CROSSTALK

SEECAT

The Newsletter of
South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together

Issue 48 November 2026

WHAT'S COMING UP IN SEECAT?

ADVENT EVENINGS

An invitation from the RC Cluster—come and join us this Advent! On Mondays from 23rd November to 14th December, 7.30 -8.30pm in St. Gregory's, Walter Scott Avenue EH16 5TD, evenings of music, prayer, art reflection and poetry, all centred on the Gospel readings. There will also be time to discuss and share and to relax and chat over refreshments.



CAROL SINGING AT MORRISONS



Come and sing to the busy and harassed shoppers in Morrisons on Saturday 12th December from 12 noon to 12.30pm. Rather than being strung out in a line (as above) we will be outside this year—so WRAP UP WARM!

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2027



"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." *(Luke 12:32)*

The dates are 18th-25th January and our services are given below—note the new day and time!

Monday 18th at 2pm—Short Service in St. Barnabas' Church,
4 Moredun Park View, EH17 7NE

Saturday 23rd at 2pm—Main Service in St. Gregory's Church,
Walter Scott Avenue EH16 5TD, followed by refreshments

There will be a prayer card for use at home in the 8 days and this will be available in all SEECAT churches early in January.

THE BIG READ
ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

14 of us gathered at St. Barnabas' Church on Saturday 31st October to read through the Gospel of St. Matthew, taking turns to read a chapter each from our own Bibles. Different translations helped our concentration and sometimes shed light on what we were reading. David Lamb once again read from Lorimer's Scots version, which seemed to come naturally to him.

Sadly we learned less than a week later that David had died suddenly. He will be sadly missed at Liberton Kirk, and at SEECAT events, and we send our sympathy to Brenda.

DO YOU ENJOY CAROLS?

There are many opportunities to enjoy carols at this time of year—here are some SEECOS services which will have general appeal—and all are welcome!

Sunday 13th December, 6.30pm at Liberton Northfield—**Carols by Candlelight**

Wednesday 16th December, 7.30pm at Liberton Kirk, **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Sunday 20th December, 7pm in Liberton Kirk Centre, **Big Carol Sing** (this one is very informal, with a bit of drama and a few laughs along the way!)

PILGRIMAGE WALK—Bridgend Farmhouse Peace Garden to St. Triduana's Well, Leith & Restalrig Church, Saturday 12th September. Amaia Carmichael reports:

I joined a small group of people from different local churches and backgrounds to do the 2026 Pilgrimage walk for the Season of Creation. I regularly attend Liberton Kirk's Thought and Trot walks but this was the first time I was joining in this pilgrimage. I didn't know how it was going to be, and although I was quite familiar with many parts of the route, I rediscovered spaces where water was the focus.



This year's theme, "Living Water", became more present and relevant to me as we walked, talked, prayed, meditated and sang along the way. A stream, a pond, a loch and a well, all part of God's creation, are places where nature and humans have interacted and still do, and can connect with each other and the creator of it all. I enjoyed the conversations and the walking in very good company, and was impressed by the thought, the attention to detail and the organisation behind it all.

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


Silwan in occupied East Jerusalem

On 20 September SEECAT committee members wrote to Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, via Ian Murray MP, with two main purposes.

We named and appreciated the significance advances in Government policy and vision in his statement of 8 September. We urged further progress—including recognition that international law seeks to prevent genocides, not merely lament after the event, so stronger action is needed, now.

We also noted our own responsibilities in the churches as follows: 'We sadly see Israeli politicians and settlers and millions of so-called "Christian Zionists" assert the violence and ethnic cleansing is in the name of God "who gave us the land"…. May the God that does exist free them from that idolatry – and may our churches also be more forthright and courageous in this struggle to help that to happen. As you call for an end to trade with, and support for, settlements, we also accept the need to review those investments we have (pensions, personal or church funds) to ensure corresponding due diligence.'

Finally we noted the current "ceasefire" in Gaza was a fiction, and that the violence in the West Bank was intensifying. Our calls for ceasefire, of previous letters in November 2023 and September 2025, remain unfulfilled.

SR ROSEMARY BAYNE, HELPER OF THE HOLY SOULS
22nd March 1942 - 7th August 2026



Rosemary was a long term member of the RC Cluster faith community and served on SEECAT's Committee for many years. Her last two years were spent at Inch view Care Home.

She was dedicated to Ecumenism and to Justice and Peace. She will be fondly remembered by many for opening her home to ecumenical Lent groups and a weekly contemplation group. She was a person who was courageous and showed great love and concern for others. This led her to take an interest in refugees and she often travelled to Glasgow to support her "adopted refugee" family, who had been relocated there.

After 62 years of commitment to God as a religious sister, she will be greatly missed by her Order, as well as by those who knew her through the local faith communities.

A TIME OF WAITING IN TRUST AND WITH HOPE IN ADVENT

In this time of uncertainty and change in our churches (and in the world), the prayer foundation invite you to a time of silent prayer.

St. Catherine's Church
Saturday 5th December
10.30-12.30

The 2 hours will be broken into 20-minute slots, each starting with a spoken prayer. Please come for as long or as short a time as you can manage. **All are welcome!**

DAY RETREAT/RECOLLECTION DAY

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you"

18 people came along to Liberton Northfield on 5th September and were led by Gerry Mulvenna for a very worthwhile, inspiring day. Thanks to all who made this possible



PRAYERS NEEDED . . . .

- *of thanksgiving for the inspirational and thought-provoking Day Retreat and Big Read*
- *of thanksgiving for the Pilgrimage Walk and the way it brought people to a better understanding of their place in God's beautiful creation and their relationship with it*
- *for all our churches through Advent and Christmas, that we reach out to those around us and spread the good news of Jesus' coming*
- *for peace in our families, our churches, our communities and our troubled world—with God all things are possible!*
- *for all those suffering in any way, those caught up in wars, those affected by climate change, the abused, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, the poor, that they may be strengthened, comforted and feel your arms around them*

This newsletter is also on our website. The next issue will be in February 2027—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.