

Augustine  
United Church

# Seeds

encourage | inspire | challenge | No. 61 | REMEMBRANCE 2016

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The Season of Remembrance is a time to look back, to drawn understanding of who we are and wisdom of who we wish to become. Over the last couple of years AUC has been doing a lot of remembering, looking back into our history to better understand ourselves in the present and find wisdom for who we wish to become, or more accurately who God wishes us to become as followers of Jesus in the present and future. Looking back, I found an inspiring quote from our name's sake St Augustine of Hippo, which came from one of his homilies on 1 John: "In as much as love grows in you, in so much beauty grows; for love is itself the beauty of the soul." It made me reflect on how much beauty there is in the long line of people who have been Augustine Church across the years.

## *Beautiful People*

*By Rev Fiona Bennett*

Beauty revealed in:

- The love of the Bible Women starting in 1861 as they supported the people cleared out of the Cowgate tenants,
- The love expressed in the Temperance movement which longed to see a change in people's lives,
- In the years of love in action through the service of the building in Simon Square, The Grassmarket Project, The Verandah Club, Fresh Start and so many other projects in which AUC members volunteer and support,
- In the years of love supporting mission at home and abroad through LMS (London Missionary Society) and EMMS (Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society),
- The love which saw worth in all people and inspired the mental health ministry and Our Tribe
- The love which built friendship across

## Getting involved

Within AUC there are 7 Ministry Teams which are responsible for different areas of Church Life. If you would like to know more or get involved with one of these please e-mail the contact person

### Children & Young People

**Kirsty Murray**

kirsty.murray@ed.ac.uk

### Membership

**Alex Peden**

a.peden@ed.ac.uk

### Our Tribe (LGBTI Ministry)

**Nicola Robinson**

nicola.a.robinson1@gmail.com

### Peace & Justice

**(Commitment for Life)**

**Kathleen Ziffo**

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### Pastoral & Mental Health

**Doris Caldwell**

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### Worship & Christian

### Education

**Rev Fiona Bennett**

minister.auc@gmail.com

### Centre, Property & Finance

**Tom Murray**

murray.tom@blueyonder.co.uk

If you would like to get involved volunteering within AUC or the local community:

### AUC Volunteering

**Anne and Nicola Robinson**

rota.auc@gmail.com

### Local Community

### Volunteering

**Della Morris**

dellagreenlanes@gmail.com

< 1 classes and cliques,

- The love which continually adapted our building to make it a place of welcome to all
- The love which inspired dances and craft sales, Bible studies and prayers, and more hot drinks than could ever be counted...

Our history is not one of perfect people, but is a history full of love: love of God, love of humanity, love of the earth.

If St Augustine was right and "In as much as love grows in you, in so much beauty grows; for love is itself the beauty of the soul" then I believe Augustine throughout the ages has been, and still is, a very beautiful gaggle of imperfect people (speaking mainly for myself here).

Through this season of Remembrance with the launch of our Heritage Project on November 27th, along with Remembrance Sunday and Transgender Remembrance Day, there will be many opportunities for us to look back and see God's love shaping our past. I hope that our remembering will enable us to celebrate the beauty in who we are, and inspire us to continue to follow together Jesus' call into the future, fuelled and transformed by the Spirit of Love.

## Pastoral Care

If you have prayer requests or would like to contact a minister, please contact:

Rev Fiona Bennett (minister.auc@gmail.com)

Rev Maxwell Reay (revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com)

Requests can also be made via the Prayer Requests box in the porch (kept locked, accessed by the ministers) or via the Church Office.

If you would like support due to a mental health issue, you would be welcome at the Mental Health Drop-in, held weekly on Tuesdays 10.30am-Noon in the Sanctuary (followed by a Time for Reflection). This is hosted by AUC and run by the NHS Lothian Spiritual Care team. Further details are available on the 'Tenants and Room Users' noticeboard, or speak to Maxwell.

