CROSSTALK

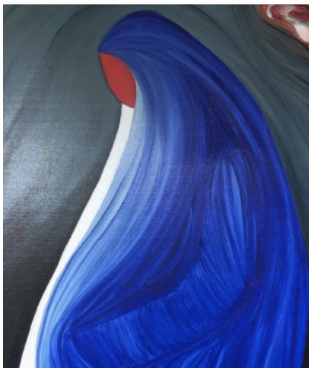
The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 40 November 2024

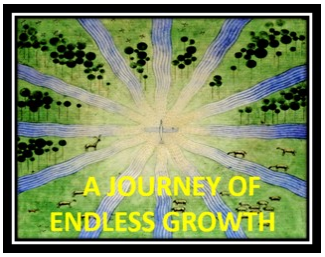


Jesus' words about the Vine are just some of the much-loved words we read from the Gospel of John in the Big Read (see below). They remind us that without Jesus we can do nothing. In SEECAT recently we've had several opportunities to get closer to our Lord (Retreat, Pilgrimage, Big Read etc.) and here are two more for the Advent season.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS



The Alpha Team in the RC Cluster have organised four Wednesday evenings starting 27th November at St. Gregory's, Walter Scott Avenue. There will be reflection with scripture, poetry and art, and time to pray and sing together. This will run from 7.30 to 8.30pm followed by mince pies and refreshments. Come to all four evenings or dip in whenever you can.



MEDITATION DAY FOR ADVENT

led by Alex Holmes

Saturday 30th November at Liberton Northfield Church, Gilmerton Road. There will be tea/coffee at 10.30am and the event will run from 11am to 3.30pm. Tea/coffee provided, but bring a packed lunch. No charge, but donations welcomed.

Please register with Clare Roller: clare.roller@icloud.com or 07762 299633



THE BIG READ—Saturday 2nd November

18 of us gathered in the peaceful Upper Room in Liberton Kirk Centre to read through John's Gospel together. Chapters were read by those who wished to, from different translations, including Lorimer's Scots version, and all agreed it was a good experience, shining new light on the text.



PILGRIMAGE WALK FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION—Saturday 21st September—Roslin to the Balmwell

More than 20 people made the pilgrimage on what was not the brightest of days in terms of weather, but that did not seem to deter the participants!





The theme for this year's Season of Creation is "To hope and act with Creation" and stops were made on the way for reflection (and refreshments). God's creation was appreciated in different ways, prayers were said, a special pilgrim song was introduced and our links with the whole of creation were emphasised. It has been described as "a spiritual experience". The website has more details at www.seecat.org/pilgrimage-2024/









WELCOME TO FATHER MICHAEL

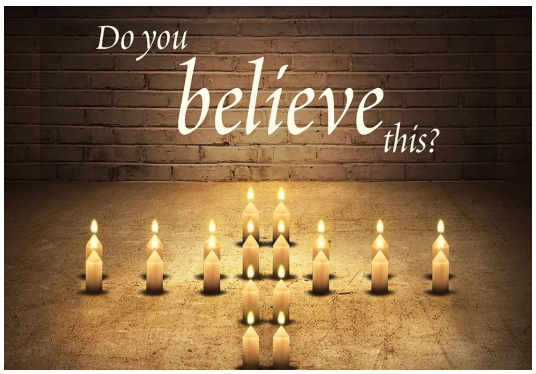


Father Michael of the Old Catholic Apostolic Church Scotland will accept our invitation to join SEECAT as an Associate Member. He does not have a church in the area but looks forward to joining our activities.

CAROL SINGING

We have sung carols to shoppers in Morrisons in Gilmerton Road for several years now, just before Christmas. We hope to sing there on Saturday 14th December, between 2pm and 3pm, but please check the timing in your church's notices nearer the time. Then come and sing!!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18th-25th January 2025



Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ *(John 11, 17-27)*

This is the theme for 2025's week of prayer, prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy. We will have two services:

Monday 20th January, 2pm at St. Barnabas' Church (short service)

Thursday, 23rd January, 7pm at Tron Kirk Moredun (main service, followed by refreshments)

If you are unable to go to the services there will be a prayer card available in the SEECAT churches with readings and prayers for the full eight days. Look out for it in the New Year!

WELCOME, GORDON PENNYKID

A service was held at Liberton Northfield on the evening of Sunday 27th October to welcome Gordon Pennykid as the new Associate Minister in SEECOS, with particular responsibility for Liberton Northfield Church and for youth work across SEECOS. Gordon is a Deacon in the Church of Scotland and has been working as a Prison Chaplain in recent



years. Everybody at the service had the opportunity to welcome Gordon individually—the picture shows our SEECAT Chair, Christine Johnson, doing just that. We look forward to welcoming him at SEECAT events and getting to know him as he settles in.

DAY RETREAT—from Maureen Quinn

On the 28th September SEECAT held a retreat at Liberton Northfield Church hosted by David Dixon and led by Gerry Mulvenna ."The theme for the day was from Micah 6:8—" Act justly , love tenderly and walk humbly with your God. "

21 people across the local Churches joined in prayer, reflection, discussion and shared Eucharist/Communion. All enjoyed lunch together in the middle of the day. Positive feedback was received on the day's events and it was unanimously agreed to repeat the event next year.

JUSTICE AND PEACE EVENING
20th November at Tron Kirk

We heard from the Bethany workers in Moredun about Bethany's aim of "Ending homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time". They follow three strands of work: prevention (as in Moredun), crisis intervention, and housing and support. Volunteers from our churches for the care van and for evening meals are part of crisis intervention.

In Moredun Liz and others have a base at St. Barnabas' Church and work closely with Tron Kirk. They run a Buddy Club at Craigour School, a Homework Club at Goodtrees Centre, and link in with the Tron community meal at Goodtrees. They held a summer family event at Tron Kirk and ran a Bridge to Freedom Recovery Course at the Hub. Now there's a new reading group for women with English as a second language at Moredun Library. For information and opportunities for volunteering, please get in touch with Liz: lizbowes@bethanychristiantrust.com

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the Walk, the Day Retreat and the Big Read, with all the spiritual nourishment they provided*
- *for Bethany Christian Trust as they continue to do such good work in the community in Moredun, and elsewhere in our city and across Scotland*
- *for peace in our troubled world, in our country and in our communities*
- *for our Christmas services across the area that they may bring your light and hope to people's lives*

An Iona Community adaptation of the Lord's Prayer—please join us in praying:

God in heaven, your name is to be honoured. May your new community of hope be realised on earth as it is in heaven. Release us from our wrongdoing as we also release those who wrong us. Do not test us beyond our enduring; save us from all that is evil. For you embrace justice, love and peace, now and to the end of time. Amen.

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in February 2025—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.