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Sherlock & the Environment

By Rev Fiona Bennett

Along with the inauguration of President Donald Trump and further announcements about the plan for Brexit, one of the stories which has had much news coverage is the statistics on the ever-increasing temperature of our planet. The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, recognising a 2°C increase above pre-industrial levels in our global temperature would lead to catastrophic effects, therefore agreed to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. The belief is this will significantly reduce the risks and impact of climate change. Despite this agreement, and partly due to a warm current in the oceans this year, our global temperature rise is far greater than we need it to be. So, as followers of Jesus, how do we respond to this news?

Along with others, I greatly enjoyed watching the BBC's Sherlock this January. It is fabulous to watch Sherlock read people and situations with an insight which we mere mortals fail to hold.

The idea that his brain is so able he can absorb and process detail like a human supercomputer makes for a fascinating kind of hero; a superhero whose special power is logic and observation, yet who cannot cope with the power alone.

Sherlock's ability to see what most of us miss brings me, oddly enough, to the Season of Epiphany. It is the season when we try to look at everything in Jesus' light: and Jesus' light, like Sherlock's brain, helps us to see what is really there. Jesus' light is what his life and way reveal to us. When we look at anything in the light of Jesus we see it differently and we see it in truth. As we look at ourselves and others in Jesus' light, we see beloved children who intentionally belong in the family of God, in all our diversity. As we look at species in Jesus' light, we see intentional creatures created and treasured by the Source of Life, who we also name as God. As we look at the

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

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 oceans, plants, land, air, ozone in Jesus' light, we see intentional, wondrous and beloved inventions of the God of Jesus.

So, as we turn on the Jesus light to global warming what do we see? We see suffering and destruction in people, animals and the earth itself. Not only are we destroying our own future but we are grieving the Creator, the Source of Life, the God of Jesus, whose beloved world we are not treasuring. At the same time, Jesus' light reveals Sherlock-esque hope: the human ingenuity to heat cities drawing the energy from rivers; homes in Germany producing more renewable power than they consume; building material made out of the rubble of bombed homes (like the Green Cake project in Gaza). With our ordinary vision, we do not look at a river and see a heating source, but there are those amongst us who can. The Jesus light, shining into the potential catastrophe of our planet, reveals incredible hope in ingenuity and incredible resilience in our planet's ability to heal and adapt. Just as Sherlock turns to heroin when alone, so the brilliance of our ingenuity cannot succeed without support, without friends. The other truth which Jesus' light reveals is the power and responsibility to act in hope and to act collectively.

As we face together this Epiphany the temperature rise in our planet, Jesus' light shows us how to move forward: following, encouraging and building on the extraordinary resources which human creativity and resourcefulness offers us, treasuring and honouring this wondrous and diverse life of which God has made each of us a beloved, unique and essential part.

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 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)



An Editor's Farewell, By Tamsin Kilgour

As I said in the e-mail that accompanied the last edition of Seeds, the New Year brings you a new Seeds Editor, Eilidh Carmichael. I am stepping down, having been Editor since Spring 2013. Whilst in so many ways I'll miss it, it is also the right time – my health has been intervening, and it is important that Seeds communicates information to people regularly and in good time.

I can remember when I was first asked to edit Seeds – not exactly what I was expecting on my first (2nd?) 'coffee with the Minister'! Why me? I'd never edited anything in my life – what on earth do you do? There were reasons, but, as I said in my 'Hello' article, it was a steep learning curve and I would learn quicker with feedback.

As I went to press send on my first issue, full of trepidation, a wise person told me, "People will always notice the negatives, so silence should be taken as a round of applause." Whilst very true, can I thank everyone for the 'standing ovations' that have also arrived, often at very opportune times.

What have I learnt? Lots! Alongside technical things (things like dpi, RGB/CMYK/Pantone, when to use jpg/png/svg used to be a foreign language – those were the days!), accessibility and copyright guidelines and design tips from Vic, there were essential skills such as how to tame the office printer (!) and learning to accept that however many times you proofread something you'll find a typo just after pressing send.