(Full contact details for Fiona/Maxwell are on the cover of Seeds)



## *C4L (now Peace & Justice) CLMT Update—Trident*



### ***URC General Assembly opposes Trident and supports negotiations for a worldwide ban of nuclear weapons***

*"Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark" – R. Tagore*

Since 1983 the UK URC has spoken out for peace and multilateral nuclear disarmament. At this year's Synod, Resolution 33, which supports continued UN discussions on an International Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, was carried by consensus and dismay was expressed at the UK Government's decision not to attend the UN working group. How did all this come about? How is this emphasis on peace and nuclear disarmament grounded in faith and connected to environmental concerns and human rights approaches? What can we do?

The UN has agreed bans of many types of weapons over the past 40 years: Biological, Chemical, Landmines and Cluster Bombs. In October at the UN General Assembly 123 countries voted for a resolution to negotiate a legal process to prohibit nuclear weapons. The UK Government voted against, along with 37 others. During the Trident debate in the UK Parliament in July, the Prime Minister said she was willing to order a nuclear attack. Russia was named in that debate as a threat to the UK. Why then, as the second biggest 'defence exporter' (or arms dealer) in the world, does the UK Government grant export licenses so UK arms can be sold to Russia? Because profit comes before people?

There are many arguments against nuclear weapons: their use contravenes international law because they are non-discriminatory, killing civilians; they are immoral because of the preciousness of human life and all creation; their threat to the environment; their high costs contribute to economic injustice; uranium mining threatens indigenous people's access to ancestral lands and also mineworkers' lives.

In the past, churches subscribed to just war beliefs, even to crusades, but during the past 30 years theological reflection has drawn our attention to responding differently – towards Jesus' example of non-violent resistance to oppressive religious and imperial authorities (*Walter Wink, The Powers that Be, 1998*).

For example, in July the eight Catholic Bishops in Scotland endorsed the words of Pope Francis: "Spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations". The URC, Baptist Union, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church and Quakers jointly called Trident renewal unethical. Last year, 26 faith leaders asked the Government to work towards 'a world free of nuclear weapons'. There is substantial ecumenical and interfaith consensus for peace making.

What are we being asked to do? Write to your MP at 'House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA' welcoming the negotiations to prohibit nuclear weapons and urging the UK Government to support them. Let the Joint Public Issues Team know if you get a response ([enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk)). You can also get in touch with your MSPs if you're concerned about convoys of warheads being driven from near London to Faslane every few weeks (sometimes along the Edinburgh bypass).

My own personal call is to commit my heart, mind and – remembering the words of Jesus: "this is my body" – body too. With others, I sing, discuss, protest and am involved in non-violent direct action to oppose nuclear weapons. There are costs but it's part of my way of loving and mothering the world and continuing God's creative energy.

**Gillian Lawrence**

**Quiz: which weapons were globally banned when? (answers on back page)**

1972? 1993? 1997? 2008?

Cluster Bombs; Landmines; Biological; Chemical



There were some spooky goings on at Our Tribe in October month...We knew we were in for a frightening time when we got the news that the Sanctuary was double-booked and that we would need to set up in the basement (aka The Studio).



Three teams arrived to do battle under the shadow of the black curtains: Evil Kinevil, The Juvenile Pterodactyls & The Green Scorpions pitted their wits against one another, with Evil Kinevil narrowly edging into 1st place by the end of the night.

"The dook" was the highlight of the evening as The Green Scorpions changed strategy, aimed their fork like a dart and missed out on an apple...and a crucial bonus point!

£32 was raised for Positive Help! Thank you to everyone for your donations and participation.

Christine Rarity-Middleton

## Mental Health Sunday



A few pictures from our service—there was dancing as Maxwell piloted the beautiful marionette. Over our heads the installation worked on throughout the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival showed expressions of what supports our mental wellbeing.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance

In November. Our Tribe marked Transgender Remembrance, joined by the Moderator of the Synod of Scotland, David Pickering (see p.5). Over the course of the evening those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred and prejudice were remembered with a celebration of gender non-conformity through art, poetry and music.

