CROSSTALK

SEECAT

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 32 **November 2022**

COMING UP IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

HOPE FOR OUR HUNGRY



The cost of living crisis is hitting everybody, but it is very sad that some are unable to afford to buy food, or have to choose between heat and food. Then other things crowd in—debt worries, poor health, anxiety. Our Justice and Peace Group have organised an evening focussing on this subject and what we as churches can do to help. The date is **Wednesday 16th November, 7pm at The Hub, Ravenscroft Street,** and all are welcome.

Our main speaker will be Jenny Cornfield from Soul Food, and there will be contributions from the SEECAT churches about what is happening now and what other possibilities there are. There will then be time for questions and comments, and we will finish with a cup of tea and a biscuit, when we can continue the conversation. Make a date in your diary!

QUIET MORNING



Take a little time out of the pre-Christmas rush **at 10.30am, Saturday 3rd December** to come to Liberton Northfield Church, Gilmerton Road. There will be a welcoming tea or coffee and from 11am to 12noon we will be led by Clare Roller and Jacqui Sanger to think about the real meaning of Christmas, and feel the peace which is there for us in the midst of the busyness.

CAROL SINGING

Good news! Our carol-singing is back after several years, and on **Saturday 17th December from 12 noon to 1pm** we will be singing carols in Morrisons, Gilmerton Road. We know from previous visits that this is a busy shopping time, and so we have a chance both of cheering up many members of our local community with our singing and of letting them know about the Christmas services in our churches. Come and join us!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (January) - see page 4

SEECAT RETREAT - from George McDermid

The retreat was held on 7th to 9th October, again at Whatton Lodge, Gullane, and organised and led by Revd. David Dixon, ably supported by his wife Margaret.

We had 12 attending for the whole weekend plus two visitors. The format followed the usual pattern of prayer and discussion sessions together with two Communion Services. Everyone present found the whole experience to be truly uplifting and felt that it helped deepen our Christian faith.

The weather was kind to us so we could enjoy the sea air, and the social side with Scrabble and quizzes was also enjoyed by all.

TOASTIE TUESDAY—PLUS+ PLUS+



The outreach to the pupils of Liberton High School through lunch at Liberton Northfield (with church people working alongside Young Life International) is to be extended to a Friday Follow-up (lunchtime drop-in) at the same venue from mid November.

Furthermore, the idea has been picked up by churches in the Corstorphine area who have started a Toastie Thursday for the pupils of Craigmount High School.

NEW VENTURE IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLUSTER



From Monday, 7th November, a warm welcome will be there for all at St. Catherine's Church Hall, Gracemount Drive, every Monday. There will be soup, bread, cake and tea or coffee. There is no charge, although donations are always welcome.

Doors open at 11.30am, and food will be served between 12noon and 1pm.

SAD NEWS ABOUT WPCS

We learned in late August that Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland is closing because of changes in its core funding. At a time when many businesses are realising the value of such a service, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic, it is sad for the whole of Scotland.

We are hopeful that it might be possible in conjunction with Newington Churches Together (NCT) to reinstate a chaplaincy at the Cameron Toll Centre. Even before WPCS's involvement, the two church groupings supported a voluntary chaplaincy which they started in 2001.

THE BEACON CLUB AT THE HUB

There's a new day-care service operating from the Gilmerton Hub in a partnership between Space @ The Broomhouse Hub and Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun). The aim is to offer ten places per day from Monday to Thursday in two groups—those isolated or lonely, and those with mild/moderate dementia. The Beacon Club also provides a much needed break for carers.

A typical day might include refreshments on arrival, a choice of hot lunches and a blend of engaging activities and outings according to members' abilities, needs and preferences. Transport to and from the club is provided with a trained escort, and for this members make a small contribution to the weekly costs. The club aims to improve the quality of life for people with what can be socially isolating conditions, as well as supporting them to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

At the moment the club is open on Wednesday (for the lonely/isolated) and Thursday (for those with mild/moderate dementia), and referrals would be welcomed. They are also looking for volunteers to support the club members. If you might be interested in this, please contact Karen Guthrie on 07749 494009 or karen.guthrie@spacescot.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEECAT held its AGM on Sunday 18th September, and it was a very positive meeting confirming two appointments in crucial roles.



Melanie Whitlock was elected as our new Programme Secretary and has been hard at work compiling our new programme for 2022/23. Melanie and her husband moved to Edinburgh in 2022 and have settled at St. Catherine's.



Kim Denholm was elected as our Business Secretary. Kim has supported SEECAT events for several years, and is part of Liberton Kirk. You may have seen her two much loved German Shepherds taking her for a walk!

Janet McKenzie, Ordained Local Minister at Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun) has kindly agreed to remain as Chair for one more year, and ***Maureen Quinn*** of St. John Vianney's remains as our Treasurer. We hope to be able to appoint during the year a Vice-Chair to take over as Chair next September.

We thank God for enabling us to fill these posts and take SEECAT forward into the future.



The theme for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023** is "Do good, seek justice" from Isaiah 1:17), and the material has been prepared by churches in Minneapolis USA. We will have the following services:

- Short service on **Monday 16th January, 2pm** at St. Barnabas' Church
- Main service on **Thursday 19th January, 7pm** at Liberton Kirk, followed by refreshments.

There will be a card with daily readings for the whole week which can be followed at home available in churches nearer the time.

HAVE YOU PICKED UP A SEECAT PROGRAMME YET?

Look for one in your church (on peach-coloured card) and find out our main events. Or look at the programme on our website, www.seecat.org

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for those in our communities who are struggling to live from day to day in the cost of living crisis.*
- *for our evening on 16th November hearing about Soul Food and thinking what we as churches can do. May we be positive and ambitious in your name.*
- *for those dealing with crippling loss in their lives, that they would find comfort and strength..*
- *for COP 27 as it focuses on the future of our planet and the effects of climate change, that commitments would be made and kept.*
- *for the future of chaplaincy in Scotland's work places, and for a re-birth of the chaplaincy at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre*
- *for the peace the Christchild came to bring to be in the homes of our communities, our city and our land, and for an end to the destructive conflicts around the world.*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in February 2023—contributions should be sent to crosstalk@seecat.org by end 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.