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Scottish Charity no. SC000385

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## *Light in Darkness*

*By Rev Fiona Bennett*

Seven hours of daylight is just not enough! This is always a strange time of year – when the children both leave the house for school and come home after school, in the gloom of darkness. We have had the Christmas lights and festivities to keep us going through the year's turn, but quite frankly I am now just craving longer days of light and fantasising about sun!

The physical darkness however seems short lived compared to the darkness of the news; where we hear of the far reaching war in Syria and the lengthy wars in Yemen and elsewhere, which are starving bodies, breaking souls and destroying lands.

Healing and true peace in our world feels just as unlikely as ten hours of sunlight in Scotland in January; but that is where the season of Epiphany offers us hope.

The Season of Epiphany which follows Christmas is a season of using Jesus' light to reveal truth in the midst of overwhelming darkness. Around Jesus' time in Palestine with the Roman Empire ruling and the Hebrew authorities living in their own land but still exiled from power or full control of their own society, it must have felt like the possibility of healing and true peace was very far out of people's grasp. However, into the midst of occupation, fear and prejudice, Jesus came and revealed the transforming message of love.

The message that each and every person, each and every life and part of this earth is beloved, belongs and is intentional. At times I may feel small, old, broken, useless, a failure...but looked at in Christ's light there is so much more to my being & life. This

## 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 (LGBT Ministry)

**Nicola Robinson**

nicola.a.robinson1@gmail.com

### Commitment For Life

(Social Justice Ministry)

**Kathleen Ziffo**

secretary@augustine.org.uk

### Pastoral & Mental Health

**Doris Caldwell**

hhfcaldwell@gmail.com

### 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 is what the light of Jesus revealed. It is true of every person and each part of creation; we are all Beloved, Belong, & Intentional.

The other truth/wisdom which Jesus' light revealed is that the healing and peace we seek is truly possible, but only through the power of love and, more often than not, only through death and resurrection - in the many different forms that takes in our lives and world.

The darkness of winter in Scotland will pass. The light of Jesus reveals how overwhelming darkness in our lives and world can be overcome. To quote a famous John: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it".

May Jesus' light shine out for us during Epiphany to reveal God's truth and hope for us all.

Event in support of  
Court Chaplaincy Project

# The Show Must Go On

**Saturday 6 February 2016**  
7.00pm-9.00pm



singing • dancing • poetry  
**Multi-cultural Cabaret**

**Tickets:** £10/£5 conc. Available via [multiculturalcabaret.eventbrite.co.uk](http://multiculturalcabaret.eventbrite.co.uk)

Alternatively via City of Edinburgh Methodist Church Office: 0131 662 8635



**City of Edinburgh Methodist Church**  
25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX



CITY OF EDINBURGH  
METHODIST CHURCH





## ABC Update



### Thanks All Round



**F**undraising for the Augustine Building Challenge (ABC) last year again surpassed expectations. All the ABC Committee members, the

Development Steering Group and indeed all of our church members have reason to be grateful for the efforts of so many people in achieving a total which, for the third year running exceeded our target of £15,000. Last year the total amount raised for the ABC was the magnificent total of £18,216. We cannot individually thank everyone who contributed – the list would run on and on. The year started with the Trio Écossaise concert, and a very successful Gift Day which gave us a solid start. The end of the campaign was marked by two great efforts – both enjoyed by many people. The craft stall raised £469 and the Christmas Concert received donations of £436. The Junior Church 'Pots' brought in £456, bringing the running total to over £1,500 since they were introduced. If you do not have a pot at home, please take one from the table in the foyer, and what about another mug or two?



### The Year Ahead

**O**ur Treasurer has already reminded us that we cannot rest on our achievements. We must push on in 2016 to make it a bumper year for fundraising. Tenders for the roof work are already with the architect, and before long we should see the commencement of the slating work. That is when the money raised will be matched by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland, to make our building safe and watertight for the foreseeable future. The audio-visual project, which we recently heard

about at church from Laurence Wareing and Nicola Robinson, will be put together at the same time. So, by the end of this year we will be ready to welcome more visitors into our building, to learn more about our heritage, our origins and what we stand for in Edinburgh today.