## URC Past Case Review



Along with most churches in the UK, the URC is offering an invitation to address historical experiences of abuse to ensure health and justice for all. Until March 2017, the URC has an open invitation for anyone to raise concerns about the behaviour or conduct of anyone affiliated with the URC since its formation in 1972. After March concerns will of course be addressed but through a different set of processes. If you have any concerns please find out about the process from [www.urchurch.org.uk/past-case-review](http://www.urchurch.org.uk/past-case-review) or phone 020 7916 8682

## Getting To Know You



**M**y name is... David Pickering, and whilst I've been called many things in my life, in first name terms I've always been David and not Dave!

**I spend my time...** In my ministry, the role of moderator is many and varied, but in big picture terms it is to provide spiritual and pastoral oversight, care and leadership across the Synod for our churches and those who serve them, and to provide leadership both within the Synod and out with in our ecumenical and interfaith relationships and to Scottish civil society.

I felt drawn to the role because of the set of aspirations that our Synod adopted which together spoke to me of a desire to live out our Christ-inspired calling as open, welcoming and inclusive Christian communities and being light and salt in the world.

The job is like a ball of string, there is no visible end, you can't do everything with it you would wish, and it needs an eye on the bigger picture in day to day living in order not to get tied up into too many knots! But I hope, like string, the role can help bind us to God's purposes and link us to one another in faith and fellowship. When not working, I enjoy visiting Scottish isles, cycling, dabbling with watercolours and bird-watching (our children think I'm a bit of an anorak).

**My favourite place...** there is a fine view from Torloisk on Mull overlooking the isles of Ulva, Staffa, Gometra, the Treshnish Isles and out to Tiree, which I return to again and again. Then again St Patrick's Temple on Tiree (remains of 12th chapel with earlier 6/7th century carved cross) has a peace that passes my understanding.

**My favourite hymn...** My current No 1 is a hymn that I chose at my induction as Moderator: 'Lord, you have come to the seashore, neither searching for the rich nor the wise, desiring only that I should follow... Lord as I drift on the waters, be the resting-place of my restless heart, my life's companion, my friend and refuge'. It's No 532 in the Church of Scotland Church Hymnary 4. The tune is playing in my head as I type.

**God bless, David**

## John Robertson Remembered

It was with great sadness that we said good bye to John Robertson at Warriston Crematorium on 15th Sep.

John came to Edinburgh with his wife Sheila in the early 1970s. They had both been very active members of the Churches of Christ in Nottingham and we were delighted to welcome them into the Churches of Christ at Dalkeith Rd, where they soon became involved in leading services, preaching, celebrating communion and—as thought that wasn't enough—John became a Scout leader at St Thomas's Church Corstorphine, near where they lived. I remember my two nephews going off to Scout camp with John to the Yetts o' Muckhart, which they thought was a great name and had a great weekend.

John worked at Parsons Peebles in Edinburgh. He was a very skilled designer of electrical machinery which was used on oil rigs, power stations, mines etc. He was highly thought of by his work mates. A neighbour of mine worked with John and when his 14 year old son took seriously ill it was John who gave him the kindness and support he desperately needed.

When we left Dalkeith Rd to unite with Augustine, John still played an active part until his health deteriorated and he had to go into Victoria Park Nursing Home, where he greatly appreciated the visits from the members of Augustine.

On my way home from the funeral I met a friend who had taught at the same school as Sheila and had got to know her and John well. Her remark to me was: "These two are what I call true Christians". John obviously was seen to practise what he preached and reached out to the community. "Well done good and faithful servant" was never more deserved. Our love and sympathy goes out to Sheila, Alistair, Jennifer and their families.

**Molly Glen**

## *Memories of David Wright*

David was born 28th of March 1930 and grew up with his parents and brother in Portobello. In the war David used to remember running out to the Anderson shelter in the garden during air raids. Each time leaving a sceptical auntie hiding under the kitchen table!

