the evening will go to Edinburgh Direct Aid.

## **LIBERTON HOSPITAL**

Different rumours about the closure of Liberton Hospital are in circulation, but it seems that it will still be looking after patients through 2016. We will continue our monthly service at 2.30pm on the fourth Sunday of the month while there are still patients there.

In December, with the eight wards in the main block completely full, we were delighted with the attendance at the Carol Service. Patients and relatives crowded into the Function Hall and enjoyed hearing the Christmas story and singing familiar carols. The Hospital kindly supplied mince pies, tea and coffee, for us to serve afterwards and almost everybody stayed for a lovely time of refreshment and chat.

## **PERSECUTION HIGHLIGHTED**

The people of Liberton Kirk have had the problem of Christian persecution highlighted over the last year. Having welcomed an Iranian couple who had fled their country because of persecution, there was much prayer for their son, in danger in Iran. Thankfully he escaped, made his way across Europe, and after some time in Dungavel, was able to be in Liberton Kirk at the beginning of February, to everybody's delight. There was much rejoicing, and thanksgiving for answered prayer.

## **RC REORGANISATION**

Archbishop Leo Cushley is in the process of consultation about proposals to reorganise the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh. As part of this he will be visiting our local Cluster on Saturday 27th February. He will be at St. Catherine's, Gracemount Drive at 10am to speak and to take questions.

All three churches have had an opportunity to consider the proposals and to put forward possible questions, which are now being sifted and prioritised. The proposals are wide-ranging and could result in a reduction in the number of churches and priests in the archdiocese.

## **PALM SUNDAY STORYTELLING SERVICE AT THE FAITH MISSION**

There will be a service in the Faith Mission Auditorium at 7pm on Sunday 20th March organised by the Big Idea Churches, which includes several SEECAT churches. Taking part will be Yorick Jackson, the Associate Bible Storyteller in Newington Churches Together. He tells the story "Word for Word from the Word".

All are welcome to join in this evening of praise, prayer and reflection at the start of Holy Week.

## ***BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST— from Isobel Alford***

Bethany is passionate to see lives transformed and communities revitalized. Our Community Development staff support churches to use existing community assets, developing sustainable projects that meet local needs. While people need practical support, they also need the opportunity to change. Everyone has potential and Community Development is all about supporting the local church to work with some of the most marginalized people in our communities.

The local church is already in the heart of many communities. Our staff provide help to bring together people who have become socially isolated with professional support services—provided by ourselves and our partner organisations — with volunteers and other resources including funding and venues.

If you have an idea for your church to get to know the people in your community better, then talk with your minister/priest and us to explore how together we can share God's love with our neighbours.



[www.bethanychristiantrust.com](http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com)

## ***BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST— already with us***

Several of our churches are involved with Bethany's work with the homeless through the care van and night shelter, but did you know that they are already in our area with their community development work?

At the Blythswood Shop in Southhouse they are involved in the Wednesday Drop-in Café, and they are working with Louise Purden at KLM Church to set up a project with them.

## ***MEETING POPE FRANCIS FACE-TO-FACE***

Father Henry Mclaughlin, well-known in our Roman Catholic churches, works in Mexico for six months from October to April and was expecting to be one of the crowd of some 100,000 people greeting the Pope on his visit to that part of the world. There was great news for him, however.

Father Henry has been involved in producing a New Testament translated into the local Tzeltal language and he has been chosen to present a copy to the Pope with two of the translators. He will not be just one of the crowd! He is delighted to be meeting a man who challenges and inspires him, and particularly pleased that the Pope will also meet the Mayan Indians, who suffer so much.

## **CAMERON TOLL CHAPLAINCY**



The Chaplaincy were delighted with the new Nativity Scene on display in the Centre over the Christmas period. They distributed Christmas cards and details of all the Christmas Services in SEECAT and NCT churches to all outlets, and will do the same at Easter.

Once again there will be an Easter Egg collection in a box outside Sainsbury's. If you are buying an Easter Egg (or even if you aren't!) why not buy one for this collection? All of the eggs will be distributed to a local Food Bank, or to the Salvation Army, or to local charities.



We are delighted that Rosemary Bayne has joined Clare Roller to represent SEECAT on the Chaplaincy Steering Group.

## **PRAYERS NEEDED . . . . .**

- for a great witness to our community on Good Friday in our prayer walk and open air service and our service at Gracemount High School.
- for the people meeting in our Lent Groups, that they will get to know people from other churches better and that they will feel the discussions to be rewarding.
- for safety for Christians in many countries of the world who are persecuted for their faith.
- for refugees everywhere, that they would find shelter, warmth, food and welcome.
- for peace in the war-torn countries of the world.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Join with other Christians round the world to pray on Friday, 4th March. Our local service is at the Hub, Ravenscroft Street, at 2pm—everybody welcome. This year's material comes from Cuba.

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This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in May, 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](http://www.seecat.org) has links to individual churches.