



Augustine United Church,  
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh  
EH1 1EL 0131 220 1677  
www.augustine.org.uk  
Scottish Charity no. SC000385

**Church Secretary:** Kathleen Ziffo  
secretary@augustine.org.uk  
or via the church office

**Minister:** Rev Fiona Bennett  
(Sabbatical April-July 2016.  
Contact a minister via secretary)

**Assoc. Minister:** Rev Maxwell Reay  
revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com  
07957 543 359

**Church Administrator:**  
Rachel Fitzgerald  
administrator@augustine.org.uk  
0131 220 1677

**Seeds Editor:** Tamsin Kilgour  
newsletter.auc@gmail.com

**Website Editor:** Lorna Bowry  
lorna.bowry@yahoo.co.uk



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## *Time for a St Paul Comeback?*

*By Rev Trevor Jamison*

Is it time for Saint Paul to make a comeback? You might think that he had never really gone away. On the other hand, when preachers preach in church today most do so from the Gospel passage. Failing that, they will preach from the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures, only as a "last resort" turning to the New Testament letters, most of which have Saint Paul's name attached to them.

Maybe you are not too worried about that. Given some of things we understand Paul to have said on some matters, the role of women in the life of the church for example, you might happily sideline the Apostle. I'm not so sure that that's a good idea, however, and here's why.

Would you like to be judged solely on the basis of something you wrote, an opinion you expressed, in a letter, email or text? I

would not like to think that the opinion I once held or my off the cuff response to a particular situation would be examined minutely, years afterwards, as the basis for a church's belief and doctrines.

It doesn't do Paul any favours just to take what he wrote, then simply proclaim, "It was good enough for Saint Paul so it is good enough for us". Wouldn't it better to look at what he said, the circumstances in which he said it, and ask "what might that suggest about what we should do in our different circumstances today?"

And actually, things are not as different as they once were. An era, where being Christian meant being a good, respectable person is ending. Today, church is no longer automatically regarded as a good or a given. This throws up new challenges about

## 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

### 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 what it means to be a church today and how we speak and work well with those who have a different perspective. We need all the wisdom and wit, ideas and inspiration that we can get.

So, might it be worth re-reading those New Testament letters? They were written when churches were small, making their way as minority group, with views most found puzzling and some found repugnant. For the first time in centuries their situation and ours looks not entirely dissimilar!

During April and May, I have the privilege of leading worship at Augustine on a number of occasions. I'm planning to explore the letter Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, wondering if anything Paul said to Philippian Christians might also say something to the different but similar situation of today's Edinburgh Christians. Wearing my Environmental Chaplain hat, I'll be looking out for any wisdom from Saint Paul useful to Christians responding to ecological challenges we all face today.

I'll be interested to see what emerges and how others respond to what they hear.

*(Trevor Jamison, a member of Augustine, is a URC Minister who works as Environmental Chaplain for Eco-Congregation Scotland, the ecumenical movement with a vision for a Scotland that cares for God's creation, today and forever)*

## Pastoral Care

If you would like to contact a minister during Fiona's sabbatical (April-mid-July), pastoral cover (including a local minister on call on a rota basis) is being co-ordinated by our secretary, Kathleen Ziffo. Please contact Kathleen to access them on:

secretary@augustine.org.uk or via the church office (0131 220 1677).

Our associate minister, Maxwell Reay, will be available as usual: Rev Maxwell Reay (revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com) (full details on cover)

Prayer requests can be made to Kathleen/Maxwell, 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.

## *Resurrection Spring*

From Easter Sunday (March 27th) until Pentecost (May 15th) we are journeying through the Season of Easter, which helpfully occurs in our Springtime. Spring is the season when new life awakens the slumbering, dormant, wintered earth. As we experience the awakening and birthing of Spring in the earth, the Season of Easter invites to remember, through the story of Jesus' Resurrection, that new life can also grow from the slumbering dormant wintered places in our human experiences (individual or collective).

The transformation of Spring, the growth from naked branch to bud to new leaf is not, as far as we know, a painful experience for a tree. The birthing of new life in human experiences *is* often painful and unpredictable; the familiar disappears and something different emerges.

