CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 27 August 2021 (N.B. no Crosstalks have been issued since August 2020)



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

COP 26 takes place in Glasgow from 31st October to 12th November. The latest UN Report couldn't have been clearer that action is vital if this planet is to be saved for future generations. Is SEECAT doing anything?

Following an open meeting on Zoom in July 2020 with speaker David Coleman, Chaplain to the Eco Congregation, **the Eco Circle** has met weekly on line in response to a desire to become more engaged with the issues individually and communally. We believe that Christ's message of justice and peace offers a way of living which would allow all to enjoy the gift of creation. The circle has joined the Christian Aid prayer chain https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain
There is no expectation of expertise—just enthusiasm for the issues. We are trying to support COP 26 by contacting our MPs and signing petitions, and the knitters amongst us are joining with others unknown to create a huge banner that will catch the eye of those attending the Glasgow Conference. https://stitchesforsurvival.earth
The group is small and would love to grow – most come from this area, although we are proud to have attracted one attendee from further afield. We would love to welcome you. The timing of the group is flexible and could change. Currently it meets on Tuesdays at 5.30 for 45 minutes. https://seecat.org/justice-and-peace/jp-events/

SEECAT IN 2021/22

SEECAT's programme for 2021/22 will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 19th September at 2.30pm, probably in person at Liberton Northfield, but check in your church's notice sheet nearer the time to confirm this. Anyone is welcome to come along to this meeting.

ON THE COP26 FRINGE—A SPECIAL ART EXHIBITION

26th-30th October at St. Cuthbert's Church Lothian Road, from 12noon to 5pm. Anyone can submit up to three artworks focussing on climate change etc., and must register them by 1st October.

All instructions about sizes, labelling, dates for entries to be delivered and collected, and much more information can be found at www.edinburghtogether.org.uk under Community Art Exhibition. This is organised by the Eco Group of the Together Trust (formerly Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together).

CAMERON TOLL CHAPLAINCY

Needless to say, lockdown stopped all chaplaincy work at Cameron Toll Centre! Although in theory all chaplains managed by Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland can return to their places of work, there will need to be sensitive discussions about this with Cameron Toll management before Graham and Denise can return.

Their previous supervisor, Andy Gregg, is now the WPCS National Director, and the new Edinburgh (and City Centre) full-time paid chaplain replacing Andy is Sally Fraser.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

We have no idea when we will be able to resume the monthly Sunday services held in Liberton Hospital and Ellen's Glen House prior to March 2020. The NHS is coming out of Covid restrictions with caution, and we await news on this. Watch this space!

SEECAT AFTER LOCKDOWN

A Working Group has been set up to explore how we can continue to support those in poverty in our community following major efforts through the Covid crisis. The Group wants to build links with the Council following the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Report in 2020 and the End Poverty in Edinburgh Development Plan 2020-2030. It is also looking at possibilities for using empty shop units in the area. It is hoped to connect also with CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and Janet McKenzie, our Chair, is exploring their training and how debt counselling might be taken forward in our area.

RETREAT WEEKEND

The cottage at Whatton Lodge Gullane has been booked for 29th to 31st October. The cottage only sleeps 10, but the main house may become available nearer the time, which would give space for 18. Anyone interested should contact David on 01875 812985 to book a place or to find out more about the weekend.

BINDING UP THE BROKEN-HEARTED" from Fiona Devoy

You might remember that before lockdown, SEECAT was involved in providing training for volunteers in the area of support for those who were bereaved.

SEECAT has now successfully bid for funding for setting up care support groups in the community, and have been awarded a sum of just over £2,000 by TOR Christian Foundation.

This funding is the legacy of the TOR Christian Nursing Home, based on Corstorphine Road, Murrayfield, which was closed by its trustees because it was no longer financially viable. The remaining funds have been released for community projects to support the emotional and spiritual welfare of older people.

The aim is to provide a space for people to discuss their experiences and benefit from peer support. This will be done by running short 6 week courses based around the practical issues people can face after loss, such as health and finance. To this end, we will be inviting volunteers to provide support, whether they have received any of the original training or not.

Please pray for this new initiative, and keep in mind those who might benefit from it. If you are thinking of being a volunteer, or would like other information, please contact me on 666-1004.

SEECAT TREASURER NEEDED!

We need somebody with a basic knowledge of simple accounts to take over as Treasurer from Clare Roller, who has done the job for many years. There must be someone out there who could look after our money for us and give us an update on our finances at our quarterly meetings. If you feel called to help out, please get in touch! (crosstalk@seecat.org)

JUSTICE AND PEACE

SEECAT's Justice and Peace group's main objective is to help our churches to support each other's commitment to justice, by sharing knowledge, experience and ideas, and to gain awareness of aspects of life locally and globally where justice is lacking and response inspired by the Gospel is needed. The themes we focus on are:

Poverty Supporting the Group mentioned on page 2, we are collating what the churches and other agencies already do in SE Edinburgh, seeking to identify new opportunities and gaps in the support offered.

Climate Crisis See page 1.

Palestine/Israel Each Tuesday and Friday (6:30 to 6:50pm) we hold a time of prayer on Zoom.

Please contact Mike Mineter on mike.mineter@gmail.com or 662 4852, to share your ideas or to find out more.

GOOD FRIDAY 2021

300 or so of us look forward to gathering in Gracemount High School on Good Friday but we were locked down in 2020! This year we did manage a joint service on Zoom.

We were able to join in from all over our area (and beyond) - we could sing along with recorded music, we had a time of meditation with a cross of our own, and we heard from John Young (Lib. Kirk), Janet McKenzie (Tron), Attie van Wyk (Lib. Northfield), David Dixon (St. Barnabas), Cammy Mackenzie (Tron), Kate Jackson (LN), Kay Haggerty (Gracemount), Fiona Devoy (LK), and from Father Mike Fallon (RC Cluster), all speaking from their own homes. It was great to have Father Mike speaking to us from retirement.

At the end over 40 stayed behind to chat in break-out rooms, eating their own hot cross buns! **To view the service, go to the website, www.seecat.org**

There's no recording of the Stations of the Cross Service on the Wednesday of Holy Week, but that was good too—led by young people from different churches.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for our communities as we emerge from pandemic restrictions—for continued vigilance and consideration for others*
- *for COP26 in Glasgow—for serious discussions and meaningful decisions about combating climate change*
- *for our governments in Westminster and Holyrood, and our City Council, that they would make decisions which help those living in poverty*
- *for wisdom and vision for Graham and Denise as they seek a return to chaplaincy at Cameron Toll, and for open minds for the Centre Management there as they consider the request*
- *for the Holy Spirit to blow throughout our churches to fire us all with a new enthusiasm to serve the people around us*
- *for God's Kingdom to come in South East Edinburgh and for his will to be done*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in November—contributions should be sent to crosstalk@seecat.org by the end of October.

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.