However, the greatest pleasure has been you – the Augustine family, both here in Edinburgh and further afield. From being a relative AUC newbie, I've got to know so many more of you. Seeds wouldn't exist without those amongst you who've sent news, articles, photos and ideas, who haven't run away when I've sidled up to them at coffee time with a Seeds request. But equally, it would be pointless without the people who read it.

When I took over Seeds I said "I'm not anticipating any sudden changes. I suspect things will evolve over time – or maybe, as it is Seeds, germinate." If I look back at early copies I think that's true. I'm looking forward to seeing how Seeds continues to germinate with Eilidh at the helm.

Thank you everyone for entrusting Seeds to me for the last few years, and for all your support. I am confident you'll offer the same support to Eilidh. Eilidh – I hope you find it as rewarding as I have.

Tamsin Kilgour

It feels quite daunting to write this piece for you all. I've written in Seeds many times before; I write for a living, but this feels rather different. However, I'll keep it short as there will be plenty more opportunities for me to bend your ear (or should that be eye? Hmmm...).

Mostly I'd like to thank Tamsin for her support the last few months, support I know will continue (not least because I've no idea what some of the technical points mentioned above are!). In spite of this support, there will be mistakes, which will be my own. Please be patient with me as I get to grips both with the many goings-on at AUC and also with the software used to put Seeds together.

Finally, if you have ideas for how Seeds ought to grow and flourish during my tenure, I'd love to hear them! Email me or see me around.

Eilidh Carmichael



Our Tribe in February will be celebrating LGBTQI History Month with a workshop entitled: 'What the Bible really says about gender and sexuality', facilitated by Rev Kate Harford, Ecumenical Chaplain at Oxford Brookes University.

At Our Tribe in January, those gathered reflected on searching for the light, facilitated by Rev Fiona Bennett.



“Stations on the Road to Freedom”

A four week course exploring Dietrich Bonhoeffer - his life, theology, poetry and relevance for today.

St Columba's by the Castle,
14 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2PW

Thursdays 7.30-9.00pm

27th April, 4th, 11th and 18th May.

If you would like to go along please email:

d.patonwilliams@gmail.com

AUGUSTINE ASSIGNMENTS

An ecumenical youth group for those who want to bake, engage with social justice, make art, and talk about God



Who: Youth aged 12-18 **Cost:** FREE!

Where: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL

When: 2:00-4:00pm on February 4, February 18, March 4, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 3 and June 17, 2017

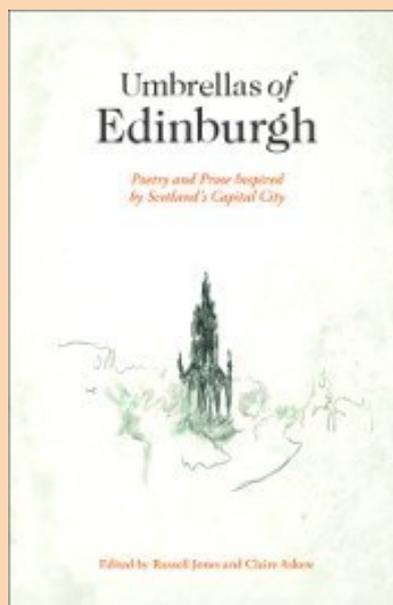
To find out more or to register for *Augustine Assignments*, please contact:
Elizabeth and Nicola at aucassignments@gmail.com

Find Augustine Assignments on:



Congratulations

Jonathan!



AUC member and all-round good guy, Jonathan Bay has had a selection of his poems published in a new anthology about Edinburgh: *Umbrellas of Edinburgh*. One of the two poems selected for the anthology, *Inchcolm Island*, was inspired by a

visit to the island with AUC and our sister churches at Greyfriars and St. Columba's. I'm sure the Seeds team speak for us all when we say congratulations!