Highlights of the year, as in the past, will be the following major opportunities to raise an even bigger amount for the Building Challenge:

**GIFT DAY** – Sunday 6th March from 9.30 am. The Minister and the Treasurer will be at AUC to receive your gifts.

The ever popular bacon and egg rolls will be available, so have breakfast with us on that day!

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2016** – Sunday 27th November at 3pm.

Another star-studded line-up is promised and after the success of this year's show, we expect a bumper audience for this extravaganza!

Please put these dates in your diary now, and resolve to come along to both events to play your part as the new roof takes shape over our heads and the new audio-visual displays appear before us.

Ian Rathjen





## C4L CLMT Update—Homelessness

### Scottish Churches Housing Action



no room for homelessness!

2015 marked the 20th anniversary of Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA), and indeed I am surprised to realise that it is 20 years since I was the URC representative on the committee and first became aware of SCHA's existence.

Its main object then was to build affordable houses using land available through churches, for example, glebe land, closed churches etc.; and to work with local groups and authorities. The URC church at Duke Street (Leith) is an excellent example of what could be done – a smaller modernised church and a number of small houses built on the freed-up attached land.

In going on to develop in other areas it was soon realised, as had already been found in Edinburgh, that homeless people seldom had the resources to set up a new home, and often abandoned the tenancy after a year or so – and thus developed starter packs schemes, such as that by Fresh Start which Augustine still supports.

SCHA's work has gradually expanded its work, setting up voluntary groups all over Scotland, now covering right up to the Highlands and Western Isles. A new project in Edinburgh and the Lothians is 'Aid and Abet' – a peer mentoring project for people coming out of prison and in recovery from drug/alcohol addiction to support their recovery, and so reduce risk of reoffending. This project is now working in partnership with Police Scotland.

Another new initiative in development, in Pollokshields, Glasgow, is 'Elder Cohousing'.

Cohousing is "a way of living both 'apart and together' with a collaborative group of neighbours who know each other and sign up to certain values" (SCHA Newsletter, December 2015). Members have their own self-contained accommodation around a common space. Already popular in America, elder cohousing is described as "retirement housing for those who do not want to retire from living a proactive meaningful life"!

On 31st January, we will be recognising Homeless Sunday at AUC. During the service, Brian Graham (of Duke St URC, and SCHA Board Member) will be interviewed, and after the service we will be holding our annual cake stall.

Please support our annual appeal, often called 'Cup of Tea' Sunday, when everyone is asked to give at least £1 (if able) for tea and coffee after the service, and do visit the cake stall.

Calling on all our 'usual suspects' to assist on the stall and with donations. ('Unusual suspects' will be equally welcome!)

**Nancy Dyer**

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your Church gathered today.*

Bernadette Farrell, CH4 543 v.4  
(CCLI 1133487)

## *Fresh Start Cooking Classes*

I am glad to have been offered the opportunity by Tamsin to write a few words about Fresh Start's cooking classes. These are a lesser known part of the services that Fresh Start offer to people who have been homeless and who are looking to make a home for themselves.

Fresh Start has been running cooking classes for just over two years at its Food Station on Harrison Place. Establishing a healthy diet can be a real challenge if you have very little money, and have never been taught how to cook let alone the basics of healthy eating. Trained volunteers work with clients to teach them cooking skills to enable them to cook simple but nutritious recipes on a tight budget. An important part of the philosophy is to cook together and eat together and so each class ends with the sharing of some of the food that has been made. This can lead to lively discussions on all manner of topics. One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering is to see clients gain in confidence over the course of a series of cooking classes. At the end of each week, they choose themselves which recipes they will cook the following week and they also get a 'doggy bag' so they can take their cooking home to eat or share.

Fresh Start now also runs cookery classes at their Helping Hands Project in Craigmillar. On both sites there is a 'Growing Space'; this allows people who do not have access to a garden an opportunity to get out into the fresh air, learn gardening skills and grow fruit and vegetables. This helps clients to gain confidence, as well as gardening and life skills and is an opportunity to engage in physical activity. The produce grown is used in the cooking classes and has also been donated to local food banks. A virtuous circle!

