



Issue 11 August 2016

# ***CROSSTALK***

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

## **DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS?**



It's the Balm Well (in the grounds of the Toby Inn) which is an ancient site of healing. We hope that next

year's SEECAT programme will include a healing service on this site. That's one of the things to be discussed at the SEECAT AGM, 3pm on Sunday 11th September at St. Catherine's, Gracemount Drive. Reviewing the last year and planning the next—your opportunity to contribute if you wish. All welcome!

There will be a couple of changes. Our Vice-Chairman, Rev. David Dixon, will take over as Chair from Ruth Davies, who has completed her three years in post. Our Representative on the Liberton and District Community Council, Lyn Watts, is standing down and we are looking for a replacement. It's important that the churches are represented on such bodies. Could you help?

## **JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP**

To mark the World Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel (18th to 24th September) the Justice and Peace Group have arranged with Cammy Mackenzie a special get-together at the 5pm service on Sunday 18th September at the Hub in Ravenscroft Street. Elspeth Strachan will speak about EAPPI (the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel) and a collection will be



taken for their work. EAPPI is a programme administered by the World Council of Churches—have a look at the EAPPI website for more information. Do come along to this service focussing on a lasting peace for the Holy Land.

The next Justice & Peace Evening should be on Wednesday 12th October at Tron Kirk Moredun at 7pm, and will focus on Riding for the Disabled at the Drum Estate.

## **CREDIT UNION**

Castle Community Bank was formed late 2015 after the merger of two long-established Credit Unions, Castle and North Edinburgh, which had been serving their local communities for over thirty years. It opened on line in June 2016.

The focus for the Community Bank is



to grow and become a viable and attractive option for those seeking to save and borrow within a financial co-operative. It aims to become a social enterprise offering financial understanding and empowerment of people in the use of money and management of financial affairs.

Under the former credit union system SEECAT offered a collection point locally, in Gilmerston, hoping to reach those who had no option other than to use high cost credit. This was suspended to assess the Community Bank's ability to reach out to those excluded from accessing affordable finance.

Meantime the Community Bank offers an on-line service at [castlecommunitybank.co.uk](http://castlecommunitybank.co.uk) and offers savings, some with returns, and loans to anyone who lives or works in the "EH" postcode. Much more information on the website!

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

- for a special blessing on the SEECAT Retreat to the Isle of Cumbrae from 4th to 6th September, when 14 folk from the different denominations will be thinking about Christian Unity.
- for the planning of the SEECAT programme at the AGM on 11th September.
- for all those in our neighbourhoods who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness or poverty, and for us as churches to find ways of helping them.
- for Castle Community Bank, that it would prove to be an asset in the battle against debt among the vulnerable in our communities.

## **MESSY IN THE PARK**



On Saturday 10th September some of the local churches will once again be hosting a family outdoor event based on the Messy Church format, this time at Castlevue Community Centre in Craigmillar. This is for young families and starts at 3 o'clock. There will be crafts and games, worship, food, and musical entertainment, all finishing at 6.30pm.

## **CAMERON TOLL CHAPLAINCY**



The Annual General Meeting of the C.T.C. will be held at the Faith Mission on Thursday 10th November, 7pm for 7.30pm. The speaker will be David Bradwell of Scottish Faith Action for Refugees. All are welcome to come along.

Regular prayer meetings are held at Costa Coffee in the shopping centre—the next date is 10th October at 5pm. Again, anyone is welcome!

## **CONFERENCE COMING UP**

Saturday 8th October: "Mission and Local Church Life" at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square. Keynote speaker Professor Kirsteen Kim, Professor of Theology and World Christianity at Leeds Trinity University. Details to come on the ACTS Scotland website. You need to register but it's free and lunch is provided.

## **GIVE US A CHANCE!**

In this, the Year of Mercy, the three Roman Catholic Cluster parishes are going out to people who have drifted away from the Church and welcoming them back. Postcards have been printed with the message "All we ask is that you give us a chance", and parish hall meetings held.

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

This is a 26 week course that helps people break free of hurts habits and hang-ups. It was developed by Rick Warren and John Baker of Saddleback Church in the USA to provide an alternative to AA which encourages people to find their "higher power". Rather than that, CR points folks straight to Christ.

Over the course of the 26 weeks we cover all sorts of topics—including every one of the AA 12 steps but also the beatitudes and many bible references helping us to see Christ as the way forward and the one who is able and willing to lead us to freedom. We never really talk about being addicted as such because that means that some might claim that they are "OK", but rather we focus on hurts, habits and hang-ups (for who can say they have none of those in their lives?)

We open the doors at 7 pm and have half an hour of worship. Then there's a talk on a different subject each week such as Hope, Sanity, Powerlessness etc. We have a cuppa, before going into a group with people of our own sex where we discuss a number of questions from the course books, finishing at 9.30 sharp.

If you know anyone who might benefit from such a support group please don't hesitate to call me (Cammy 07838 912361).

## **GRACEMOUNT CHURCH . . . .**

has a new group called Baby Buds—with pampering for mum and fun for baby—on two Wednesdays, 26th October and 30th November, at Gracemount Church House, 76 Lasswade Road, from 10.30am to 12 noon. Mums are invited to enjoy free coffee and homebaking in a calm, safe, homely space. Brenda is the contact—07532 204571.

## **NEW FACE AT LIBERTON KIRK**

Tim Sinclair is the new Probationary Minister at Liberton Kirk.



He will be there for about 15 months to finish his training—he has completed three years of theological study at New

College on the Mound. Tim is married to Judith and loves football, reading, and exploring the highlands and islands of Scotland. We look forward to meeting him at SEECAT events.

## **GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING**

The offering from the Good Friday afternoon service this year was divided between Edinburgh Direct Aid (for their work with refugees) and Bethany Christian Trust (for their community development work in South East Edinburgh). Both organisations received £375 and letters expressing their delight and thanks have been received.

## **MUSLIM COMMUNITY LINK**

In July St. Catherine's welcomed Imam Yahya Barry from the Edinburgh Central Mosque to talk after Mass on the matters of faith which bind the traditions of Muslims and Christians together.

Following the visit a Planning Group will be set up with members of the Central Mosque and St. Catherine's Parish Council to take matters forward. This will consider planning a Conference where knowledge of Christian and Muslim faith, traditions, customs and way of life may be explained and shared, and to look at other possibilities for co-operation and sharing.

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This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in November, 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 Gracemount Church, Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield, Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun), St. Barnabas', St. Catherine's, St. John Vianney's and St. Gregory's. Our website, [www.seecat.org](http://www.seecat.org), has links to them.