



Issue 14 May 2017

CROSSTALK

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

HEALING SERVICE—SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 3PM AT THE BALM WELL



This is in the grounds of the Toby Carvery, 41 Howden Hall Road, and it is an ancient site of healing, visited by pilgrims for centuries. On Saturday 3rd June at 3pm the SEECAT churches are holding a Service of Healing there. At the end of the short service, prayers for healing of body, mind and soul, will be offered for anyone who would like to be prayed for.

If you know anyone who might benefit from such a ministry, please bring them or encourage them to come along. If a lift (or a seat at the site) is required there is a sign-up sheet available in all the churches. After the service you can join others in the Toby for refreshments and chat, and we are asking you to indicate on the sign up sheet if you are likely to do this, just to give the Toby some idea of the numbers likely to descend on them!

COULD YOU HELP?

The Cameron Toll Chaplaincy was set up by SEECAT and NCT churches in 2002 with two part-time volunteer chaplains. One of the first was Clare Roller of St. Catherine's, and later Shona Haggie of Gracemount Church was appointed. We are looking for a new volunteer chaplain to work with Graham Dann, who is the current chaplain, and who belongs to Priestfield Church. The current arrangement is for

the chaplains to be at the Centre for four hours a week, normally Tuesday and Friday mornings, but this is flexible. Training is provided by Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland. If you would like to find out more, please talk to David Dixon, Rosemary Bayne, Clare or Shona. Clare and Rosemary represent SEECAT on the Chaplaincy Steering Group.



LENT STUDIES

About 50 people took part in the study groups on “The Joy of the Gospel”, in five groups.

Anne and Noel Cochrane from St. Catherine’s enjoyed their group of seven people, although all of them were from two R.C. Parishes and it would have been good to have a more ecumenical balance.

They said discussion was always thoughtful and lively and “challenging” was the word which described most sessions, a flavour of the challenge being shown in this extract under the heading “A church goes forth”: *“Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says ‘We have always done it this way.’”*

Anne and Noel felt that as an exercise in sharing faith the sessions proved a great success. All evenings ended with tea and informal chat.

Why don’t you think about joining a group next spring?

AUTUMN CONFERENCE

On Saturday 4th November there will be a free day conference (10.30am—3.15pm) held at the Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. It’s a good opportunity to meet with others in similar groupings to SEECAT across Scotland—so book the date now. Programme and registration details later in the year.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT KAIMES SPECIAL SCHOOL IN LASSWADE ROAD?

On Wednesday 24th May at St. John Vianney’s Church Hall at 7pm, the speaker will be Gordon Anderson from the School, and we will be raising funds for projects and outings for the autistic pupils. One of our Justice and Peace evenings with refreshments and tombola.

SEECAT TREASURER

Clare Roller is stepping down as SEECAT Treasurer in September, although she will still be much involved in SEECAT activities. Could you help SEECAT by being its Treasurer? The finances are not complicated, but we do need someone passionate about the work of SEECAT looking after its money. Contact Clare for more information.

TIME TO CONTEMPLATE?

The “Upper Room” in Liberton Kirk Halls is open for prayer on Tuesdays from 7.30am to 7.30pm. A group of assorted folk have started to meet there from 2.45 to 3.45 just to spend quiet time with God. There’s a 10-minute introduction followed by half an hour of silent prayer, then tea or coffee and chat in the café downstairs. All are welcome to join this time of contemplation with God. Please note it is upstairs and there isn’t a lift!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Amid plenty of talk of Christianity dying on its feet, our Holy Week services drew bigger numbers than ever this year. Here's the crowd enjoying a cup of tea after the Stations of the Cross Service at Liberton Kirk—there were just enough mugs!



And here's the crowd as Mike Taylor was speaking at the Open Air Service at Morrisons on Good Friday.

There were 300 plus at Gracemount High School in the afternoon too, and all these services had a special atmosphere as we worshipped together and witnessed to our faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ, giving thanks for his sacrifice on the cross.

JUSTICE AND PEACE— SEEING, REFLECTING AND ACTING TOGETHER

In February we had the first “See, Reflect and Act” evening, when folk from different churches shared what they were doing to help asylum seekers, refugees, young people at school, the hungry, third world producers, local people with physical or financial problems, the homeless, and more! There is so much going on! Future evenings will be on a particular theme—one in April was about our response to refugees and asylum seekers. Any suggestions for subjects to be highlighted should be directed to jp.seecat@gmail.com

The next evening to look forward to (after the May fund-raiser advertised on page 2) is Friday 23rd June, 7pm in the Kirkgate Café, Liberton Kirk Centre, entitled “**The Holy Land: what a pilgrimage does and does not show you**”. Mike Mineter of St. Catherine's, the Justice and Peace Chair, will be showing slides from Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem . . . and from places that few Church groups see. Please do come along for a good evening of learning, prayer and fellowship together.

PRINCES STREET EVENT

Sunday 21st May is the Church of Scotland's outdoor event in Princes Street Gardens from 1pm to 6pm (closing worship at 5pm). Liberton Kirk has a tent offering prayer and SEECAT will be manning the Justice and Peace corner. If you would like to help on the rota please contact Mike Mineter on jp.seecat@gmail.com

GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The offering at this Service was £773. The SEECAT Business Meeting on 14th May will decide the two charities to benefit.

PASSOVER MEAL

Many thanks for the catering to Liberton Northfield, and to Tron Kirk for the venue—what a good night it was!



PRAYERS NEEDED

- for the Service of Healing on 3rd June—for good weather, for good support from our churches, for a meaningful afternoon, but especially for healing for those who come along in need of restoration.
- for someone in one of our churches to feel called to be a chaplain at Cameron Toll to work alongside Graham.
- for all the justice and peace events, that they would serve to draw in more volunteers and circulate ideas.
- for our church leaders, that they would be able to enjoy a break this summer which would renew and refresh body and soul.
- for continual, growing friendship among our church folk.

For those interested in justice and peace issues (and on line) please keep an eye on, and contribute content to, our web pages at:

<http://www.seecat.org/jp.html>

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in August, 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, has links to them.