**Fiona Somerville**  
(Fresh Start volunteer)

# FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

## *A Time to Connect, Challenge and Commit*

### *Thursday 21st January*

### *7pm at*

### *Augustine United Church\**

Fresh Start are holding events across Edinburgh in support of Homeless Sunday, whose theme this year is 'Connect, Challenge and Commit', and would love to see you there.

This is an opportunity—

- To raise awareness of homelessness;
- To ask questions and engage in conversation;
- To find out how you can support people in your community.

Donations of starter pack goods will be accepted during these events.

(\* Concurrent events are being held at Davidson's Mains Parish Church, Murrayfield Parish Church and Portobello Old Parish Church)



## *Helplines:*

LGBT Support: 0300 123 2523

Samaritans: 08457 909090

Childline: 0800 1111

Silver Line: 0800 4 70 80 90

Rape Crisis: 8088 010 302

Breathing Space: 0800 838587

Edinburgh Crisis Centre: 0808 8010414

## December Climate Change Summit, Paris

**Let's keep them to their Word – keep up the pressure and ensure adequate action!**

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world came together before the Paris talks to demand urgent climate action, and governments and politicians have responded to their pressure. Several of us from AUC joined the 4000-5000 people who marched in Edinburgh at the end of November. Thanks come from 'Stop Climate Chaos' for playing your part if you attended. You made a difference.

The Paris Agreement commits the nations of the world to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2° C above pre industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5° C".

The fact that the world community has come together and, by consensus, agreed to action is a considerable achievement and a source of hope. However we know the agreement does not go far enough to give us climate security. Above all, the challenge remains for nations not just to *say* good things but to *do* good things – and quickly.

The fight for climate justice continues and we naturally begin to look ahead to 2016. In May, the Scottish elections present a great opportunity to campaign for action on the climate.

(More from Stop Climate Chaos Scotland in future SEEDS)

**Kathleen Ziffo**

*(I have bought Environment Agenda cards supplied by the 'Earth be Glad' group at St John's Episcopal Church. These cards can be sent to candidates in the May Scottish Elections asking that Parliament really does take action on these climate change matters. Please talk to me if you would like to send a card to candidates in the spring – KAZ)*

## 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)



The Sunday before the march the Eco-Congregation Scotland baton relay came to Augustine.



## Shaking Hands

People may be interested to hear, particularly those who went on the AUC trip to Corrymeela a couple of years ago, the following news from the community:

"Corrymeela is honoured that Martin McGuinness chose to give outgoing First Minister Peter Robinson a gift of a framed handwritten poem by Corrymeela's Pádraig Ó Tuama on the First Minister's last day in office."

The poem, 'Shaking Hands' was written after witnessing the handshake between the Queen and Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Féin in 2012.

*"Because shared space without human touching doesn't amount to much..."*

*Because shaking a hand is only a part of the start...*

*Because this just might be good.*

*Because who said that this would be easy?*

*Because some people love what you stand for, and for some, if you can, they can.*

*Because solidarity means a common hand.*

*Because a hand is only a hand; so hang onto it"*

**Kathleen Ziffo**

## Stamps/Glasses for Charity

You may have noticed the grey collection boxes on the tables in the Sanctuary on a Sunday and wondered what they were for.

We collect used stamps which are sent on to Amnesty International. They sell them to dealers, and the money raised helps their work. They do not have to be exotic stamps, common or garden Second Class stamps are fine. When removing them from the envelope, leave about ¼" around the stamp; alternatively hand in the whole envelope – I am happy to trim them.

The church collects old spectacles. These are taken to Specsavers (one of the collection partners for Vision Aid Overseas). The spectacles are recycled, and the income generated used to support Vision Aid Overseas' work in the developing world. They train eye care professionals and volunteers, and set up 'vision centres' to provide eye care, spectacles and lenses to local people. The improvement in their sight can help people to gain work and education, and thus addresses poverty too.

**Della Morris**

## Elders Elections

At our Church Meeting on November 29th, Nicola Robinson, Alex Peden and Della Morris were elected to serve as Elders.

At our service on January 17th, Nicola was ordained as an Elder in the URC, and all three were inducted to serve as Elders here at Augustine.