This can be particularly hard when the wintering was not of our choosing. The loss of loved ones, abilities, health, careers, dreams, are not experiences we frequently add to a wish list for our lives; but in varying forms they are a part of every person's experience. The story of the Resurrection, marked in the time of Spring, reminds us that from that which has died in the winters of our experience, new life can grow.

As the sunlight gets warmer and longer throughout this Easter/Spring Season, may its rays penetrate deeper than our skin, into the wintered places in our hearts and minds; that the Gospel seeds of life may germinate and grow in the compost of our past, to transform us, and our world, with new and abundant life.

**Rev Fiona Bennett**

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## *Transformation—from Jesus' Passion to Resurrection*

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Our displays from our worship services on Passion Sunday and Easter Sunday.



## *Edinburgh Court Chaplaincy Update*

Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) are in the process of setting up a Multifaith Chaplaincy Project at Edinburgh Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court. In the last week of April, the proposal received approval from the Sheriff Principal. The purpose of the Multifaith Chaplaincy Project is to promote the mental and spiritual wellbeing of all those who use the court, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs and/or race, by the provision of advice and support. The project is managed by the Edinburgh Multifaith Chaplaincy Group management committee with representatives drawn from the Muslim community, Edinburgh Interfaith Association, the Buddhist community, the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and Augustine United Church. The next stage of the project is to establish a full-time team of paid and volunteer multifaith chaplains so that the Chaplaincy can be staffed full-time Monday to Friday.

Fundraising for the project (such as the multicultural cabaret advertised in February Seeds) continues. Over the weekend of 28-29th May, City of Edinburgh Methodist Church is holding a number of events to celebrate being '200 years old, eight years young', all of which will raise funds for the Court Chaplaincy Project. (200-year anniversary of their current building, and 8 years since the four previous Methodist congregations in Edinburgh came together as one at their current venue in Nicolson Square). Events include a games/crafts afternoon on the Saturday, a Beetle Drive and, appropriately for the project, a concert including music from 'A Trial by Jury' by Gilbert and Sullivan on Saturday evening. (Further details are available on the Sunday noticeboard in the Sanctuary, or online at <http://edinburghmethodist.com/wp/anniversary-weekend-celebration/>).

**Nicola Robinson**



## *Coffee, Cake and Conversation*

Coffee, Cake and Conversation is a gathering that meets towards the end of each month, Tuesday night/Thursday afternoon. This is part of the pastoral web of care at church and is offered in partnership with the NHS Community Mental Health Chaplains.

It is a way to get to know one another outside of Sunday and other church events. It is a time for folk to come, be served a cup of tea/coffee, eat some cake and biscuits, have a chat or just be with others. Every other month there is a topic for conversation; this is just meant to help get conversation flowing and learn more about one another. The months that do not have topics are time for a general chat.

The topic for May is hobbies, September will be pets, and November will be ways to remember. We will be taking a break in July/August for the summer holidays/Festival.

We have been meeting for well over a year now and it has been great to see how relationships are building and how useful this space is for the congregation. I, for one, have had a chance to get to know folk I did not normally talk to on a Sunday, whereas now do. We have added a couple more volunteers to help the team over Fiona's sabbatical – Anne MacKenzie and Gillian Lawrence.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us!

**Jonathan Bay**



## *EU Referendum*

The Joint Public Issues Team, with the support of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, have recently published their EU referendum resources for churches 'Think, Pray, Vote'.

It includes background information, issues for debate and questions for reflection across a range of topic areas.

You can download a copy from the Joint Public Issues Team website ([www.jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk)) or there is a copy available on the information boards at church on a Sunday.

**Love every  
neighbour**



Christian Aid week this year runs from 15th-21st May, which gives us all time to turn out our bookshelves and cupboards!

Some of us at Augustine help at the St Andrew's and St George's West annual book sale. This is an ecumenical effort with people coming from all churches (or without church connection) organised by the indefatigable Lady Mary Davidson. Work goes on throughout the year sorting and collecting items for sale. It is not just books which are required – we sell toys, stamps, pictures, vinyl records and DVDs etc.

