# CROSSTALK

**The Newsletter of**
**South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together**

SEECAT

**Issue 44 November 2025**

## *DAY RETREAT at Liberton Northfield —from Alice Anderson*

We had a wonderful day on 20th September! The Retreat was led by Gerry Mulvenna on the parable of the Prodigal Son, and there were three sessions picking out the main characters in the story:

1. The lost son
2. The forgiving Father
3. The dutiful Son

Gerry spoke about each of these topics and his insights gave us much to think about. Afterwards we shared our thoughts on the subject and finished with a prayer. In the middle of the day we shared a good time of fellowship over lunch, and the whole day ended with a shared Eucharist led by David Dixon.



Thank-you to Gerry for wonderful leadership and to David —it was a special day.

## *WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18th—25th January 2026*

For over 30 years we have worshipped and prayed together in SEECAT, but the headlines about King Charles praying with Pope Leo highlighted that this does not happen everywhere. That's why we need the WPCU!

The theme for 2026's week of prayer is "One Body, One Spirit", prepared by Christians in Armenia.



***ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT***

Our services are:

**Monday 19th January, 2pm at St. Barnabas' Church** (short service)

**Thursday, 22nd January, 7pm at Liberton Kirk** (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!

## *PILGRIMAGE WALK FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION*
## *Saturday 27th September—from Fiona Lough*



Around 20 people from across the SEECAT family journeyed together on pilgrimage from St Catherine's Well to the Peace Garden at Bridgend Farmhouse. We began following Stenhouse Burn and later entered the Serengeti (Little France Park). We got to know each other, giggled, noticed good things in urban nature and walked together in companionable silence for part of the way.



We advertised in supermarkets, libraries and community centres. This is also an easy invitation to extend to the spiritual but not religious, people who pray in other traditions, those who feel uncomfortable in church buildings, the curious, the neurodiverse and those who can't sit still.

There are photos and memories of the pilgrimage on the website including some of the prayers and reflections that inspired us on the way www.seecat.org/pilgrimage-2025 allowing those at home to enjoy a virtual pilgrimage, or follow the map making a future pilgrimage.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the future please email pilgrim@seecat.org





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## *CAROL SINGING IN MORRISONS, GILMERTON ROAD*

We have sung carols to shoppers in Morrisons just before Christmas for many years now. We plan to sing there on Saturday 13th December, from 12 noon to 1pm. We don't collect—we just sing to wish people a happy Christmas and hopefully to cheer them up while they rush round doing their shopping. Please come and sing—song sheets provided!!

## *FAREWELL TO JANET*



We will miss Janet McKenzie, who was an Ordained Local Minister at Tron for 9 years and a great support for SEECAT during that time. She made meaningful contributions to many of our services and was our Chairperson for four years, including the difficult Covid period. Thank you, Janet, and very best wishes for the future.

## *WELCOME TO SEECAT, ELAINE*



Elaine Hogan was ordained and inducted as an Ordained Local Minister in SEECOS on 28th October with particular responsibilities at Tron Kirk. Elaine's home church is Barclay Viewforth, where she is an elder and also employed as a Pastoral Associate. We look forward to seeing her at SEECAT events and getting to know her.

## *THE BIG READ AT THE GILMERTON HUB, SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER*

Not as big as in previous years, but just as rewarding for the 10 of us who gathered to read aloud St. Luke's Gospel. We read from different translations, including Lorimer's Scots version which David Lamb read effortlessly as usual. What a good big read it is! Full of good stories and clear narrative, it was a delight to hear it all.



## *A LETTER FROM FATHER (NOW BISHOP) MICHAEL OF THE OCAC:*

*It is with immense gratitude and a humble heart that I address you today as the newly appointed Bishop of Scotland for The Old Catholic Apostolic Church. The journey that has led me to this sacred office has been one of profound learning, unwavering faith, and countless blessings, and I am deeply honoured to embark on this new chapter of service alongside all of you at SEECAT.*

*I am particularly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for us to grow together in faith, strengthen our community bonds, and reach out to those in need. I believe that by working hand-in-hand, guided by the Holy Spirit, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of many and uphold the values that are so central to our shared mission.*

*A special thanks to my colleagues in SEECAT for being an inclusive organisation. Peace and Blessings.*

*The Right Reverend Michael Templeton, Bishop of Scotland,*
*Old Catholic Apostolic Church Scotland*

## *JUSTICE AND PEACE— Mike Mineter's visit to the West Bank*



I spent a few days helping with the olive harvest. The year has been unusually dry and hot and the harvest here a fraction of what was hoped for, even taking into account that alternate years are always more fruitful and this was an off year. Across the West Bank the number and intensity of attacks by settlers on harvesters, both Palestinians and volunteers, is much higher than ever before - hundreds of attacks without any protection - although that violence has not been my own experience.

Bethlehem is so hot! 30°C and more! Some roads are blocked by Israeli soldiers sometimes, part of the imposed chaos and proving who is in charge. Bethlehem, like any town in the West Bank, can be cut off at a whim of the Israeli politicians. On 30th October the routes between Jerusalem & Bethlehem were closed.

## *PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .*

- *of thanksgiving for the Walk, the Day Retreat and the Big Read, with all the spiritual nourishment they provided*
- *of thanksgiving for Janet's ministry among us, and for the arrival of Elaine—may they both know your presence as they adjust*
- *for peace in our troubled world, in our country and in our communities*
- *for those suffering from severe weather brought about by climate change, and for better care for our planet*
- *for our joint Carol Singing, and for all our Christmas services across the area that they may bring your light and hope to people's lives*
- *for a new minister for SEECOS (mainly at Liberton Kirk) and for the folk of Liberton Kirk at this difficult time*

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This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in February 2026—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 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.