CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 31 August 2022

ANNUAL HEALING SERVICE

The picture sets the scene! On a windy and damp Saturday in June we held our Service of Healing by the Balm Well (in the background of the picture).



Kay Haggarty, Ordained Local Minister at Gracemount, spoke about some encounters in the Bible, when people had met with God and been changed, and later people were offered prayer for healing of body, mind or soul. It was a very special hour for those who were there.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 18th September, 2.30pm in Liberton Kirk Centre, Kirkgate. All are welcome to come along and hear how last year went and join in the discussion about the new year's programme. There will be new appointments made too!

THE LONG HOT SUMMER!

What's been going on in our church life over the summer? We had only one event on our SEECAT programme (see left)! There were plenty of other things going on, however. Churches in the Moredun area joined together to run a Children's Holiday Club, and several of the SEECAT churches helped with Young Life International's Stage 'N' Slam event for teenagers from our communities, which took place in Gracemount High School/Liberton Kirk Centre in July.



To help with the cost of living crisis all our churches have been doing what they can, including supporting the two Food Banks in Tron Kirk Moredun and at Burdiehouse. Jacqui Sanger writes on page 2 about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul which is represented across our R.C. Cluster, and we also hear about Gracemount and Liberton Northfield reaching out. Just a few instances of the work going on throughout our area this summer. There is much more unmentioned!

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S mission is "to identify and combat all forms of poverty, by promoting social justice and actively working with those in need, acknowledging that, by freely giving of ourselves, we become aware of the power of love in all our relationships". This is without any discrimination.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland
serving in hope

All three churches in the R.C. cluster have their own SSVDP conference which acts on its own depending on perceived need but they also meet up to share ideas.
An example of how we work: St Catherine's conference had been in suspension for five years and only re-formed in 2021. We are funded by the generosity of our parishioners and have 6 members. Through our two local primary schools in the last year we have helped around 18 families with food or fuel vouchers, helped with Christmas food parcels, funded school camp for two children, secured two separate weeks for a caravan holiday for two families, funded overnight accommodation for a homeless person. Recently Sainsburys at Cameron Toll have delivered 17 crates of donated non-perishables to each of the three conferences and each has got the goods out to local families.

We are happy to take referrals of anyone who is struggling. We are not trained benefits advisers but can help with form completing and signposting.

Our contact numbers are
St Gregory's 07757 845673
St John Vianney's 07922 675196
St Catherine's 07539 266411

REACHING OUT ON THE GRACEMOUNT LAND

Gracemount Church were "at home" on their land in Gracemount from 1st to 5th August, making connections with folks in Gracemount—children and adults—and renewing friendships and relationships with those they had known before.

The weather was kind (answer to prayer!) and lunches were provided by the Kirkgate Café at Liberton Kirk through its "pay it forward" scheme. These were well received by folks who came on to the land as well as by those who passed by and stopped to chat. Kay reported lots of fun and games with the children—and that adults also loved the rounders!

LIBERTON NORTHFIELD FUN DAYS

Whether for the Jubilee or for Back to School, the Family Fun Days at Liberton Northfield were much enjoyed, with all children's activities free and lunches and teas available. They were good events for the community.

WORK PLACE CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND

WPCS, under its National Director Andy Gregg, is undergoing significant changes in its way of working at the moment and we need to pray for them over the next couple of months that everything goes well. Here in the South East corner of Edinburgh we have been involved with chaplaincy at the Cameron Toll Centre since it began and it would be good to see it flourishing again.

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP A.G.M.

This will be held on Saturday 24th September at St. John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street at 11.30am, with lunch (donations appreciated), a little musical entertainment and a talk on how to welcome people with disabilities in churches from Barbara Urquhart, SCDG's first chairperson. Full details and a booking form to be in by 16th September available from crosstalk@seecat.org

SCDG
Churches for all in Scotland

You can also participate via Zoom if you can't attend in person—contact Ashleigh Milroy on email ash.milroy@btinternet.com to receive a link to the event.

DECLARATION OF FRIENDSHIP

At the Church of Scotland General Assembly in May a Declaration of Friendship with the Catholic Church in Scotland was approved. The Saint Margaret Declaration states that the two Churches "recognise each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, and wish to express our friendship and respect for one another as fellow Christians, citizens and partners in announcing the Kingdom of God in our land".

Archbishop Leo Cushley, the RC Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, told the Assembly that the Declaration meant that the two churches "stand shoulder to shoulder before an unbelieving world".



The Archbishop and Moderator shake hands in friendship (Photo by Andrew O'Brien for the Church of Scotland)

DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY

will be on 18th September this year. The charity "Through the Roof" can provide resources such as prayers and suggested videos. Go to www.throughtheroof.org and search for Disability Awareness Sunday.

BEREAVEMENT AND LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

There is a lot of grief in our society, based on not just the death of a loved one, but other losses. A life-changing illness, or a broken relationship can result in grief for a lost future.

Liberton Kirk is running a bereavement support group for anyone who would like to talk through their loss, in a safe, confidential environment, with other people who share a common experience.

It will meet for six weeks from Thursday 8th September at 7.30pm in Liberton Kirk Centre. Places must be booked—please contact Fiona Devoy on email pastoralcare@libertonkirk.net or on phone 0131 664 1004, either to book a space or for more information.

SEECAT'S WEEKLY ECO CIRCLE is always looking for new members to join in on Zoom at 5.30pm each Tuesday for 45 minutes of discussion and prayer. You can register here: https://seecat.org/justice-and-peace/jp-events/



PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for the AGM to be held on 18 September—for your guidance and vision as we seek to work together in new ways and take your kingdom forward in South East Edinburgh*
- *for the Retreat at Gullane from 7th to 9th October that it would be a meaningful time for all those attending*
- *for WorkPlace Chaplaincy Scotland as they work through a period of change that their vital work may continue and that we might see chaplaincy again in Cameron Toll Centre*
- *for those in our community who are struggling in these difficult times, and for all our churches, that they would find ways of reaching out with your love and making a difference in people's lives*
- *for the people of Gracemount Church, longing for the go-ahead to build on their land, that they might receive good news soon*

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.