CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 43 **August 2025**

SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

The SEECAT programme for the year will be in churches for the start of September, which is when our activities for the session begin, starting with the Retreat (below) and the Pilgrimage Walk (page 2). Please pick up a programme card and think about joining us! You will be very welcome at any of our events.

"There was a man who had two sons . . ."(a reflection on the characters in the parable of the prodigal son)

Our Retreat will take place on Saturday 20 September 2025 in the hall at Liberton Northfield (280 Gilmerton Road). The day will start with tea/coffee at 10am and conclude by 4pm. It will be a mixture of prayer, worship, sharing (for those who wish to), short talks and reflecting – hopefully, something for everybody. The short talks on the theme will be given by Gerry Mulvenna.

Everybody is very welcome. There is no need to book, you can just come along on the day. If you are coming, please bring a packed lunch—drinks will be provided.

ST. BARNABAS' ANNIVERSARY

St. Barnabas' Scottish Episcopal Church was first dedicated on 27th September 75 years ago. They plan to celebrate at their 10.30am service on Sunday 28th, and also at an Ecumenical Service on Wednesday 1st October at 7pm, when the speaker will be Cammy Mackenzie. Please do come along on the 1st if you are able and celebrate with them.



PILGRIMAGE WALK FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION
Saturday 27th September, 10am departure
ST. CATHERINE'S WELL to BRIDGEND FARMHOUSE PEACE GARDEN

The 2025 Season of Creation theme is the "Garden of Peace" and so our pilgrimage walk will start where we left off last time at the Balm Well (EH16 6PG) and finish at the Peace Garden at Bridgend Farmhouse. As well as enjoying the company, the chat and the scenery we also intentionally include prayer, listening and silence (from humans) and perhaps share any reflections. We finish with a short symbolic act of worship.



- 6+ miles including Stenhouse Burn, Burdiehouse Burn, Orchard Pond, Little France Wetlands, Peace Garden Pond. We will be looking out for the interactions between humans and the rest of nature in our sometimes gritty urban environment.
- One way route finishing mid afternoon at EH16 4TE (toilets after 2 miles and 6 miles). Most of the route on good surfaces, with a few uneven sections and a few gentle slopes.
- Bring a picnic lunch and dress for all weathers.

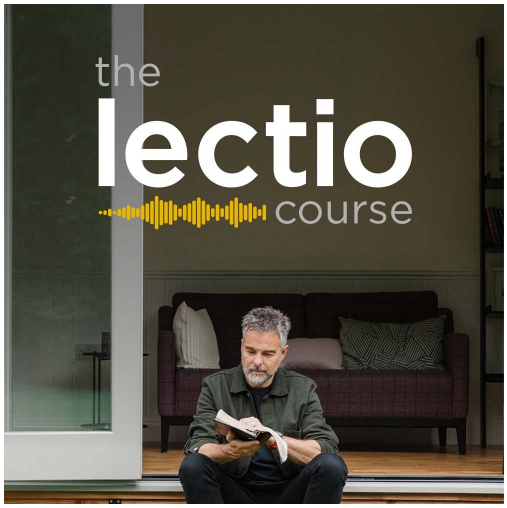
if you have not walked 6 miles in the past 6 months then it would be a good idea to do a 3 mile walk before our pilgrimage to make sure your shoes are still comfy. Folk who prefer a sit spot or a gentle stroll are welcome to join us at the Well or the Peace Garden—though our timings will not be precise—pilgrims never know what they will encounter!

It would help the organisers get an idea of numbers and be able to update you on plans if you email to note interest, but you are free to just turn up on the day if you prefer. You can obtain a full itinerary either by emailing pilgrim@seecat.org or at https://seecat.org/pilgrimage/



HEALING SERVICE AT THE BALMWELL

We didn't allow the weather to dampen the proceedings on 7th June—we had a lovely service conducted by David Dixon, with an inspiring talk about the work of the Holy Spirit from Mary Morrison and beautiful music from Hazel Storey both for our singing together and while prayers were being said for those who wished it.



FROM MARY MORRISON:

When you pray, you speak with God
When you read, God speaks to you
(St. Jerome)

If you would like to know more about Lectio Divina then this 5-week course by Pete Greig from the 24/7 prayer movement may be for you. Each week we will listen to the experiences of people who use this ancient practice as part of their prayer life. We will learn how to read the Bible using all of our senses. Reading scripture slowly and meditating on God's word prayerfully can help us become more open to what He may be saying to us. The course runs every Tuesday from September 2nd to 30th, 7.30pm-8.30pm at Liberton Northfield, 280 Gilmerton Road EH16 5TT. There will be refreshments available from 7pm.

OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH SYNOD—from Christine Johnson

In June of this year, the OCAC had their Synod in Edinburgh, and they very kindly invited any of us in SEECAT to attend. It was over three days (20th-22nd) starting in St Giles on Friday evening, with ordinations on Saturday at Liberton Kirk and Mass at the Balmwell on Sunday morning.

I decided to join them at St Giles on Friday evening for a service, prayers and a tour of St Giles. I found this a very moving experience and everyone I met there was so friendly and a very interesting cohort of folk. Their Bishop Adrian had just been in the Holy Land with his wife. Fr Martin, a Carmelite friar, was being ordained into the OCAC on the Saturday, several women were also being ordained and a young theology student from Glasgow was there. They are a very inclusive denomination, work across the world and are very ecumenical in their teachings.



The remainder of their Synod went well and their Bishop Adrian wrote to us thanking us for our support and sending prayers and blessings to us all.

It was a very interesting experience meeting the folk from the OCAC and getting a better understanding of Fr Michael's role here in Edinburgh.

KATE SELBY



Kate Selby of St. Catherine's Church died on 22nd July after a long illness, but before that she was involved for many years with SEECAT. As part of that she served on the Cameron Toll Chaplaincy Support Group for six years. She was always reliable, and totally committed to working alongside other churches. She is fondly remembered.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

Advance notice - on the evening of Wednesday 17th September SEECAT's Justice & Peace Group will be hosting an evening about Palestine/Israel. We will have an update, pray and act towards a future of equality, security and justice for all.

Details of the venue etc. will be advertised, but for now please put the date in your diaries.

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanks for Father Alex's improved health and return to work*
- *of thanks for 75 years of Christian service at St. Barnabas' Church and for our continuing friendship*
- *for our new programme starting in September, that our churches will grow closer together in worship and fellowship, and be able to witness to our shared faith in our communities*
- *for a ceasefire in Gaza, the return of hostages, and aid to reach all those who need it*
- *for longterm fair peace agreements in the Holy Land and in Ukraine*
- *for the speedy recruitment of a new minister for SEECOS (mainly at Liberton Kirk) and for the folk of Liberton Kirk at this difficult time*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in November 2025—contributions should be sent to crosstalk@seecat.org by end October.

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 the Roman Catholic SE Edinburgh Cluster (St. Catherine's, St. Gregory's, St. John Vianney's) SE Edinburgh Church of Scotland (SEECOS) (Gracemount Church, Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield & Tron Kirk (Gilmerton and Moredun)) and St. Barnabas' Scottish Episcopal Church.
Our website, **www.seecat.org**, has links to them.
The Old Catholic Apostolic Church (www.liberalcatholics.uk) is an Associate Member.