

Augustine United Church: The Church on the Bridge

Timeline

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DATE	AUC	URC AND WIDER CHURCH	EDINBURGH AND WIDER WORLD
1638			National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Kirkyard
1707			Act of Union passed by Parliament in Scotland
1767			Construction of Edinburgh's New Town begins
1795		London Missionary Society formed	
1798		Society for Propagating the Gospel at Home (SPGH) founded by Haldane brothers, John Aikman and others	
1799		First Congregational Church in Scotland meets at the Circus	
1801			Act of Union unites Great Britain and Ireland to form United Kingdom
1802	North College Street Chapel is opened with John Aikman as minister		
1807			Slave Trade abolished by British Government
1812		Congregational Union of Scotland formed	
1832			George IV Bridge opened, offering an avenue to the south
1834	John Aikman dies; succeeded by Lindsay Alexander		'Penny Post' begins
1840	North College Chapel renamed Argyle Square Chapel		
1843		'The Disruption' of the Church of Scotland leads to formation of The Free Church of Scotland	Adam Black becomes Lord Provost of Edinburgh
1845	'Home mission' work begun in Simon Square area of Edinburgh's 'southside'		
1854	Argyle Square Chapel sold to make way for Industrial Museum of Scotland		Crimean War begins

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1859		Revd Robert Lee accused by Church of Scotland General Assembly of unlawful innovation in worship	Darwin's <i>The Origin of Species</i> published
1861	Augustine Church opens on George IV Bridge (known by some as 'Alexander's Church')		American Civil War begins  Collapse of tenements on Royal Mile killing 35 leads to appointment of first medical officer of health for Edinburgh, Henry Littlejohn
1867			Edinburgh City Improvement Act initiates rebuilding of Old Town
1877	Lindsay Alexander resigns as minister of Augustine		
1890			Central Library opens on George IV Bridge
1892	Non-alcoholic wine introduced into some communion services for first time		
1914			First World War begins
1917		Constance Coltman becomes first woman to be ordained into a mainstream British Church – the Congregational Union of England and Wales	
1918			Propertied women over 30 given vote
1928		Vera Kenmure invited to minister to Partick Congregational Church	
1929		Congregational Union of Scotland amends constitution, allowing designation 'minister' to apply equally to women and men	
1939			Second World War begins
1941	Bristo Place Congregational Church unites with Augustine Church to create Augustine-Bristo Church		
1945			United Nations Charter signed
1947			Edinburgh International Festival founded
1956			National Library of Scotland opens on George

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			IV Bridge
1968	Major redevelopment work, including internal staircase to lower halls		
1970	Augustine-Bristo designated Category B listed building		
1972		United Reformed Church (URC) formed in England by union of English Presbyterians and Congregationalists	
1979	Hope Park and Buccleuch Congregational Church joins Augustine-Bristo, now renamed Augustine Congregational Church		Margaret Thatcher (Conservative) elected Britain's first female prime minister
1981		English URC unites with Churches of Christ to form URC in the United Kingdom	
1984		Former London Missionary Society becomes part of Council for World Mission (CWM)	
1992	Dalkeith Road Church of Christ (already a member of the URC) unites with Augustine to form Augustine United Church ('AUC')		
1993-4	Refurbishment includes removal of pews and replacement of 1929 organ		
1994	Edinburgh Community Mental Health Chaplaincy established with office in AUC		
1997	National launch of first Fairtrade Fortnight hosted by AUC		
1998	Paradise Green's first year using AUC as Fringe venue		'Good Friday' agreement reached in Northern Ireland
1999			Scottish Parliament opened in Church of Scotland Assembly Hall
2000		Scottish Congregational Church unites with the URC to form United Reformed Church in Scotland	
2002	Restoration programme with Heritage Lottery funding, including restoration of tower		

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	'The Local Church' ecumenical partnership formed with St Columba's by the Castle (Scottish Episcopal) and Greyfriars (Church of Scotland)		
2005	Members of Dalry URC join AUC		Make Poverty History events coincide with G8 summit at Gleneagles in July
2010	Metropolitan Community Church in Edinburgh (MCC) becomes part of AUC	Ecumenical 'EMU' agreement signed between Scottish Episcopal, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Scotland	