CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 34 May 2023

ANNUAL WEEKEND RETREAT
1st-3rd September 2023
Whatton Lodge, Gullane

The cost will be £75. If you would like to take part, please contact David Dixon on 01875 812985 before the end of May, so that he can finalise the booking.

SABEEL-KAIROS

Victoria Turner spoke about this UK charity with very infectious enthusiasm at the well-attended Justice & Peace Evening on 13th April. It is always good to be better informed, and Sabeel Kairos can help with that (Sabeel Jerusalem and Kairos Palestine are Palestinian organisations associated with the charity). Look at www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk, and think about joining, or about signing up for their Wave of Prayer, which is free.

(You can also register on SEECAT's website under Justice and Peace Events for the Israel/Palestine "See and Pray" sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays, 6.30 to 6.50pm on Zoom.)

BALMWELL HEALING SERVICE





Yes, it was damp last year, but 2023 should be better!

The Balmwell has been a site of pilgrimage and healing for many centuries (the date on the stone is 1563). We make our pilgrimage to be there on Saturday 27th May at 3 o'clock. The Balmwell is in the grounds of the Toby Carvery, Howden Hall Road (a good place for refreshment afterwards).

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.

Please come along, and bring anyone you feel might benefit. There will be some seating, and if you require a lift, please ask in your local church.

A WEEK TO REMEMBER!

St. Catherine's was the venue for the **Passover Meal** on 3rd April, and there was a great atmosphere of unity in worship, and in the fellowship as we ate and chatted together. Thanks to St. Catherine's for the lovely food and drink, and to everybody who helped on the night!

"Journeying to the Cross" on 5th April at Liberton Kirk was a very moving experience. We imagined ourselves in the shoes of those who walked with Jesus to Calvary. All the eight SEECAT churches provided readers and it was great to see different people taking part and really getting into the characters they were representing.

It was good to have a group of young people involved in serving on the Monday and providing cakes for the refreshments after Wednesday's service. This was part of their Service Week at Liberton Kirk, when they help out in the church and community, and their help was much appreciated.

Good Friday was totally amazing! People walked (and prayed) from all directions, and the numbers converging on Morrisons car park for the **service at 11am after the prayer walk** were back to pre-Covid levels. Thanks to Morrisons once again for the use of their space, and to Timpsons for the power socket for our sound!



There was standing room only at Gracemount High School for the **afternoon service.** Stress levels were high in the technical area before the service (not all that unusual as there is a lot to set up in a strange space!). There were particular difficulties this year in getting the computer to talk to the projector and we did start a little late, but all was well.



Many stayed on afterwards to enjoy tea and hot cross buns, and the total offering was over £750, which will be allocated to charities at the next SEECAT business meeting on 21st May.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CHANGES—AN UPDATE

Although it is not absolutely finally settled, it is highly likely that there will be one Church of Scotland parish within SEECAT and it will be called SEECOS—South East Edinburgh Church of Scotland.

In that parish there will be the four churches currently in SEECAT—Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield, Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun) and Gracemount—together with Reid Memorial Church in Blackford, on the corner of West Savile Terrace.



It is hoped that the folk of Reid Memorial will want to join SEECAT in due course.

Final approval of the SEECOS grouping, and its buildings, is still awaited, as is a go-ahead to build on the Gracemount land.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY UPDATE

St. John Vianney's Church plans a closing Mass for Friday 4th August, the feast of St. John Vianney. Their first mass in the St. Gregory's building will be on Sunday 6th August. The building in Fernieside Gardens will finally close at the end of August.

From Mike Mineter, Justice and Peace . . . . .

Sunday 14th May is the start of Christian Aid Week. It is also the eve of Nakba Day! 15th May is the day when we remember the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians as the State of Israel was established in 1947-9. It is estimated that more than 700,000 people were forced from their homes, and more then 500 villages emptied or destroyed. As we heard in the Justice & Peace talks on 13th April, we still need to seek equality for all in Israel/Palestine. We can do this through prayer and also other actions such as learning more, and joining Sabeel-Kairos (see pages 1 and 4 for related items).

What unites Christian Aid Week, the cause of equality for all in Israel/Palestine and the work for equality in our own land as wealth moves to the few from the many? Maybe the answer is found in Micah 6:8, calling us to work for justice as well as to love mercy. That was the prompt for this prayer:

God, you showed in many ways, including through Jonah's whale, Naaman the Syrian, and the widow in Zarephath, that your love is for all. May all in Israel-Palestine, and we ourselves, grow in the desire and ability to share that love with all people, all creatures and all Earth. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

TRON KIRK HOSTS 72-HOUR WORSHIP AND PRAYER EVENT

All are welcome to join in at any point in 72 Hours of Worship and Prayer for Revival in Scotland at the Tron Kirk Moredun, Craigour Gardens. This runs from 3pm on Tuesday 6th June to 3pm on Friday 9th June and will feature worship teams and choirs from the USA, South Korea, Malaysia and more. More information on: blessingallnations@hotmail.co.uk

TALK ABOUT BETHLEHEM'S TENT OF NATIONS

All are welcome to join the Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias at St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road, on Friday 19 May at 1pm, where Daoud Nassar from Tent of Nations, Bethlehem, will speak.

Come along to hear him talk about what life is like for Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank; his family's struggle, his commitment to non-violence; and the motivation and strength he gains through his faith. Admission is free, but donations to the work of the Friends will be welcome.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the SEECAT events in Holy Week and the sense of unity in our worship and fellowship together*
- *for the Healing Service on 27th May—for good weather, to allow everybody to come who wants to come, and for our Saviour's healing presence to be made known*
- *for a just peace in areas of conflict—particularly in Ukraine, Sudan, and in the Holy Land*
- *for those in our communities struggling with the cost of living, health issues and loneliness, that we can find ways of showing them the love of God*
- *for our church leaders in times of difficulty and times of change, for inspiration and strength*
- *for those of our churches which are anxious—for clarity where there is uncertainty, and continuing faith and hope*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in August 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.