Friends are always surprised when I tell them how much we raise – last year for instance we raised over £120,000. The money is needed more than ever, and Edinburgh book lovers await each year's sale with keen anticipation!

If anyone has items to donate, please contact me at church.

Della Morris

## *Christian Aid Week Book Sales in Edinburgh*

### **George Street Book Sale**

St Andrew's and St George's West,  
George Street

Saturday 14th–Friday 20th May

Saturday 10am-4pm

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 10am-3.30pm

Thursday 10am-7pm

(Donations being received from Monday 2nd–  
Wednesday 11th May. Weekdays 9am-9pm,  
Saturday 9-5pm)

### **Holy Corner Book Sale**

Morningside United Church,  
Holy Corner

Saturday 14th–Saturday 21st May

Saturdays 10am-5pm (Café open)

Monday-Friday 11am-6pm

(Donations being received 10am-noon on  
weekdays)



# *Dandelion Greens—Your Gifts*

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



In my second article about last November's Communication Workshop, I want to discuss feedback. When I was preparing for leading the meeting, I was looking for a figure to help plan communication. Instead I found a figure about feedback that I thought was really interesting. I was so delighted, I brought this feedback ladder along to allow people to give me feedback about the workshop (and I still welcome feedback about my contributions to church). The 'ladder of feedback' is shown below.

I realised this ladder had an important message for when we want to give helpful feedback as part of a community. Feedback needs to be based on values and looking towards a common goal; a good frame of mind for discussing many things from coffee duty to meeting etiquette. So, if you are concerned and want something to change, it is important to talk to people, and to be sure to clarify what

they want to have happen. The ladder points out that if it is something you do not care about, or don't personally want to make happen, it can be okay to back off and not critique the idea. However, if it is something you care about and want to help then you can have a constructive conversation based on offering options and ideas that the other person can choose from, based on what fits them. As simple as, "have you ever thought of this?"

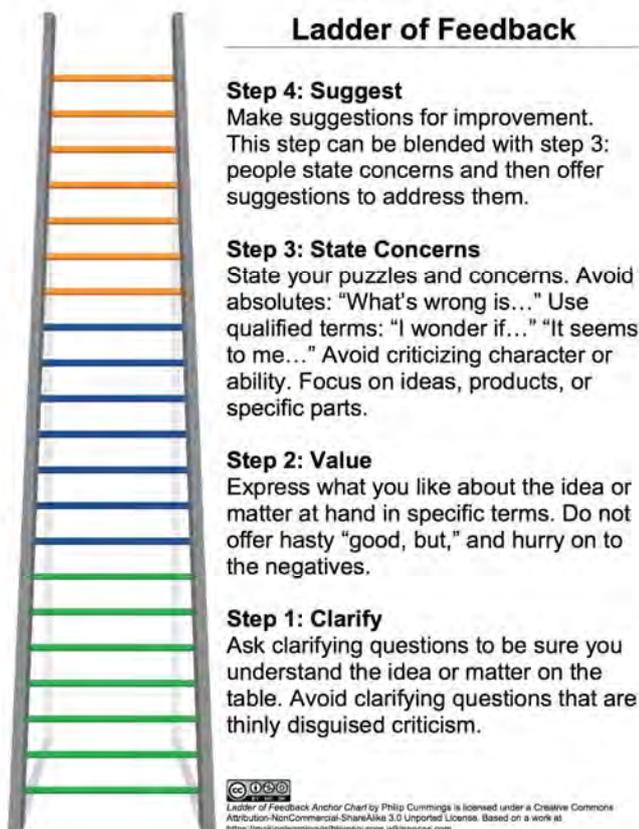
For example, at church meeting if we are trying to improve our pastoral care it is really important to really consider the concerns and ideas of the people willing to enact the pastoral care plan; otherwise your advice may not be practical for their needs and abilities. Or if you want to help your colleagues on the rota do their jobs well, you have to make sure you both agree on what the goal of the job is. For coffee- and tea-makers it might be hard trying to balance welcome with providing timely drinks to the queue. But for sure the goal of meeter-greeter is to make Augustine a welcoming space; that can help the start of a friendly conversation on how to be more successful at encouraging others to be at home in this space.

