CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 30 **May 2022**

HOLY WEEK 2022—SO GOOD TO BE TOGETHER IN PERSON AGAIN!

At the Passover Meal—



At the Open Air Service—thank you, Morrisons!



At the Stations of the Cross Service (sorry, no photographs!)

On the Prayer Walk—



At Gracemount High School—



DID YOU ENJOY BEING PART OF SEECAT'S HOLY WEEK?

All these events don't just happen—they involve a lot of planning, publicity and organisation. There are many people from all the churches who help in different ways, but SEECAT's office-bearers bear the responsibility of making sure everything is in place. SEECAT has its Annual General Meeting in September and will be looking for both a Business Secretary and a Programme Secretary. We believe it is vital in today's world that we are seen by our communities to work and witness together, united in our faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. We need people committed to the concept of the churches working together, with computer and organisational skills, and a good sense of humour. Job descriptions available. Might **you** be interested? Email crosstalk@seecat.org or speak to the SEECAT representatives in your church.

REMEMBER COP 26? DON'T LET THE MEMORIES FADE AWAY!

What is <u>your</u> church doing to save the planet? Liberton Northfield have a research project in progress on Eco matters in their area, and Liberton Kirk now have an Eco Representative who is holding everybody to account for their actions on church premises and beyond. There may well be things happening elsewhere. If you feel powerless to make any impact, remember the power of prayer. Why not join SEECAT's weekly ECO Circle get-together at 5.30pm each Tuesday for 45 minutes on Zoom—you would be warmly welcomed. To register: https://seecat.org/justice-and-peace/jp-events/

TRANSITIONEDINBURGHSOUTH

are an organisation working in and around the walled garden at Gracemount to create a greener, more sustainable community. They are looking for a treasurer, a job which they estimate involves two hours a week. It needs somebody with experience of finance practice in voluntary and community organisations or financial management generally. Closing date 6th June. Info from gracemountcommunitygarden @gmail.com. Could you help? It's a worthwhile cause.

ANNUAL HEALING SERVICE

Join us at the Balmwell in the grounds of the Toby Carvery, Howden Hall Road, at 3 o'clock on Saturday 11th June, and do bring along anyone who might benefit. If you require a lift, please ask.



The Balmwell is an ancient site of pilgrimage and healing and as part of the service prayers for healing of body, mind and soul, will be offered for anyone who would like to be prayed for.

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

The retiring offering at the Good Friday afternoon service at Gracemount High School was just over £750. Fortunately SEECAT has enough money in its funds to meet any expenses and the full £750 has been sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee for their Ukraine Appeal.

AUTUMN RETREAT

There are some spaces available for the Retreat at Gullane for 7th-9th October. If you would like to come, or would like to know more, please contact David Dixon on 01875 812985.

GOOD NEWS . . . .

about the future of the chaplaincy at Cameron Toll Centre came at the last SEECAT meeting from the National Director of WPCS (Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland), Andy Gregg. He had met with Claire Jefcoate, the Centre Manager, who is happy for chaplaincy to resume. She was keen to make the Centre community-minded, and in turn Andy Gregg would like the chaplaincy to be revitalised, and to move into community-based areas such as the tennis club, medical practice, etc.

Since that meeting we have heard that Graham and Denise have decided to step down from their chaplaincy roles, and SEECAT would like to wish them well and thank them for their work at Cameron Toll in the past.

We were very encouraged to hear that workplace chaplaincy is now much in demand, particularly from some Scottish local authorities and major employers, who were willing to pay for services which they regarded as vital. In Andy's words "Doors are opening before I have a chance to knock!" He hopes we will continue our prayer support for the Cameron Toll Chaplaincy, which is much valued.

NEWS OF PEOPLE

For the last year **Fabiano Soares** has been the Probationary Minister at Tron Kirk. He was much loved there, and the people of SEECAT got to know him when he led one of our services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January. He had a heart for Christian churches working together, and liked what was going on in this area.

Fabiano had a serious heart attack shortly after the WPCU Service, but we were delighted to see him at both the Passover Meal and the Good Friday Open Air Service. He preached at Tron on Easter Sunday morning, but died in his sleep that night—a devastating blow for all who knew and loved him. We send our sympathy to his wife and family and friends, and to Cammy and the people of Tron Kirk.

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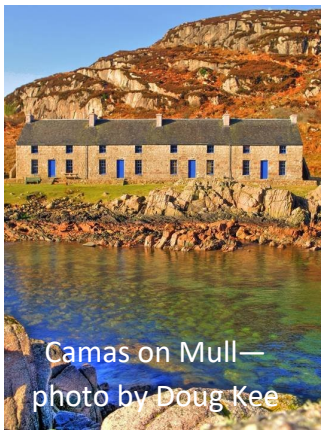
We were sorry to hear that **Father Alex** has broken his leg and hope that it heals well and he is back on his feet before too long.

It was good to see the locum minister at Liberton Northfield, **Rev. Adrian Lough**, participating in our Good Friday afternoon service. He and his wife Fiona were also at the Open Air Service at Morrisons in the morning.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

At the Hub on 18th May it was great to hear not only from John Beatson, the Youth Services Manager at Goodtrees Centre in Moredun, but from a number of the young people themselves.

John said that one of the main problems provoking violence was the territorial divide between Moredun & Gilmerton, and that there was a need for reconciliation. He had found that taking groups of teenagers to the centres for justice and peace and reconciliation at Camas on Mull and Corrymeela in Northern Ireland had proved life-changing. The young people themselves said that these places had been an "eye-opener", and had been good for them even if taking them out of their comfort zone!



Camas on Mull—photo by Doug Kee

They also spoke of the pleasure they got from helping to deliver packed lunches in the pandemic in conjunction with Tron Kirk.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for Fabiano's family and friends and the folk of Tron Kirk as they grieve*
- *for our Healing Service on 11th June—for fine weather and a good response*
- *for people to fill the vacant office-bearer posts and so ensure that we can take SEECAT forward*
- *for WorkPlace Chaplaincy Scotland as they seek to fill the chaplaincy posts at Cameron Toll Centre and its local community, and for the right people to be found*
- *for those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet in these times of rising prices, and for the food banks in our area with increased demands*
- *for strength and support for all the committed people working with young people in our area*
- *for the people of Ukraine at war against unprovoked invasion and suffering loss and major destruction*

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

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.