They join Lorna Bowry, Doris Caldwell, Ben Forsyth, Stephen Hoare and Robert Somerville as currently serving Elders.





# Growing, Making and Building

During the autumn, Junior Church had studied several Old Testament stories about people all on the same family tree (see Seeds, November 2015). In Advent we heard stories from the rest of that tree, all the way from Abraham to Jesus.

Blessed once again with an Advent/Christmas tree from Carcant, we decorated it with pictures representing the stories in the 'Tree of Jesse'.



The stars are collected prayers from our intercessions; prayers linked to the 4 advent candles—Hope, Peace, Love and Joy.



Our Advent carol followed this 'Tree of Jesse' pattern. With music written especially for us by Karl Macrae, it came with the instructions "gradually increasing the number of singers until all join in verse 5." Augustine folk rose to the challenge, and we grew from a select few on Advent Sunday to a positive crowd the Sunday before Christmas.



Our AUC family also grew during Advent. On 20th December, Roger Nascimento and Karl Macrae took up full membership, and Gill Lawrence became an associate member of AUC.

Another growing family, on 27th December Kei Stephen Ziffo was blessed at AUC. He'd travelled all the way from Japan with his parents Chris and Momoko to spend his 1st Christmas with grandparents Kathleen and Stephen.



In the New Year we were welcomed to Anne MacKenzie's home for a lovely afternoon of carol-singing and music making. Piano, fiddle and...did anyone warn the neighbours some pipes were coming ☺?!



# through Advent/Christmas @ AUC



So what about the building and making?  
 Junior Church spent a busy November making and decorating cakes/boxes as gifts for our housebound members and others.



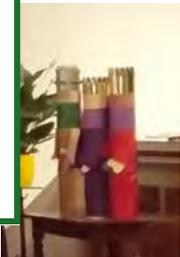
They also created puppets using the words of the Calypso Carol as their guide.  
 At our all-age worship service on 13th December the 'Bethlehem Builders' put all the parts together to create our nativity scene.



Building work in full flow

Building work complete...but climbing ladders is just *such* fun!

*(Biblically correct, the wise men aren't in the carol, so couldn't come on the building site. However they travelled all the way from the organ and joined in at Epiphany)*





## Dandelion Greens

*(Things to chew on from the Membership Ministry Team)*



Happy New Year from the Membership Ministry Team!

On Sunday November 15th I led our second AUC communication meeting. It was a great learning experience for me, and I hope the people who came along appreciated the opportunity. Do ask them what they thought. I have been working on AUC communication because it is one of the 2014-2016 priorities we have chosen as a church:

*"[create] a communication strategy of who we are and what we offer...the wider world."*

The priorities aim to help us meet our mission statement:

*"The people of Augustine United Church seek to live out God's unconditional inclusive love in our worship, our care for each other in our communities and the world."*

I personally feel drawn to that priority as I know a good communication infrastructure gives us opportunities for greater inclusion and community building.

So I'm going to let you know about what we did and how it went. Prior to the meeting each of the Church Life Ministry Teams (CLMTs) had answered some questions about:

- How they were communicating
- What was working well
- What they'd like to communicate more effectively
- What communications options they were aware of.

They did a great job of feeding back that information to me so that I could prep for the workshop. Many groups do awesome things such as share in Seeds, or distribute postcards in key places like the LGBT centre, or have the monumental tasks of considering our communication to the Edinburgh community at

large, and in every interaction people have with our church as a building/corporate body. Our church does so much already it is great.

At the meeting we had some time to talk about goal setting and planning. Individual reflection was either on the communication of a ministry team that the person was a part of or their personal communication experiences within church. Small groups formed to discuss a particular ministry team, and think out a plan for communication. Somehow planning and effective communication go hand in hand. Then we talked about some of these reflections as a large group all together.

We closed with this prayer:

*May we be connected to each other between our gatherings.*

*May our sharings reach all those we care about, including those new or housebound or unknown to us yet.*

*May we find the tasks of community, the opportunity to use or develop our skills, the challenge of sharing beyond ourselves, to be a blessing in our lives; God's love renewing.*

*Amen.*

I am going to follow up with each CLMT leader the plans/ideas that came out of the meeting, and taking them forward before next year's meeting. But I felt this was a rather successful meeting, and we have a lot of strength from which we can grow. I hope you will consider coming to the next meeting, probably in November 2016.