It is important that we challenge ourselves to communicate with each other so that as a community we can manage the work of being church.

So I hope you get and/or make some time to reflect on how you are giving feedback in church; if you are letting people know when you appreciate them, and if you are finding meaningful ways to talk about how something could be improved.

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

**Elizabeth Bay**





## ABC Update



### Gift Day

Can I give a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Gift Day early in March. You helped to produce a wonderful total of £11,811 (including Gift Aid amounting to £2,126). I know that there will be some later additions to this total and I will update you in later editions of Seeds. The ABC Committee also want to thank Sheila Storrier for her work on Gift Day in providing a continuous supply of bacon/egg rolls which were welcomed by many contributors that morning.

### ABC Funds Continue to Grow

Sheila was also busy with a table sale later in the month which swelled the ABC funds by a splendid £127. Thank you to Sheila and to everyone who brought in goods for the stall. Surplus money from the Burns Lunch brought in a further £67 and there were sundry cash receipts from the collecting box at the back of the Sanctuary of £47. Finally, I am very happy to see more of the Junior Church's 'penny pots' coming in. They have yielded no less than £157 so far this year. Do keep them coming in – there is a supply in the foyer if you have not already got one at home.

### The Challenge Continues

So, with all these contributions, the ABC total for the year up to Easter has grown to £12,209. Let's see if we can't make this a record year for the Augustine Building Challenge. The original aims were to pay for the re-slating of the roof and the insulation above the sanctuary ceiling, together with much-needed improvements to visitor information and the facilities available in our various meeting spaces. However, the dry rot has proved to be a much bigger and more expensive problem than first thought, so every extra pound that we raise is sorely needed.

Thank you for your efforts so far. It is heartening to know that, together and in faith, we are going to be able to meet these challenges.

Ian Rathjen

### STOP PRESS!

I am very pleased to report that the Heritage Lottery Fund and Heritage Scotland have just (end of April) agreed to release the final part of their grant for our work on the roof, insulation of the Sanctuary, the audio-visual project and all the associated display work.

This means that the builders will soon be starting. Internal scaffolding will be erected. A great deal of planning has been done to ensure that any adverse impact on the users of our premises is kept to a minimum during the works.



### Helplines:

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



## *C4L CLMT Update— Does Environmental Damage Matter?*

### **What did, or didn't, happen at the COP21 Paris Climate Change Summit last December?**

The overall opinion coming from COP21 appears to be that the outcome was somewhere between “a miracle” and “a disaster”. How come such conflicting views?

The good news is that 195 nations agreed to try to keep carbon emissions below the level that causes global warming by 2°C (1.5°C if possible) ...in principle. However, the bad news is that this is yet to be ratified by a majority of countries (as of April) before beginning, hopefully, to come into effect by 2020.

There was a ceremonial signing of the agreement by over 170 countries at the United Nations on 22nd April; and USA, China and India (the three biggest polluters) have committed to joining the agreement this year. However, formal approval from 55 countries representing at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions is required before the agreement comes into force. In many cases that involves a vote in the country's parliament. There was no agreement in Paris about ensuring this level of formal approval, nor about accountability for making it happen.

Meanwhile the world continues to be severely damaged by carbon emissions. Yes, there were Ice Ages in past millennia, but these developed gradually over many hundreds of years; they didn't occur as cataclysmically fast as the changes we are producing in our planet now – virtually all since industrialisation began about 150 years ago, and mainly because of what we have been doing since the 1960s.

The good news includes the fact that China is willing to reduce its rise in emissions by 2%, having hugely increased its reliance on renewable energy in the past 10 years. Indeed,

most countries now believe that burning coal is “on the way out”; but the bad news is that this will not begin to happen until China's peak of industrialisation (with the accompanying peak of carbon emissions) in 2030. (One cannot totally blame the likes of China, Brazil or India though. They are trying to catch-up with *our* industrialisation – the main cause of the existing problems).

