CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 33 February 2023

HOLY WEEK 2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Monday 3rd April—Passover Meal at St. Catherine's, 7pm (ticket only)

Wednesday 5th April—"Journeying to the Cross"—an ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service at Liberton Kirk, 7.30pm

Good Friday 7th April—Prayer Walk to Open-Air Service at Morrisons, leaving individual churches at 10am or 10.15am, Service at 11am

Good Friday Afternoon Service at Gracemount High School, 3pm

We hope to see you at some point during the week! Memories of last year below—we've never had photos of the mid-week service but perhaps this year we will remedy that!







ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Thursday 13th April, 7pm at Liberton Northfield
THE HOLY LAND—WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE?

Recently the news has been increasingly full of what it calls cycles of violence; these are increasing in number and intensity. What is happening and why? How can we, 3400 miles away, help to bring peace? It is often difficult for us to know what is really going on in some of the trouble spots of the world, and for us to have an informed opinion on these situations—hence the "awareness evenings" hosted by SEECAT Justice & Peace. Please come along and hear from people who know what is happening. Watch out for further publicity!

FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

This year the Fortnight runs from 27th February to 12th March and the focus is on the harmful effect of the climate crisis on the future of our food. Have a look at their website www.fairtrade.org.uk for



more information.
You will have heard that "A dog is not just for Christmas". Well, Fair Trade is not just for a fortnight! If you are able to afford the extra cost of fair trade goods, that little extra makes a big difference where the goods are produced. To some it will mean having medicines available, sending children to school, or having a safe and dry home.

EASTER PLAY 2023
Saturday 8th April, 2pm-3.30pm in Princes Street Gardens

Volunteers are needed for cast and crew. For speaking or non-speaking parts, simply turn up to Wednesday rehearsals, 7pm to 9pm at GDS Diadem 537-539 Gorgie Road, EH14 1TA. For crew or for more information, email admin@easterplay.org

"CLEARING" - A THOUGHT FROM THE QUIET MORNING (adapted from a poem by Martha Postlethwaite)

Do not try to save the whole world, or do anything grandiose. Instead, create a clearing in the dense forest of your life and wait there silently, patiently, until you hear the song that is yours alone to sing. When you hear it you recognise it. It pierces your waiting heart. Only then will you know what is yours to do.

"HOPE FOR OUR HUNGRY"

Since the inspiring talk by Jenny Cornfield in November at the Hub about Soul Food, warm spaces (with refreshments) have popped up in our area. There is the Open Door at St. Catherine's on Mondays, the Warm Hub at Liberton Kirk on Fridays and the warm space at St. Barnabas' on Wednesdays—there may be more! Numbers are low, but gradually rising. If you know anyone who might be glad of the warmth and company, please be aware of what is on offer.

PROTESTANT PASTOR SPEAKS IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA IN ROME

For the first time a Pastor from the Waldensian Church in Italy was invited to speak in St. Peter's at a Study on St. Peter. He spoke on "Jesus has need of many Peters". Also taking part were representatives from the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

NEW PASTOR IN THE HOLY LAND



In January 2022 Sally Azar spoke to us over Zoom from Germany at our Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service. Here she is after her ordination as the first female Palestinian pastor to be ordained in the Holy Land, leading the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Church of the Redeemer in the old city of Jerusalem.

NEW VICE-CHAIR OF SEECAT

We are delighted that Christine Johnson of Liberton Kirk has been elected Vice-Chair of SEECAT, to take over as Chair in the Autumn. Christine has been involved in ecumenical events for many years and is currently pursuing with Newington Churches Together the possible revival of Chaplaincy at Cameron Toll Shopping Centre.

CONTRASTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

In the run-up to Christmas we met twice—once at Liberton Northfield for a Quiet Morning (see also page 2) and once for Carol Singing at Morrisons, which was definitely not quiet! We sang for an hour beside the Christmas tree and hopefully passed on the joy of the Christmas story.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S . . . . . ON THE MOVE!

Sadly the building in Fernieside Gardens currently used by the people of St. John Vianney's Church is no longer sustainable and will have to close. The church is therefore on the move, and the most likely outcome seems to be that they will share the St. Gregory's church building on Walter Scott Avenue. The two churches currently hold their weekend Mass at a different time—St. Gregory's at 6pm on Saturday and St. John Vianney at 9.30am on Sunday, and this could continue.



Our thoughts and prayers are with all the folk of this church as they adjust to this change.

One outcome of this closure is that the Scouts who met in St. John Vianney's Hall have found a new church "home" at Tron Kirk Moredun—it's good to know they are still in SEECAT!

PRAYER CONTINUES

Everyone is welcome to join two prayer groups meeting on Zoom weekly: the Eco Circle on Tuesday from 5.30 to 6.15pm and the Israel/Palestine "See and Pray" on Tuesdays and Fridays, 6.30 to 6.50pm. The Registration link for both is on www.seecat.org under Justice & Peace Events.



The theme for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023** was "Do good, seek justice", a quotation from Isaiah 1:17. The material focussed on the promotion of racial justice through unity. We held services at St. Barnabas' Church on 16th January and at Liberton Kirk on 19th January. Melanie, our Programme Secretary, who kindly produced the prayer card, was at both services and made this comment: *"Thank you everyone involved in the two services this week, which as a first-timer to WPCU I found inspiring and thought-provoking."*

CHURCH LEADERS TOGETHER

How good it was to see a joint visit to South Sudan of the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church of Scotland Moderator. It is hoped their visit will encourage moves towards peace in this war-ravaged country.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *for our Good Friday witness in our communities to our shared faith in Jesus our Saviour, that interest may be sparked.*
- *for peace and justice for all in the Holy Land, and for our evening on 13th April as we seek to understand some of the issues better.*
- *for guidance on the way forward with our initiatives to help those struggling with the cost of living.*
- *for the revival of chaplaincy in Cameron Toll Centre.*
- *for Fair Trade Fortnight, that it would be not just two weeks of awareness but the start of a move towards fairer ways of trading.*
- *for our church leaders in times of difficulty and times of change, for inspiration and strength.*
- *for the people of St. John Vianney's at a time of change, that they would know you are with them.*

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

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.