When older, David often helped his Dad at work with the water board. David had fond memories of drinking tea brewed on a fire used for melting metal to solder the water pipes.

He did his National Service and was stationed in Tripoli. David was a chef while in the army and used to recount the gruelling days cooking over huge camp stoves in the heat of Tripoli; he remembered the daily burns from carrying trays of food and peeling vast quantities of potatoes – a habit he never got out of!! His soldier's release book commended him for being clean and always cheerful!

At the age of 22, David bought the newsagents business at Spring Gardens that was to be such a huge part of his life for the next 30 years. During this time he made many friends and became a valued member of the community. He always had time for everybody, always ready to go to the homes of the elderly to change a lightbulb or read a meter.

It was to the shop, from just a street away, came an attractive young lady who caught David's eye. It took two or three attempts but finally she agreed to a date. Margaret was to become his beloved wife of 26 years, marrying in Abbey Church on 1st June 1955.

David and Margaret had 3 children: Margaret, Graham and Sheila – who, despite their Mum's long illness, remember so many happy times growing up in Royal Park Terrace and later Spring Gardens. The family have fond memories of helping their Mum take a trolley case of newspapers and supplies from the shop around the wards at Elsie Ingles Hospital. They also remember being roped in to helping with paper rounds!

There are happy memories of stocktaking when all the family gathered to count everything down to the last pencil; sustenance was provided in the form of vast quantities of Gran and Granny's filled rolls.

David's daughter Margaret was the first to marry, bringing Andrew into the family. Margaret and Andrew made David a proud grandfather for the first time on his 57th birthday with the birth of David. His first granddaughter, Alison, was born almost 2 years later.

Graham married Sheila, another welcome addition to the family, and they further blessed David with 2 more beautiful granddaughters Meghan and Erin.

For the last 10 years David, with daughter Sheila, shared a home in Haddington with Lyn & Yvette and their 3 children. David was very much adopted Grandfather to all 3. He was known in the house as Wise One. No one can really remember why but he always knew exactly who was doing what when, he was an expert with an iron, a ready tea maker, shoulder to lean on and always full of fun and nonsense.

How can we talk about David's life without mentioning the faith that ran through it and sustained him? He grew up in Augustine Bristo Church, where his mother worshipped and where he made lifelong friendships.

Once David retired he took on an extremely active role. As the caretaker/hall manager, through his constant hard work and cheeriness, it was David who started and built up the room rental business at AUC. David had a secure and joy-filled faith, a warmth and interest which he took in everyone. We are so grateful to have had him as part of the AUC story.

Brother, husband, Dad, Grandad, church member, friend, host, Wise One – David was much loved by so many people. We will miss him a lot but are deeply grateful for his life amongst us.

**Fiona Bennett**

## May Macnamara:

24.5.1929 – 9.11.2016

May was born in Edinburgh in 1929. She had a stepsister Nancy & brother Jack, from her mum's first marriage, and grew up with her sister Joey who had Down's Syndrome.

May went to Craiglockart Primary, during the war was evacuated to Saline in Fife, and then attended Tynecastle High where her subject was Commercial; she studied bookkeeping, shorthand and typing. At Tynecastle they had great drama classes, which followed on in May's life through her friend Molly (Glen).

Through Molly, May became a member of Dalkeith Road Churches of Christ Fellowship of Youth. As May wrote herself in her Seeds 'Getting to know you' (November 2014):

"The Fellowship of Youth was absolutely fantastic: There was a drama group where we booked the Little Theatre in the Pleasance and put on three-act plays; we went camping one year and I still have photos to prove it! These years were wonderful and I look back happily at those times. There are still a few of the youth club members around, but as one previous minister said of the club... he had the best youth club in Edinburgh - but they were all over 70!"

