CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

SEECAT

Issue 45 February 2026

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME FOR YOUR DIARIES
(photos from previous years)

Passover Meal, Monday 30 March, St. Catherine's at 7pm. Fellowship and food, recalling the meal's origins and Jesus' last meal with his disciples.









Good Friday Prayer Walks from churches & Service at Morrisons at 11am—Both the walks and the service are a witness outside in our communities to our unity and shared faith.

Stations of the Cross at Liberton Northfield, 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st April, followed by cups of tea. A lovely peaceful service of contemplation on Jesus' journey.

Good Friday Service in Gracemount High School, Lasswade Road, 3pm
We fill the school entrance hall and the cross is carried in to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us to save us from our sins and give us, through his rising again, the hope of eternal life.



BEFORE HOLY WEEK—LENT STUDIES—two to choose from this year, both on the theme of pilgrimage: one at Liberton Northfield, 12.30pm on Wednesdays starting 18th February, and the other at St. Barnabas' Church on Wednesdays at 1.30pm (following Prayer Group at 12.30pm) starting on 25th February. All welcome to come along (to the Prayer Group also).

CAROL SINGING IN MORRISONS, GILMERTON ROAD



On Saturday 13th December, from 12 noon to 1pm, a group of us sang carols in Morrisons. We were strung out in a line, backs to the café, so facing out across the checkouts and into the store, and we managed to make a joyful noise and look Christmassy and cheerful! Once again, shoppers were amazed that we were doing it just to wish them happy Christmas and not to rattle collecting tins in front of them! Many thanks to John for his horn playing, which held us all together and probably left him quite out of breath!



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





The theme was "One Body, One Spirit", and the material was provided this year by Armenian Christians (Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical). As well as a prayer card to follow through the eight days, we held two services: one on the Monday at St. Barnabas', with Father Jock Dalrymple speaking, fondly remembered from his time at St. John Vianney's, and one on the Thursday evening at Liberton Kirk, with Rev. Elaine Hogan speaking.

It was so good on the Monday to learn about the Armenian Church, which is a global community with the Armenian diaspora numbering many times the population of the country itself (just north of Iran), which is almost entirely Christian. Through genocides, persecution, abuse and takeover of the ancient land of Artsakh by Azerbaijan, it has carried the light of Christ. That was the secondary theme of the Thursday service (see candles right). We were urged to be a strong voice as a global church for a just peace everywhere.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

"I WILL GIVE YOU REST, COME"

(Matthew 11, 28-30)



This year the material has been prepared by women of Nigeria. The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who ask you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Our local service is:

Friday 6th March,
2pm at Liberton Northfield Church

NEWS FROM: SEECOS

South East Edinburgh
Church of Scotland
with Jesus at our heart

The united congregation of SEECOS agreed at a meeting on 5th February to go ahead with the recruitment of a Transition Minister for a period of 5 years, filling the vacancy left by John Young. The Transition Minister will lead SEECOS as a whole and help the church to become a cohesive missional and united congregation to serve this area of South East Edinburgh.

ECO MATTERS

We are all aware of the effects of climate change—rising sea levels and extremes of weather are making themselves felt. After all the euphoria after various Climate Conferences, countries are failing to meet agreed targets and opting out of agreements. What can **we** do if we are to be good stewards of God's creation as we are called to be? A few suggestions:

* Pressurize our government to keep to its targets;
* Keep informed;
* Lead by example in our daily lives and in our churches, re-cycling, conserving energy and water etc.;
* Pray!

Why not join our Eco-Circle, 5.30-6.15pm on Zoom every Tuesday, when we reflect, pray, discern how to act, and find hope in our faith?



Registration links for both the Eco-Circle above and the Israel-Palestine See and Pray below are on the SEECAT website under Justice & Peace (on-line meetings).

SEE AND PRAY ISRAEL-PALESTINE

On Zoom from 6.30 to 7pm on Tuesdays and Fridays

THE CONTEMPLATION GROUP, which is affiliated to WCCM (World Community for Christian Meditation), meets at Gracemount Church House, 76 Lasswade Road, EH16 6SF. It is an ecumenical group and open to all.

It meets on Tuesdays at 2.15pm for a prompt start at 2.30pm. There is a brief lead-in, followed by half an hour of silent contemplative prayer. The purpose is to open hearts to the love of God, putting aside prescribed prayers to fashion a deeper silent connection.

Psalm 46 tells us to "be still, and know that I am God", and yet it can prove difficult just to make time to be still before God and exclude other distractions. Could the weekly Contemplation Group be the answer? Could this be the still centre of your busy week?

SEECAT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 24th May, 2.30pm
at St. Barnabas' Church,
4 Moredun Park View, EH17 7NE

Reviewing 2025/26 and planning 2026/27—*ALL WELCOME!*

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the Carol Singing and the joy it gave to shoppers, and the thought-provoking Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
- *for peace and justice in our troubled world, our country, our communities, and for a strong voice from the church in these matters*
- *for those suffering from severe weather brought about by climate change, for better care for our planet and for determination to lead by example*
- *for our Holy Week events, and for all our Easter services across the area that they may reach out and bring your grace, hope and love to people's lives*
- *for determination like that of Armenian Christians to carry the light of Christ to the world despite all setbacks, change and persecution*

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