Talk, without associated action and accountability, will not avoid irreversible planet damage. Countless species are already being lost, along with habitat; climate disruption already causes damage to nations around the world, including our own, as unpredictable water supply, raised sea levels, storms and temperatures affect agriculture worldwide. Without drastic action this will only worsen.

### **Climate and Refugees**

There are presently 60 million refugees around the world. How are they to survive, let alone “live life in all its fullness”? We like to believe that in many (so-called) developing countries there has been mismanagement and corruption, and civil war/war with neighbour countries has compounded existing impoverished living; but how often have Western countries intervened to destabilise whole regions of continents, already struggling because of drought or floods, near-starvation, and other inequalities of wealth? We broadcast to the world that we, in the West, have democracy, expertise in humanity and compassion, and are comparatively very well off. Is it any wonder that refugees try to escape their bleaker circumstances and seek sanctuary in Northern Europe?!

## < 8 Closer to Home

However, we all contribute to the perpetuation of environmental, as well as economic and social, catastrophes by our continuing abuse of our own and the global environment.

Against this, at times depressing, backdrop it is good to praise the environmental work of our administrator, Rachel, and treasurer, Tom.

They have negotiated a much better tariff with our environmentally-friendly electricity supplier, Ecotricity, saving AUC several thousand pounds a year.

They have promoted improved waste management (new removal and recycling of commercial waste such as paper and cardboard. You will also notice new recycling bins in the foyer, and there are some downstairs as well. Please use these, and the food canisters in the pantry appropriately.



Remember to conserve the resources we have, by actions such as switching off unneeded heaters and lights, & closing blinds at the end of the day to keep heat produced during the day within the building overnight. Our new ceiling and roof will be much better insulated as well.

It all helps us develop a more caring attitude to what is in and on our (God's) good earth.

**Kathleen Ziffo**



## *Christian Aid Week— Morsheda's Story*

The focus of Christian Aid Week this year is also on the impact of climate change – it's impact on people such as Morsheda, who lives with her four children on low-lying land amidst the many rivers of Bangladesh.

Morsheda will never forget the day she nearly lost her baby son, Murshid. As floodwaters poured into her home, he fell from his bed into the water. He could have drowned in moments. Luckily, Morsheda woke when she heard him fall and was able to save him.

Morsheda and her children live a precarious life. Their home has already been hit by floods several times. Each time, Morsheda gathers her family and holds them close as they wait for the danger to pass. They know that the floods will come again, and soon. But we can lift our neighbours like Morsheda to safety.

A Christian Aid Home Safety Package (costing £250) could flood-proof Morsheda's home, raising it up seven foot on an earth plinth, keeping her family safe at last.

It could also buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost, so Morsheda could keep livestock and grow crops on the small patch of land around her home.

All of this will give her a long-term income and a solid foundation for a new life.

"If I could raise my house then I would feel much safer living here with my children."

*(Text and photo taken from the Christian Aid Week website: [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org))*



## Synod Gatherings – 11th-13th March at Tulliallan



*Several members of Augustine attended the various Synod gatherings at Tulliallan in March, with many attending for the first time. Nicola Robinson and Karl Macrae joined our Minister at the Synod Meeting, Lucy Parker and Jem Attwell attended the Young Adult Forum, and your editor spent the weekend perfecting her PowerPoint skills (!).*

*Reports of the business of synod will follow in a later edition of Seeds, but here Lucy and Nicola share their reflections on the experience.*

### Synod Reflections

Representatives from URC Churches across Scotland as well as ecumenical and interfaith guests came together for a weekend of discussion, workshops and even a ceilidh (!) at Tulliallan Police College.

I was really excited to be attending my first ever residential Synod. Especially because it felt like a great opportunity to learn about the work of the Synod committees, discuss topics ranging from the future of the Synod Team to the refugee crisis, meet folk from other churches and worship together.

