CROSSTALK

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 47 August 2026

WHAT'S COMING UP? SEE PAGES 2 AND 3!

EVER WONDERED WHO'S IN SEECAT, WHAT IT DOES AND WHY?

One way of finding out is by picking up our publicity leaflet (see photo) which is widely available in churches (or ask your SEECAT rep).



Another good thing to do is to pick up one of our programme cards, available at the end of August in churches. Our programme was agreed in outline at our AGM in May and has now been finalised, and will start on 5th September (see page 2 for September events). The next step is to come along and join in!

SNIPPETS FROM THE AGM IN MAY —

- From the offering on Good Friday afternoon, after ensuring all expenses were covered, we were able to allocate £600 to charities. This was divided equally between Medical Aid in Palestine and Gracemount Mansion Development Trust.
- Subscriptions from churches were raised from £60 to £70 a church from January 2027.
- We now have a Facebook page, thanks to Bishop Michael (O.C.A.C.) —please follow us!
- We made a change to the way we organise our Justice and Peace work. Instead of trying to sustain a separate group to plan and carry out events, that work is now a part of the SEECAT committee's responsibilities. We have a Justice and Peace Officer, Mike Mineter —do send him ideas for events or actions, via jp.seecat@gmail.com See page 3 for his report on a recent event.

RETREAT/DAY OF RECOLLECTION

This will be held on Saturday 5th September, from 10am to 4pm, at Liberton Northfield Church, 280 Gilmerton Road, EH16 5UR. It will be led by Gerry Mulvenna and the theme is "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you".* Tea or coffee will be available—bring a packed lunch. There will be a mixture of prayer, worship, sharing (for those who wish), short talks from Gerry, and reflection. Hopefully something for everybody, and everybody is welcome! No need to book.

PILGRIMAGE WALK for the Season of Creation (theme: "Water of Life") SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER—Bridgend Farmhouse Peace Garden, EH16 4TE, to St. Triduana's Well, Leith & Restalrig Church, Restalrig Road South, EH7 6LF

- 10am start—mid-afternoon finish. Toilets at 0, 4 and 6 miles.
- 6+miles including the waters of the Peace Garden Braid Burn, Wells o'Wearie, Dunsapie Loch, St. Margaret's Loch and St. Triduana's Well.
- Good surfaces, with a few uneven sections and a few gentle slopes.
- Bring a picnic lunch and dress for all weathers.

As well as enjoying the company, the chat and the scenery we also intentionally include prayer, listening and silence and perhaps share any reflections among the group. Volunteers from the church will open the well-house for us, which is a fascinating place with brilliant acoustics so we will sing together as we finish with a short symbolic act of worship.

If you have not walked 6 miles in the past 6 months, then have a practice 3-mile walk 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 Peace Garden or the Well. 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 feel free to just turn up on the day. Full itinerary by emailing pilgrim@seecat.org or at https://seecat.org/pilgrimage/



Photos from 2025



JUSTICE & PEACE—from Mike Mineter (jp.seecat@gmail.com)

On Wednesday 5th August Deryck Collingwood spoke at St Barnabas' Church about Hadeel. Its shop for fairly traded Palestinian goods at 123 George Street showcases beautiful artistry in embroidery ("tatreez" - there are folk in range of Edinburgh who occasionally teach this) , in glassware, porcelain and more. There are food products, among them superb dates, and if you are not sure how to distinguish your za'atar from your maftoul then the shop also sells cook books. (Let Mike know if you would like to join a Palestinian Cooking class.)





Deryck described how the importance of this work - and any advocacy for peace through justice in the Holy Land - is intensifying. Israeli forces are attacking, isolating and destroying Palestinian villages in the West Bank. We also see the imposed economic crisis in the West Bank and the continuing genocide in Gaza. Hadeel helps to keep the Palestinian culture alive, helps their suppliers economically while reminding them that not all the world has forgotten them. In addition, for us, the shop is a delight to browse online at www.hadeel.org or to visit.

HEALING SERVICE ON 23RD MAY



It was a lovely afternoon for our service. Bishop Michael spoke to us; Fiona Devoy, Alice Anderson, Mary Morison all contributed. The music was once again provided by Hazel Storey, accompanying the hymns and singing beautifully as prayers were offered for individuals.

THE BIG READ 2026

The Big Read will take place on Saturday 31st October at 10.30am at St. Barnabas Church, 4 Moredun Park View, EH17 7NE. We will be reading St. Matthew's Gospel out loud—why not join us?

NEW SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL BISHOP INSTALLED



The picture shows the Rt. Rev. Dr. Dagmar Winter after her installation as Bishop of Edinburgh at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral on 30th May. Bishop Dagmar has been Bishop of Huntingdon since 2019, a Suffragan Bishop within the Diocese of Ely. We wish her every joy in her new post and offer our prayers for a fruitful ministry.

You are invited to a CEILIDH

Friday 4th September, 7-9.30pm at Liberton Kirk Centre

Organised by Liberton Kirk Guild IN AID OF MARY'S MEALS

Tickets from the Kirkgate Café in Liberton Kirk Centre (open 9-2 Monday to Thursday, 5-8 Tuesdays, 6-8 Wednesdays)

Suggested donation £8, Family £12 including tea/coffee/juice

BYOB and snacks

PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the lovely afternoon Healing Service at the Balmwell in May*
- *of thanksgiving for the sense of unity at our A.G.M. in May and the willingness of people to be involved in our events*
- *for our Day Retreat and the Pilgrimage Walk coming up in September, that all who come may feel a closeness to their maker and a sense of well-being in body, mind and spirit*
- *for peace and justice in our troubled world and for a peace mindset for the leaders of the world*
- *for a concerted effort among the nations to play their part in the battle against climate change*
- *for all those suffering in any way, those affected by wars, by fires and drought, from abuse, poverty, loneliness, illness, that they may know your love for them*

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