As always feel free to find me on Sunday and tell me about church memories and AUC opportunities close to your heart.

**Elizabeth Bay**



## *November—'Jesus Queen of Heaven'*

**A**t Our Tribe in November we met together to watch a screening of Jo Clifford's 'Jesus Queen of Heaven'. In all there were around twenty folks who braved the wind and rain, on what was a cold evening, to come and share in the film and following discussion. Jo was able to be there and was more than happy to take part in the discussion and take questions from the audience. The majority of the discussion focussed on themes from the film such as the use of parables to tell the story; however, some other questions about the writing of the play also featured. Jo explained that 'Jesus Queen of Heaven' changes based on things that she sees/hears, experiences from audiences, and feedback that she receives on her performances.

The feedback from the evening was overwhelmingly positive and there were a number of people visiting Our Tribe for the first time.

**Simon Peterson**

## *Our Tribe in January/ February*

**O**n Saturday 30th January we are hosting a Worship and Praise Sing-a-Long with musician Karl Macrae.

**O**n Saturday 27th February, we will be celebrating LGBTI History Month with Rev Elder Ines-Paul, who is from MCC Cologne. We will be exploring the topic of 'People who Inspire'.

We hope to be joined by friends from MCC Newcastle for our February meeting.

As at every Our Tribe gathering, there will be an opportunity to share communion at both these events.

***All Welcome!***



## **Welcome One Another in Love**

**S**arah Agnew is presenting a storytelling performance of the Letter to the Romans entitled 'Welcome One Another in Love' at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** on **Wednesday 9th March at 7pm**.

A result of her PhD research, this performance discerns the meaning in these ancient writings for a 21st century audience—a hope for faith and love no less urgent for us today.

Tickets (£5) are available from the Storytelling Centre on 0131 556 9579 or their website [www.tracscotland.org](http://www.tracscotland.org).

## News from Dalkeith Road

Members of Dalkeith Road before its union with Augustine will be sad to hear of the deaths of two members there.

**A**nn *Murie* has died, and her funeral took place at Liberton Kirkyard on Tuesday 29th December. Ann will be fondly remembered as a very pleasant friend at the time of the Fellowship of Youth, in the Church of Christ at Dalkeith Road. She enjoyed holidays on the continent when we were all young and able to hostel; but her health wasn't so great in middle age and she somehow became a bit of a recluse, and didn't want to meet any of her old friends. She will be remembered fondly.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of yet another of our friends. **Dave Ross**, who was May Ross' husband, died on Boxing Day, and his funeral took place on 8th January 2016. Fiona conducted the service at Warriston Crematorium. Since May died, we have not had too much news of Dave, but he was afflicted with Parkinson's disease and obviously his life was far from easy. He had children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. He was a quiet, and helpful man who helped many people in his lifetime as he had many talents. We will remember Dave with gladness.

May Macnamara

## New Caretaker

Are you one of the many folk who visit Augustine during the week?

It's a busy place, with a variety of regular & one-off events going on, and people dropping by to visit or spend some quiet time. All this alongside our congregational life.

The friendly face that greets you may now be Jonathan Bay. Jonathan (one of our congregation) joined Ian, Graham and Rachel on the staff team at the end of 2015.



St Columba's by the Castle, one of our local ecumenical partners, are excited to announce that **Rev Canon David Paton-Williams** has accepted their invitation to be their next Rector. His institution service will take place on **Monday 25th April at 7.30pm**.

David is joining them from St Edmund's, Roundhay in Leeds. Does Roundhay sound familiar? St Edmund's shares in an ecumenical partnership with the local Methodist church, and St Andrew's URC. Our next moderator here in URC National Synod of Scotland, Rev Dr David Pickering, is currently the minister at St Andrew's URC!

## Back in touch...

I was recently in touch with an old acquaintance (after 50 odd years). She asked for my e-mail address which I promptly could not remember! She told me not to worry, that she would find it. Shortly afterwards I received an e-mail: She had remembered that John's (my husband's) memorial service had been held at Augustine Church which she Googled; and from there she went to Seeds where she found my e-mail. Thanks to Seeds/Tamsin.