The theme of the weekend was the 'Changing of Times' which helped us examine where the URC has come from and where we are now in order to explore where we're going in the future. In our East Link group meeting on the Friday evening, it was inspiring to hear about how local churches are encouraging lay folk to step up into leadership and working within their neighbourhoods to create new projects and ecumenical partnerships through the sharing of gifts and talents.

I attended two very insightful workshops on Interfaith Relations and Transitional Ministry. The first one was facilitated by Interfaith Scotland which brings together different religions to engage in dialogue and work together to jointly address issues of concern in their communities such as poverty. The second workshop on Transitional Ministry looked at the

ways churches react and can be helped through a period of vacancy.

One of the weekend's highlights was a passionate talk and Q and A session with David Bradwell from Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (SFAR). David highlighted how offering hospitality to a stranger is a common concern for many different faith traditions. SFAR brings together Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Interfaith groups in order to provide a co-ordinated response to the current refugee crisis. This response ranges from partnering with organisations which provide practical humanitarian aid to campaigning for respectful rhetoric within the media.

In amongst the business of Synod, Saturday was bookended by a 3-mile sponsored walk for Sport Relief at 7am and a celebration with cake and slideshow that marked the beginning of our farewell to John Humphreys as our



Wide-awake walkers at 7am...

**<10** Moderator. An impromptu ceilidh followed with Karl playing the fiddle and tables being pushed to the side of the room to make more space for dancing.

Attending the residential Synod meeting in Scotland is a fantastic way to feel part of a wider church community which is endeavouring to work together to discern God's calling as guided by the Holy Spirit. As I reflect on the weekend as a whole, I feel full of hope for the future of church especially given our willingness to evolve, engage with different communities, and respond to the world in which we live.

**Nicola Robinson**



...and still full of energy at the evening ceilidh.



## *How to change the world (a little bit at a time)*

**A**t Synod, the Youth and Young Adult Forums were given a 'modest' (!) goal: to figure out how to change the world, a little bit at a time.

In the Young Adult Forum, we began by confronting the preconceptions that we held about poverty; in particular the idea that it's something that only really happens in far-off countries, or to a few very unlucky people closer to home. We explored how the media feeds into false perceptions of poverty in the UK and how poverty is often the end product of a bigger system of social inequality. This was summed up for us in an excellent TEDx talk, 'What Causes Wellness', by Sir Harry Burns, Scotland's former Chief Medical Officer. The talk is available on YouTube and is well worth the 16 minutes to watch.

On Saturday afternoon, the Youth Forum and several of the youth leaders took part in a discussion session on marriage and relationships. Far from being an awkward hour of "Now then, you're at an age where you might have someone special in your life...", the

discussion was open, honest and addressed many different aspects of personal relationships, both romantic and platonic. We talked about how the role of marriage has changed and is changing, benefits and challenges around relationships in Christian communities, the need for self-esteem and self-knowledge, and about the importance of communication.

In all, the weekend flew by and was a great way to meet other young people from the URC across Scotland and to get an insight into the working of the URC at Synod level. As a forum, we found the discussion about relationships particularly valuable and so we are sending a proposal to General Assembly asking for resources for churches discussing different aspects of relationships with youth and young adults.

**Lucy Parker**

TEDx talk by Sir Harry Burns: <http://youtu.be/yEh3JG74C6s>

Presentation to synod meeting by Youth Synod: <https://youtu.be/CWb-hfCX7BY>



## ***March Our Tribe— Art and Reflection***

**O**ur Tribe met on Holy Saturday for an evening of 'Art and Reflection' led by Rev Jenny Williams. There were around 25 of us all together.

We began by considering in small groups what Lent meant to us. Jenny talked about Jesus being confined in the tomb, and what things can confine us, before we were invited to depict our thoughts/reflections in art or writing.

A variety of spaces were available to us for prayer and meditation whilst we did that. Behind a screen in the Studio was a space reminiscent of the darkness of the tomb. In the Junior Room there were various objects to contemplate – an angel, a pair of wooden hands, drawings, silk-type scarves, and paper hearts to take away or cut out. This time was accompanied by Taizé music.

The evening closed with tea/coffee and communion.

