CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

SEECAT

Issue 28 November 2021

QUIET MORNING



You are warmly invited to our Quiet Morning on Saturday 4th December, from 10.30 on Zoom. It takes place in the busy run-up to Christmas.

The morning will be led by members of the Contemplation Group. (This meets every Tuesday at 2.30 to 3.30 in Liberton Northfield church hall and also on Zoom, and all are welcome.)

The format will be five short reflections or readings followed by a prayer which will lead each of us into a time of personal reflection and prayer. Having a lighted candle could be an aid to this.

We hope it will be a peaceful, prayerful space prior to what can be a very busy month. We would love to see you there!

For Zoom details please email pat.jax10@icloud.com

SEECAT PROGRAMME

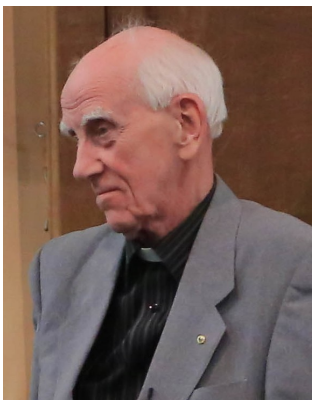
Because there are so many unknowns as we emerge from lockdown, there will be no printed card programme for 2021/22. Each event will be advertised as it is arranged, such as the Quiet Morning on this page. There will be further information in your church notice sheets.

How long ago does it seem since we met on Good Friday at Morrisons and in Gracemount High School? How we hope and pray that it will be



possible to meet again in 2022! We hope too that there will be a Passover Meal in 2022, and closer at hand that there will be carol-singing. Keep lunchtime on 18th December (Saturday) free! Watch out for details on this and on other things planned for the new year!

REV. JOHN CAMERON



Many of you will remember John Cameron, who was minister at Liberton Kirk from 1971 to 1996 and was a well-known community figure.

He was involved in the setting up of SEECAT and very keen to have a chaplaincy established at Cameron Toll.

John died in October, just four months after his wife Corine, and a Thanksgiving Service for their lives and service was held in Liberton Kirk on 5th November, when many tributes were paid. He is pictured above when he last preached at Liberton Kirk in 2015.

NEW TREASURER FOR SEECAT



Maureen Quinn was elected as the SEECAT Treasurer at the AGM in September. She is part of the Roman Catholic Cluster based at St. John Vianney's Church.

She is also involved with SEECAT's Justice and Peace activities and keen to develop SEECAT's work in the community.

She takes over from Clare Roller, who has been SEECAT Treasurer for more years than she cares to remember! At the AGM Clare was warmly thanked for her work over the years and for her cheerful input to SEECAT's meetings.

EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS—NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

This year's Carol Concert, organised in conjunction with Edinburgh Churches Together, will take place on Sunday 28th November at 3pm in St. Andrew's Square. This year's Nativity Scene will also be on view in the same place.

JUSTICE AND PEACE (from Mike Mineter)

By the time you read this COP26 will have led to some vital steps towards "climate justice" but it was never going to solve the interlinked climate and ecological and poverty crises. The urgent conversions in personal, community and socio-economic life must continue. The campaigning must continue. Choices for our common home must still be made day by day. This continuing effort is the subject of "The Climate Crisis and the Church after COP26: What now for people of faith?", a lecture by Alastair McIntosh at 7pm on Sunday 28th November at Mayfield Salisbury Church and online. Here is the link to register:
https://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/index.php/contacts/lecture-the-climate-crisis-and-the-church

GOD'S GOOD EARTH—its future in our hands



The first event in our 2021/22 programme was a pre-COP26 Service held at 3pm on Sunday 24th October at Liberton Northfield Church and hosted by Rev. Attie van Wyk. There were participants from most of the SEECAT churches and we heard powerful words from the Bible reminding us of our beautiful planet and our responsibility for it. Father Mike reinforced these words and we were asked to commit in a quiet time to see, to reflect, and to act, either by lighting a light (see below) or by praying.



JUSTICE & PEACE AGM

The AGM of SEECAT J&P will take place towards end November and all are invited. Please email mike.mineter@gmail.com for date and details. We will: review our chosen themes of responding to the Earth, to local poverty, to the injustice in Israel/Palestine; ensure the annual sending of messages to political detainees happens; and plan the next year.

OCTOBER RETREAT— from Kate and Norma

We left Edinburgh for Gullane and the SEECAT Retreat on the 29th, a very wet and windy afternoon. Because of Covid 19 it had been two years since we had been able to meet together at Whatton Lodge. The house was warm and welcoming, and David and Margaret Dixon were there to greet us and direct us to our rooms, most of which had a sea view. We were very grateful that we were able to be in the large house so the 11 of us were able to move around freely and keep socially distant from the others.

The weekend was divided into four sessions with Saturday afternoon being left free for individuals to do their own thing. The focus of the weekend was 'the Kingdom of God/Heaven.'

David had given us several verses from scripture to read to prepare for the sessions, which included Luke 12:32, Luke 4:16-21, Luke 11:20. One of the sessions was on Matthew 5: 1-12, the Beatitudes, especially verses 3 and 10:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." _____

(SEECAT holds retreats regularly—why not come next time?)

NEW ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER FOR GRACEMOUNT CHURCH



Kay Haggarty was ordained on 27th October as an Ordained Local Minister to be at Gracemount Church which is linked with Liberton Kirk. Kay has been a member of Gracemount Church for some years and is well known there.

Her ministry there will be much appreciated while their leader Douglas Robertson is not always available as he is training for full-time ministry. (Ordained Local Ministers are part-time and unpaid posts.)

Kay's ordination service at Liberton Kirk was a very joyful occasion, as was the party afterwards in the Kirk Centre.

There is good news about Sundays at Gracemount Church—they are meeting in Gracemount Primary School again from 7th November, subject of course to the present relaxation of Covid regulations continuing.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for action around the world following COP26 in Glasgow, and renewed determination to make changes for the benefit of the planet*
- *for continued reduction in Covid infections, and more return to "normality", but also continued vigilance and common sense for all of us*
- *for those in our community who live on or near the poverty line and who are struggling with rising inflation and Universal Credit cuts*
- *for Gracemount Church as they begin services again in Gracemount Primary School, that all would go smoothly*
- *for our SEECAT programme, that all our planned events will be able to take place in some form*
- *For all our churches in these times of cutbacks and closures, that we will be able to continue to reach out to our communities with the good news of the Gospel.*

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

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.