



Issue 37 Feb/March 2024

CROSSTALK

*The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together*

ARE THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY?



**CROSSTALK IS
TEN YEARS OLD
THIS FEBRUARY!**

This newsletter has appeared quarterly since February 2014 with only a few gaps at the height of the Covid pandemic.

There has been very little feedback apart from SEECAT representatives and this is a wee reminder that feedback and suggestions are welcomed. There is a contact email on the back page or you can catch Ruth at SEECAT events (often taking photos for the next edition!)

HOLY WEEK

Passover Meal, 7pm on Monday 25th March, Tron Kirk Moredun (tickets essential—see the SEECAT representatives in your church)

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross Service, 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th March, St. Catherine's R.C. Church

GOOD FRIDAY

Prayer Walk from churches at 10 or 10.15am to Open Air Service at Morrisons Gilmerton Road (Join any of the groups converging on Morrisons, or if you are unable to walk join the service in the car park!)

Joint Service at 3pm in Gracemount High School when we gather round the cross.



(2023
Good Friday)



ADVENT REFLECTIONS

It was a delight to take part in a couple of the Advent Reflections at St. Gregory's. So welcoming and friendly, and a thoughtful time of looking at God's word and reflecting on it. A chance to respond to that in a discussion group and a good time of fellowship afterwards over a cup of tea. People were given discussion groups by numbers handed out randomly at the door.

It's so good to mix with people from other traditions in this way. This is how we get closer to each other—when we're all trying to deepen our faith in our Lord and Saviour.

If you have never tried it, why not dip your toe in the water and go along to one of the **LENT STUDY GROUPS** currently in progress? People often can't go every week but they can drop in when they are able. There's still time to go along, even on just one occasion. The possibilities are:

Tron Kirk Moredun, 2.15pm on Mondays till 18th March;

St. Barnabas' Church, 1.30pm on Wednesdays till 20th March;

(both these groups are looking at the Emotions of Jesus)

St. Catherine's Church, 7pm on Tuesday evenings till 19th March, looking at the Bible readings for the following Sunday.

CAROL SINGING AT MORRISONS



What a great hour we had in Morrisons singing carols to the shoppers and lifting their spirits in that busy time before Christmas. The musical accompaniment from Pat and John was excellent and as can be seen from the photographs there was a good number of singers to make a joyful noise. We had a good reaction from shoppers and made sure that they went away with details of our Christmas services.

CONVERSATION CORNER

is a welcoming space where people of any age from another country can practise their English and make new friends. It is held at Liberton Northfield Church Hall (EH16 5TT) from 7.30 to 9.00pm on Thursdays to 21st March, then from 18th April to 23rd May. For more information please contact libertonnorthfieldpc@gmail.com

Please encourage anyone you know (students, families or older people) who might enjoy some friendly conversation over a cup of tea or coffee to come along—they will be made welcome.

THANK YOU TO NORMA



Norma Packham has represented Liberton Northfield faithfully within SEECAT for the last 25 years, but is now stepping back.

Whilst we hope to see her at some of our services and events, we will miss her help with our programme planning and her wise advice. A big thank-you, Norma, for all your contributions over the years!

NEW CHURCH GROUPING

From 31st March the four Church of Scotland churches within SEECAT will unite as one parish known as SEECOS. All four will



retain their separate identities and places of worship, but hopefully the new grouping will enable the Church to reach out to wherever the need is greatest in the area, and to bring the good news of Jesus to all within its boundaries. The four churches have worked and worshipped together for many years and union is therefore not as difficult a thought as it is in some other areas. We hope great things can be achieved together for the Kingdom of God in this area.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

The ongoing conflict in the Holy Land continues to give concern, particularly the humanitarian situation in Gaza. SEECAT has made a petition available for signature in churches which was sent to MPs and MSPs before recent debates. The following links may be of use to those wanting to be informed about the situation on the ground.

A statement from Kairos Palestine (Christians in the Holy Land):

[Kairos Palestine statement - Rafah Assault.pdf \(kairopalestine.ps\)](https://www.kairopalestine.org.uk/Rafah_Assault.pdf)

To join the Sabeel/Kairos Weekly Wave of Prayer which keeps you up to date with prayer needs:

<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-the-wave-of-prayer/>



DAWN ON EASTER DAY

Liberton Kirk has a short time of worship at dawn on Easter Day at the Braid Hills trig point, this year at 6.45am. You can meet at 6.15am at the Golf Driving Range to walk up together. All are welcome to greet our risen Lord as the sun rises.

EASTER PLAY

Saturday 30th March, 2pm in Princes Street Gardens

WILD LENT

Lent is a time to remember Jesus in the wilderness, and Wild Lent



is an opportunity to embody this in a Forest Church gathering outside. Fiona Lough (husband Adrian is Liberton Northfield locum Minister) tells us about Forest Church:

Groups meet outdoors in all weathers and spend time noticing our surroundings, allowing God to speak to us through nature, which lives out on an annual basis the death and resurrection that is at the heart of the Christian faith. We actively choose to engage with God's creation, in awe, wonder and thanksgiving, and to make this the heart of worship. We use all our senses, spending time exploring/creating/playing and link this with readings from the Bible, prayers, song, and reflections from group members. Many (all ages) feel comfortable in outdoor spaces where they can come and go freely rather than formal church settings.

Wild Lent (with Penicuik Forest Church) is on Sunday 17th March at 3pm locally—details later.

PRAYERS NEEDED

- *of thanksgiving for the good feeling of togetherness and fellowship at our Advent Reflections, and for the joy we were able to bring with our Morrisons carol singing*
- *for our Good Friday witness in our communities to our shared faith in Jesus our Saviour, that it would speak to those who need hope*
- *that all our churches would be able to reach out to those around us with the good news of Easter*
- *for peace in the Holy Land, for comfort for all those who suffer, for hostage release, for a long-term settlement*
- *for those in our communities who struggle with daily living—help us to reach out with warmth and support*
- *for our unity as the church of Jesus in difficult times; may we remain close, and strong in our faith*
- *for our Church of Scotland churches adjusting to new ways of working together*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in May 2024—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.