**Stephen Hoare**



## ***'Praying for an Inclusive Church'***

***Sunday 22nd May 7.30pm  
St Andrew's and St George's  
West, George Street***

**D**uring the Church of Scotland General Assembly, Affirmation Scotland will be holding its annual service praying for an inclusive church. The service will be a celebration of the organisation's work over the last 10 years.

This will be the last of these services Affirmation Scotland hosts as it is winding up this year— it is felt that there is now sufficient momentum for change in the Kirk. The work of transforming the Church into a Christ-like community of radical welcome and love will go on (and must go on!), spearheaded by the current Affirming Congregations. (These include Greyfriars Kirk – one of our TLC partners).

## ***Our Tribe in May***

**O**n Saturday 28th May, we are delighted to be hosting our first ever drum and percussion workshop. The focus will be simple— '***Make a Joyful Noise!***'. There will also be an opportunity to use instruments to express some of David's Psalms.

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

***All welcome!***

## Comings and Goings

### Goings...

Early in April we said goodbye to **Roger Nascimento**, a member of Augustine. He has returned to Brazil to put his public health skills to good use, helping them tackle the current Zika virus outbreak.

There was also a farewell within East Link of the URC Synod of Scotland. **Rev Sue Kirkbride** left Saughtonhall URC at the start of May. She and Mark have moved to Orkney, where Sue was inducted as the Minister of Peedie Kirk on 4th May.

On the afternoon of Sunday 29th May, East Link congregations will gather at Saughtonhall URC to say farewell to our outgoing Moderator, **Rev John Humphreys**.

All will be much missed, but we wish them well in their new endeavours.

### Comings...

On 25th April, **Rev Canon David Paton-Williams** was installed as Rector of St Columba's by the Castle, one of our ecumenical partner churches. Representatives from Augustine and Greyfriars Kirk joined Columbans in welcoming David and his wife Jenny to Edinburgh...as did some April snow to help them acclimatise!

## Ordination

We are delighted that **Becca Crate** has been called as the Pastor of Springfield Presbyterian Church in Sykesville, Maryland, USA.

She is being ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church on 22nd May, and will be inducted at Springfield shortly afterwards.

We pray for Becca and Lorna as they begin this new part of their journey together.

## In Memoriam

Sadly we lost two of our long-time members during April.

**Ina McGillivray** passed away peacefully on 19th April after a long period of ill-health. Her funeral was held the following week.

Tragically, **Moira McKeeman** died on 17th April as a result of a road accident. Moira had requested a private funeral which was held in April. We will be holding a memorial celebration of her life at 3.30pm on Thursday 26th May here at Augustine.



## Flowers

We acknowledge the beauty of creation in the flowers in church. There is a list on the noticeboard (outside the library) where you can 'book' a Sunday. If you'd like to arrange flowers, see Doris who will also receive contributions towards cost, and arrange access or display.

Doris Caldwell

## Save the date!

AUC will be holding its biennial Away Day on **Saturday 27th August** at Cramond Kirk Hall.

During the day we will review progress on our mission priorities for 2014-2016, and discern our priorities for the next couple of years.

We encourage all members of the AUC family to attend. There will be activities for children and young people, and lunch will be provided.

## April/May: Easter to Pentecost

This month in Junior Church we are finishing off our *'Breakfast on the Beach'* topic, about one of the appearances of Jesus to his disciples after Easter.

We will have a talk about *Christian Aid*, and be thinking about communities in other parts of the world. We all share environmental concerns, so how can we all live in a sustainable way? Come and chat to us about your ideas!



In the middle of May we move on to Pentecost, learning how the Holy Spirit can transform (change) us.

We will hear a Godly Play story called *'The Mystery of Pentecost'* and share a Feast together afterwards. (Warning: The Feast will involve an item which changes as we make it...it could be noisy!)



The Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the form of flames and wind.

We will explore this in a 'science'-themed week: Wind spinners? Air on the move? Bubble art? ...Which will it be?



Games are also fun and one of our weeks will be active: Parachute games? Wind fun? Flame jump/tag? ...Again, which will it be?