Della Morris

## Getting To Know You



**M**y name is...  
Laurence Wareing.

**I spend my time...** Mainly I work from our home in Penicuik as a freelance writer and editor.

Currently, I'm also thinking about how AUC can tell its

story to as wide an audience as possible. I grew up in a Methodist home and my membership is still with the Methodist Church, for whom I'm a lay preacher. Music is a great love, but to get me out of the house I've also returned to amateur theatre – fun and challenging by turns.

**My favourite place...** The Isle of Tiree is surely one of those "thin places" that George McLeod used to speak about: a connecting place between our everyday experience and

something altogether beyond that. The Tiree horizon is wonderfully expansive, and the long, empty beaches offer up space to really breathe. But nor would I want to be without the view from the top of Liberton Brae. Every time I see it, I smile at the extinct volcano smack in the middle of a city. Whose idea was that?

**My favourite hymn...** For a great tune ('Woodlands'), it would be hard to beat 'Tell out my soul!', a justice hymn that we sang as Helen came down the aisle at our wedding. I also return again and again to the searching, honest words of Brian Wren. But for a hymn that speaks to me of grace, possibility, and boundless inclusivity, I need 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' which includes the words "For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind."

### Happy Birthday...

**T**o *Jill Walker* and *John Robertson* who celebrated their 80th birthdays on 29th November and 18th December respectively.



**Congratulations!**

### Farewell...

**D**uring December we said goodbye (or hopefully au revoir) to *Jad Baaklini* and *Becca Crate*.

Jad has returned home to Beirut, after several months researching public transport here in Edinburgh.

Becca has moved back to USA to pursue a call to ministry with Presbyterian Church (USA).

It's been a joy to have both of them as part of our community here at Augustine, and we look forward to hearing how things develop for them.

# Spring at Junior Church

*Welcome back to Junior Church where we are deepening our exploration of our annual theme—'Quest for Identity'*

Thank you for all your hard work making Christmas gifts for members of the church – Did you get a chance to read the cards on our noticeboard? People really liked the cakes/boxes and appreciated all the work you'd put in.

- ◆ In January we will be exploring the story of the '**Samaritan Woman at the Well**' by thinking about exclusion, inclusion and God's love through games, craft...and by creating a little edible something!
- ◆ As a linked theme, we will explore a Godly Play story from the Jewish tradition – a tale used by Rabbis in their teaching called 'The Parable of the Deep Well', and we will share a Feast together afterwards.
- ◆ In February, the Season of Lent begins, and we move on to the **story of Zacchaeus**. Zacchaeus needed to climb a tree to be able to see Jesus – we'll make a mobile of things in a tree, and play active games to help us understand the story.
- ◆ On 21st February we will be joined by our The Local Church partners (Greyfriars Kirk and St Columba's by the Castle) here at Augustine. We will make some food to share with everyone, just as Jesus offered hospitality to Zacchaeus.
- ◆ **A**t the end of February we begin the '**Journey to Jerusalem**'...starting with a map to show us the way.



"One day a person crossed the desert. When the person came to the well, the person took time. There was no hurry..."

*(Text from The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 3; Image from [www.godlyplayresources.com](http://www.godlyplayresources.com))*

The older children will soon be starting their own monthly meetings on a Saturday afternoon, as an addition to the Junior Church programme. If you'd like to find out more (or your parents would) do speak to Kirsty (see p.2) or Elizabeth Bay.