Using her Commercial education from Tynecastle High School, May worked in several offices in Edinburgh and Toronto and finally ended up in the Secretary to the University's Office which she enjoyed for 30 years. As she wrote in Seeds: "Way back in the fifties I emigrated to Canada on what would be called a 'gap year' now but was a working holiday then. I came home for a couple of years but Canada called me back. The next time I went to Canada (I had made quite a few friends there the first time) I got married, and my son (*Craig*) was born there. It happened that it was a marriage not made in heaven. Briefly I was down to my last \$10, so I wrapped the baby in his buggy and walked to downtown Toronto where I put the money on a sewing machine. I

put notices round the doors and shops advertising for work doing alterations, making curtains etc., and surprisingly got a lot of orders. When I had enough money saved for our fares, I simply ran away to New York and then had to find a travel agent to book berths on a ship home."



Craig married Christine, giving May two granddaughters Leanne & Allana, of whom May was very fond and proud. They had some wonderful family holidays together. One in particular was to Florida where in Disneyworld May went down the Tower of Terror six times with various members of the family. May had a lot of fun in her.

May was a voracious reader, with an open and enquiring mind. She was generous with her help, friendship and support, but was no walkover. May had a strength, a steeliness in her character which kept her going when life was not easy for her. When you met May you always smiled, always laughed and her company was a really blessing to have known. She made and kept good friends throughout her life, and will be deeply missed.

Fiona Bennett



### Helplines:

Trauma Counselling Line Scotland: 08088 02 04 06 (M-W 5-8pm; Th-F 9am-2pm; 24/7 answer-phone; [www.survivorscotland.org.uk](http://www.survivorscotland.org.uk))

LGBT Support: 0300 123 2523

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

Silver Line: 0800 4 70 80 90

Rape Crisis: 8088 010 302

Breathing Space: 0800 838587

Edinburgh Crisis Centre: 0808 8010414

## November—Remembrance

This month Junior Church:

Explored the 'Season of Remembrance'. We finished thinking about Deborah with some art activities and continued some secret gift making for Christmas!

Mid November brought a new character – Jeremiah. There was a Godly Play story about Jeremiah's life, sharing a Feast together afterwards. The week after was a Pic n' Mix activity.

After that began a whole new season – that of Advent. Junior Church began preparing for a Christmas celebration. Be warned – it just might be a bit noisier than expected!

The end of the month was a time of celebration for our newly completed roof repairs and the improved communication of our history and heritage to lots of new people. We did something crafty involving our dandelion logo – bright and cheerful in the darkening days.

"Jeremiah lived in the great city of Jerusalem after the Assyrian army had come and gone. God said 'I will make you a prophet to the nations.'" Jeremiah was worried, because he was still so young..."

Words from The Complete Guide to Godly Play by Jerome Berryman Volume 6.

*Junior Church welcomes families in all their wonderful diversity. We do our best to offer a safe and nurturing space for families and their friends. We have varied activities each week, from storytelling, to crafts, games and video making. We have a crèche for little ones and baby changing facilities are available. We use materials to appeal to children's different learning styles using the PowerXpress curriculum, and also use Godly Play ([www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk)).*

*Children at Augustine are welcome to receive communion and to fully participate in the life of the church. Children regularly help during services, and sometimes serve communion to the wider church community.*

*Please feel free to contact us using the details on p.2 of Seeds if you have any questions.*

Happy Birthday to...

Elin who was 11 on  
10th November!



**Please note that the deadline for material for the next issue is Friday 27th January (!)**

You can send your material to [newsletter.auc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.auc@gmail.com) or via the church office.

*DISCLAIMER: Although we check all information in the newsletter, as ever with these things we can give no warranties as to accuracy or relevance and encourage active checking before you make any decisions. The views expressed in our newsletter are those of the individual contributor, they are not necessarily those of AUC or the editor.*

**QUIZ ANSWERS: 1972 (Biological); 1993 (Chemical); 1997 (Landmines); 2008 (Cluster Bombs)**