CROSSTALK

SEECAT

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

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COVID MEMORIAL DEDICATION

A memorial remembering the wide range of suffering during the Covid pandemic as well as those who died will be dedicated in the churchyard of Liberton Kirk on Sunday 12th May, at 12.15pm approximately, immediately following the 11am service.

This is a memorial for South East Edinburgh, and provides a quiet place of remembrance in peaceful surroundings. Everyone is welcome to attend the Dedication (and of course the Service). The memorial is at the South West corner of the church beside the cairn. You are invited to bring a red rose (or another flower if you wish) to add your own remembrance.

There will be light refreshments after the Dedication in the Kirk Centre.



seecos
South East Edinburgh
Church of Scotland
with Jesus at our heart

IS NOW A REALITY!

The uniting of our four Church of Scotland churches as one parish, SEECOS, will be celebrated at a service in Liberton Kirk at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th May, followed by refreshments, to which all are warmly invited.

BALMWELL HEALING SERVICE



Our Healing Service takes place on Saturday 18th May, at 3o'clock at the Balmwell in the grounds of the Toby Carvery, Howden Hall Road, a good place for refreshment afterwards. The Balmwell is an ancient site of pilgrimage and healing and 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 enquire at your local church.

A WEEK TO REMEMBER!



Cammy and Tron Kirk Moredun were the hosts for the **Passover Meal** on 25th March, and Cammy set the scene and led the worship. Thanks to them and to Liberton Northfield led by Norma for the main part of the meal, and to Janet for all her help.



The **Stations of the Cross Service** on 27th March at St. Catherine's was a thoughtful and moving experience. Thanks to Father Alex and St. Catherine's for hosting and leading us that evening, and to all the people from the other churches who took part.



Good Friday was once again amazing! People walked (and prayed) from all corners of our area, and converged on Morrisons car park for the **service at 11am**, many carrying crosses, including the big cross coming from St. Catherine's. No doubt a talking point for the shoppers, many of whom stopped to see what was going on, some to listen for a while.



A big thank-you again to Morrisons for the use of their space and electricity.



Gracemount High School hall was full for the **afternoon service.** Gerry Mulvenna reminded us that it was 25 years since the first joint Good Friday afternoon service! Many stayed on afterwards to enjoy the fellowship. The offering was over £560, and at the next SEECAT meeting on 26th May allocations will be made to charities.



More pictures of all events in the gallery on the SEECAT website!

"WILD LENT"—from Fiona Lough (Penicuik Forest Church/SEECAT)

At Wild Lent we reflected on Jesus in the wilderness while in a group outdoors. We looked, listened, smelled, touched and tasted as we explored individually and allowed God to speak to us through nature.



There was creativity and curiosity, silence, laughter and some singing. Mike led us in an embodied reflection and prayer and as Mary led our prayers for others a rainbow appeared briefly over Gracemount as we prayed for the local community.



This unique gathering from different churches and places found a shield beetle, unusual flowers, a delightful willow and fresh insights. We were kindly hosted by the Gracemount Mansion Walled Garden which Tricia told us about, including the 12.30 Friday Community meals (all are welcome).

From Mike Mineter, Justice and Peace . . . .SEE-PRAY ISRAEL-PALESTINE

At the start of COVID, SEECAT Justice and Peace started up a group that has continued to meet at 6:30 to 7pm each Tuesday and Friday on Zoom to pray for Israel/Palestine. We share news for ten minutes - what we have been reading and learning or actions we have been taking - then pray with a focus on lament. By this we mean contrasting God's promises and teaching with what is happening. For example, God's love is for all, as Jesus so often showed (e.g. Luke 4:16-30), so any supposedly faith-based politics that seeks to oppress or dispossess is anathema. Here is one of the prayers we use:

As people of many religions remind us: all humanity is connected, no-one is really free until all are free. Help us to pray for all in Israel and all in the Palestinian territories. We pray for those who live in fear of the other; all who consider violence to be the way forward. We pray for all who by acting in hate dehumanise themselves.

And so we pray: ***Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.***

See https://seecat.org/justice-and-peace/jp-events/ for details of the meetings. You are warmly invited!

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

The Taizé Community website tells us that the Community comprises around eighty brothers from different church backgrounds – Catholic, Anglican, Protestant – and from nearly thirty countries. By its very existence, it is a "parable of community": a tangible sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples. The current Prior, Brother Matthew, is British and from an Anglican background.

St. Catherine's (Gracemount Drive) will hold a Taizé Prayer Service on Thursday 30th May at 7pm. They extend a warm invitation to the other SEECAT churches to join them for the service and for refreshments afterwards in the church hall. Appropriately the Community Theme this year is "Journeying Together".



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 18th May—for good weather, to enable all to come who want to, and for the healing presence of Jesus to be made known.*
- *for a just peace in areas of conflict—particularly in Ukraine, Sudan, and in the Holy Land—and for a speedy end to the fighting and the appalling destruction and suffering*
- *for those in our communities struggling, and particularly those dreading the long school holidays, that we can find ways of showing them God's love*
- *for our church leaders in times of difficulty and times of pressure, for inspiration and strength, and good support from the people in their congregations*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in August 2024—contributions should be sent to crosstalk@seecat.org by end July.

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.