*Junior Church welcomes families in all their diversity, specifically inclusive of members of LGBT families. 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 following the Cornerstones curriculum and also use Godly Play ([www.godlyplay.org.uk](http://www.godlyplay.org.uk)).*



# Calendar (cont'd)

Tuesday 16th	7.30pm	Spirituality Book Group: Inclusive Church – Mental Health (2)
Sunday 21st	11am	Joint TLC Morning Worship with Communion at AUC
	12.30pm	Refreshments
	7-8pm	Refugio at Greyfriars Kirk
Monday 22nd	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Bring and Buy Sale
Tuesday 23rd	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Wednesday 24th	7.30pm	TLC Lent Course: "The Church and Secular Society" (1/4) led by Liam Fraser (Probationer Minister at Greyfriars Kirk). In the Junior Room
Thursday 25th	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Saturday 27th	6.45 for 7pm	Our Tribe – "People who Inspire" with Rev Elder Ines-Paul (MCC Cologne). Celebrating LGBT History Month
Sunday 28th	11am	Morning Worship celebrating LGBT History Month. Preacher – Rev Elder Ines-Paul.
	12.30pm	Church Lunch
	6pm	St C's @ SIX – Agapé service and meal at St Columba's by the Castle
Monday 29th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Germany – Hannah Craig
<b>March 2016</b>		
Tuesday 1st	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday 2nd	7.30pm	TLC Lent Course: "The Church and Secular Society" (2/4) in the Library
Sunday 6th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion. AUC Augustine Building Challenge Gift Day
	12.30pm	Church Business Meeting
	5-8pm	Nitekirk at Greyfriars Kirk
Monday 7th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Foot care – Anna Sibbald

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## *Dates for your Diary*

Friday 11th-Sunday 13th March—URC Synod of Scotland meeting at Tulliallan

Wednesday 9th and Thursday 17th March  
7.30pm—TLC Lent Course "The Church and Secular Society" sessions 3 & 4

Please note that the deadline for material for the next issue is Friday 26th February 2016.

You can send your material to Tamsin Kilgour by hand, at [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.*

# Calendar

January 2016		Season of Epiphany
Sunday 17th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion Service. Induction/Ordination of Elders
	7pm	Refugio at Greyfriars Kirk
Monday 18th	10.30am-3pm	Ecumenical Journeying at Oakshaw Trinity Church, Paisley (Scottish College event)
	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: The Currie Singers
Tuesday 19th	7.30pm	Spirituality Book Group: 1st of a series on Inclusive Church – Mental Health (1). See noticeboard for details of books. Some copies available to borrow – speak to the Minister
Wednesday 20th	7.30pm	Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Margaret's Chapel, Gillies Centre, Strathearn Road
Thursday 21st	10-11am	Pastoral Visitors' Meeting
	7pm	Fresh Start evening in support of Homeless Sunday (see p.5)
Sunday 24th	11am	Morning Worship marking Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
	12.30pm	Burns Lunch and entertainment. (Tickets £3.50 adults, children free, available from Della Morris or Zandra Russell)
Monday 25th	1.30pm	Christian Aid AGM and Churches Consultation (Lunch 1pm)
	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Burn's Day celebration
Tuesday 26th	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Thursday 28th	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Saturday 30th	10.30am-3pm	Cluster Worship Training Day led by Rev Douglas Galbraith at Morningside United Church. Lunch included. Free, but numbers for lunch needed – contact Kathleen
	6.45 for 7pm	Our Tribe – Praise and Worship Sing-a-Long with Karl Macrae
Sunday 31st	11am	Morning Worship marking Homeless Sunday. Interview with Brian Graham of Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) (see p.4)
	12.30pm	Cake Sale in aid of SCHA
	6pm	St C's @ SIX – Agapé service and meal at St Columba's by the Castle
February 2016		
Monday 1st	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Bring and Buy Sale
	7.30pm	TLC Steering Group Meeting
Tuesday 2nd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting (Training session)
Saturday 6th	7-9pm	Multi-cultural Cabaret Evening (in aid of Court Chaplaincy Project) at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square (see p.3)
Sunday 7th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion
	12.30-3pm	Church Discussion Meeting – "Active Listening" led by Revs Fiona Bennett and Maxwell Reay
	5-8pm	Nifekirk: "Love" at Greyfriars Kirk. (If interested in attending for first time/as part of a small group, contact the Minister)
Monday 8th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Vintage Dresses – Brenda Walker
Tuesday 9th	5.30pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party at St Columba's by the Castle
	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 13 "Love"
		Season of Lent
Wednesday 10th	7.30pm	Service of Imposition of Ashes at St Columba's by the Castle
Sunday 14th	11am	Morning Worship marking the start of Lent
Monday 15th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Springwell Choir