CROSSTALK

SEECAT

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 46 May 2026

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR SEECAT?
See below and on back page

HEALING SERVICE ON 23RD MAY



Our annual Service of Healing will take place at the Balm Well in the grounds of the Toby Carvery, 41 Howden Hall Road, EH16 6PG, at 3pm on Saturday 23rd May. There will be an opportunity during the service for prayers for healing of body, mind and soul, for anyone who wishes. The Balm Well has been a site of pilgrimage for centuries, and the water was believed to have healing properties.

If you need some refreshment afterwards, the Toby Carvery is open.

REMEMBER THE PILGRIMAGE WALK LAST SEPTEMBER?





That walk finished at Bridgend Farmhouse, which will be the starting point this year, as we walk via Holyrood Park to St. Triduana's Well and St. Margaret's Church, a journey of about 6 miles, mainly off road. There is a bus going back to Cameron Toll/Bridgend Farmhouse.

The planned date is Saturday 12th September (during the Season of Creation) and there will be stops to appreciate the beauty of God's Creation and pray for it. More details will be in the August Crosstalk and on the website nearer the time. All are welcome!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD WORSHIP IN CARE HOMES?

Revd. David Dixon of St. Barnabas is planning a short course for lay people interested in leading worship in Care Homes and similar establishments for older people. If interested please contact your Priest/Minister first and then contact David on 01875 812985 or 07749 928175. Two sessions will be held at St. Barnabas' Church, 4 Moredun Park View, on Wednesday 20th and Wednesday 27th May, either at 1.30 or 7pm depending on who wishes to attend.

HOLY WEEK AND GOOD FRIDAY 2026



The week began with a great time of fellowship over the ***Passover Meal*** at St. Catherine's Church. We had a lovely meal, with the essentials of lamb, bitter herbs, wine and unleavened bread, and we remembered the Passover history and Jesus' last Passover Meal with his disciples.

On the Wednesday we met at Liberton Northfield Church for our ***Ecumenical Stations of the Cross*** Service, with candles gradually extinguished until no candlelight remained—a moving service as always.



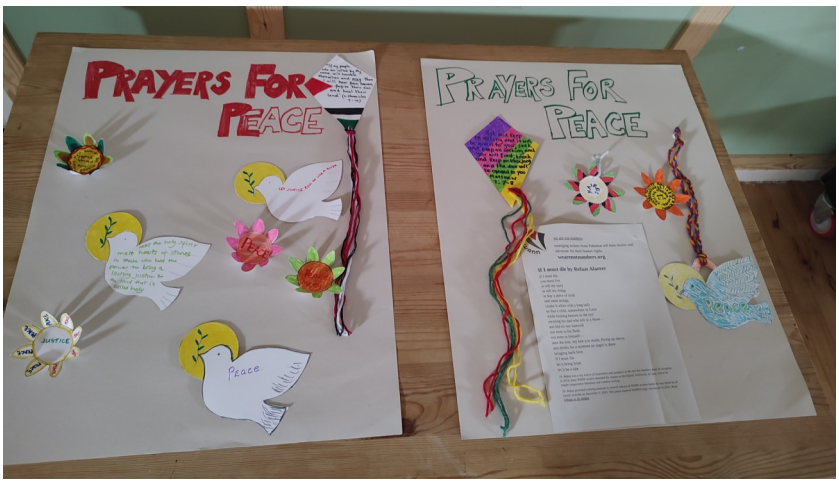
On ***Good Friday*** we made our way from our various churches, praying (and some singing) as we went, to meet up in Morrisons car park for an ***Open Air Service*** at 11am (with more joining us there). The singing was wonderful and Gordon Pennykid spoke movingly of God's amazing love for us. (photo at bottom left)

Finally we met up again at 3 o'clock in Gracemount High School (below right) for a ***Good Friday Service*** round the cross, where we could leave the stones (our burdens and sins) we picked up on coming in. We were delighted to have Rev. Catherine Rawlinson-Watkins to speak to us.





JUSTICE & PEACE EVENING—from Mike Mineter



16 folk gathered on the 11th of April for an event looking at what is needed for peace in the middle East .

Led by Val and Shirley we prayed using art as shown in the pictures.

We had conversation including about how to read the Old Testament, recognising how the scriptures and Christian theology have been misused to promote slavery and apartheid. Deryck and Christine brought from Hadeel a stall of Palestinian produce. It is so important to remember the long established Palestinian culture and support their artisans in these times. (Hadeel is at 123 George Street)

Mike compared and contrasted South Africa and Israel, noting Archbishop Tutu declared Israel's apartheid was worse. The many similarities include the laws, violence, detention and permit systems that control and discriminate against Palestinians. Mike said that South Africa ultimately embraced a vision that appreciated the humanity of every person and changed its system: Israeli leaders fail to follow that example.

(See and Pray Israel-Palestine is on Zoom 6.30-7pm Tuesdays/Fridays)

ECO INITIATIVE AT LIBERTON KIRK (Collection in the Offering House at the Kirkyard Gate, open 8am-5pm, or 8pm in July and August)

From October 2025 we have managed to donate: 49 Fish and Chip jumpers and hats for Kenyan needy babies, several hats and scarves for the shoebox appeal, 9 beautiful toddler cardigans for a nurse in West Lothian who supports new mums who need extra help, 2 Twiddlemuffs to calm dementia patients (patterns online), 2 boxes of used inkjet cartridges and toners to support St. Columba's Hospice Edinburgh, 2 pillowcase dresses for children in Africa (pattern and instructions online) and a number of comfort pocket teddies for hospitals and ambulances. Thank you to everyone who has donated wool, pillowcases, finished articles and cartridges and hopefully had fun making something to help others either at home or at a church warm hub/warm space. If anyone else wants to join in, please do!

ANNUAL RETREAT

This year's Day Retreat will be on Saturday 5th September at Liberton Northfield Church from 10am to 4pm. Once again this will be led by Gerry Mulvenna.

This is a chance to begin our SEECAT year in a peaceful and thoughtful way by drawing close to God together.

More details in the August Crosstalk, but put the date in your diaries now.

SEECAT'S ECO CIRCLE

Meets on Zoom on Tuesdays from 5.30—6pm
See the justice and peace pages on our website www.seecat.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 17th May
(N.B. change of date)

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

All welcome to review the year just finishing and plan 2026/2027

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the Holy Week services and the memorable crowds outside Morrisons and in Gracemount High School on Good Friday*
- *For the SEECAT Annual General Meeting next week and a good discussion on our programme going forward*
- *for our Healing Service at the Balmwell—for good weather and for a sense of the healing presence of Christ to be with all who attend*
- *for peace and justice in our troubled world, our country and our communities, and for aid to reach the millions of hungry, dispossessed and suffering people worldwide*
- *for a realisation among all people of their part in the battle against climate change and a willingness to embrace recycling, reduction of waste, and the need to make our views known to governments*

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