At the end of the month we will be sharing worship with our friends at St Columba's by the Castle in our joint service as part of The Local Church partnership.



"The Apostles...were so full of the power of the Holy Spirit that they seemed to be on fire. Their tongues burned in their mouths. They were so excited that people wondered what was going on..."

(Image from [www.godlyplayresources.com](http://www.godlyplayresources.com); Words from *'The Mystery of Pentecost'*, *The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 4.*)



**I**t's birthday season in Junior Church with lots of celebrations in April/May!

**Ellie** was 6 on 15th April

**Rowan and Euan** have both celebrated their 8th birthdays—Rowan on 22nd April and Euan on 1st May

**Fraser** is 12 on 7th May  
and **Ian** will be 14 on 1st June

## The Church Year

Do you remember making this clock in Junior Church? It shows the seasons of the church year?

Which of the hands are pointing to Easter and Pentecost?



## AUGUSTINE ASSIGNMENTS

**W**e had a fortuitous start to our four sessions this Spring, beginning our first art assignment, with people bringing old shirts, cutting them up and hand crocheting. Enjoying popcorn and discussing community building we started our rug. We will continue to grow our gathering rug, so bring along more shirts and whatever other materials you like to work with to our next assignment.

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

<b>May 2016</b>		<b>Season of Easter</b>
Sunday 1st	11am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Trevor Jamison
	5-8pm	Nitekirk at Grassmarket Community Project: "Voices"
Tuesday 3rd	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in the Library
Saturday 7th	2-4pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group for 11-18yrs)
Sunday 8th	11am	Morning Worship. Refugee theme. Preacher Rev Ian Alexander (Secretary of Church of Scotland World Mission Council)
	12.30pm	Church Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 10th	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study: Luke 15 "Lost and Found". Led by Nicola Robinson
		<b>Season of Pentecost</b>
Sunday 15th-Saturday 21st		Christian Aid Week (see p.5 re: Book sales)
Sunday 15th	11am	Pentecost. Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Trevor Jamison
	7-8pm	Refugio at Greyfriars Kirk
Tuesday 17th	7.30pm	Spirituality Book Group: Inclusive Church – Gender (1). Led by Jonathan Bay
Friday 20th	2pm	Walking Group. Leaving from AUC at 2pm prompt. The walk will take about an hour to cover a couple of miles only, and the second hour is spent over tea/coffee!
Sunday 22nd	11am	Morning Worship. Led by Martin Ritchie (Artistic Associate and Minister in training at Greyfriars Kirk)
	12.30-5pm	Heart & Soul in Princes Street Gardens. Contact Kathleen if you would be able to help on the URC stall
	7.30pm	Affirmation Scotland service 'Praying for an Inclusive Church' at St Andrews and St George's West, George Street (see p.12)
Tuesday 24th	7.30pm	Coffee Cake and Conversation
Thursday 26th	1.30pm	Coffee Cake and Conversation
Friday 27th	2pm	Walking Group (Further details 20th May above)
Saturday 28th	6.45 for 7pm	Our Tribe – Make a Joyful Noise! (see p.12)
Sunday 29th	11am	TLC Joint Communion Service at St Columba's by the Castle. Preacher Rev Trevor Jamison
	2.30pm	East Link Churches Farewell to our Synod Moderator, Rev John Humphreys, at Saughtonhall URC
	6pm	St C's @ SIX – Agapé service and meal at St Columba's by the Castle
Tuesday 31st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting in the Library
<b>June 2016</b>		
Thursday 2nd	6.30pm	URC Safeguarding training (in 2 sessions). Refreshments available from 6pm
Friday 3rd	2pm	Walking Group (Further details 20th May above)
Saturday 4th	2-4pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group for 11-18yrs)
Sunday 5th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion. Led by Laurence Wareing, Celebrant Doris Caldwell
	12.30pm	Church Discussion Meeting: "Enough?" (Joint Public Issues Team report on poverty)
	5-8pm	Nitekirk: Wild Goose Resource Group present "Song of Songs"
Monday 6th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Bring and Buy Sale

Please note that the deadline for material for the next issue is Friday 27th May.

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.*