Music Group

Calling all musicians – singers and/or instrumentalists.

Building on the talents evident in the Advent Choir, at our Advent Cabaret and at our Burns Lunch, Augustine is looking to develop regular musical contributions to our services.

Initially we will be meeting at 10am on the 1st Sunday of each month, to rehearse the music for during that day's communion.

Do come and join us!

For further information, speak to Karl Macrae.



Donations and delicacies on offer at a cake stall for the last Sunday in January served to raise £129.42 for Scottish Churches Housing Action!

Loving One Another

Loving One Another is a biblical discussion toolkit on Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

Created through the partnership of Christian Aid, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church of Brazil, Loving One Another offers a five-week series of contextual bible studies which would enable a small group to explore their understanding and perception of gender-based violence. The sessions were trialed in Scotland and Brazil, and it is a privilege to engage with material which is born out of experiences of people in Brazil and the UK.

Gender-Based Violence is not an easy topic. GBV is a reality which destroys and maims human potential across the globe. It can be part of our own experience, the experience of our friends and neighbours – across the street and across the world. GBV is often perpetrated and hidden behind religious silence or at worst condoned as God's will. If we truly believe Jesus came to bring life in abundance, this is a topic which we all need to more fully understand in order to share in Jesus work.

The material is very well put together but, sadly, especially given the story Jo Clifford share with us in November about the journey of Jesus Queen of Heaven in Brazil, this material does not explore GBV from the experience of people who are transgender. However, Christian Aid are aware of this lack and asked for feedback and perceptions about how transgender perspective could be included.

I have a few copies of the material available if you would like to look at it. I am also keen to offer this five-week series as a small group if there is interest. Please let me know if this is something you would like and what day/time might best suit you.

Rev Fiona Bennett

Elders

Following the election period for new elders in December, January saw Harriet Davidson, Ivy Ng and Stephen Hoare join the Church Council. Ivy was ordained during one of January's services, with Stephen and Harriet having already served as elders before. We all thank outgoing elders Robert Somerville and Lorna Bowry for their hard work. Stephen will serve out the remainder of Robert's year, while Harriet and Ivy take up active eldership for three years.

Church Council

The full list of Church Council members is now:

Alex Peden, Della Moris, Doris Caldwell, Rev Fiona Bennett, Harriet Davidson, Ivy Ng, Kathleen Ziffo, Rev Maxwell Reay, Nicola Robinson, Stephen Hoare and Tom Murray.

New Members

December also saw Linda Harrison, Joy Godfrey and Jimmy Robb take up membership at AUC. Welcome all!

New Editors

New year, new editor seems to be the motto at Augustine this year! As well as Eilidh taking over from Tamsin as your Seeds Editor, Lucy Parker takes over from Lorna as our Web Editor. We hope to be sharing a bit about Lorna's pastures new in March's Seeds!

Gift Day: Sunday 5th March

giftaid it

As we enjoy the improvements to the Augustine building arising from the big project in 2016, you may be asking yourself why we need to go on fundraising. The answer is that we work from a 150 year old listed building! Keeping it in repair and, as important, continuing to equip it for mission in the 21st century makes it essential that we build the generosity and enthusiasm of the ABC fundraising campaign into our church life going forward. Carrying out the roof project has depleted our reserves, which must be rebuilt to prepare for the inevitable need to do further work on and in the building.

So we are having another gift day on Sunday 5th March when Fiona and I will be in church from 10.00am to receive your gifts. As usual, Sheila will be preparing her famous bacon rolls! Come and share breakfast with us.



Tom Murray

P.S.

This is just the first event in what will be some years of fundraising. Perhaps our old fundraising title of Augustine Building Challenge has had its time. Ideas for a snappy new title or slogan would be welcome together with your fundraising ideas.



Justice & Peace (C for L) CLMT Update—What's in a Name?



November Church Meeting agreed to the renaming of the 'Commitment for Life' Church Life Ministry Team to the Justice & Peace (C for L) CLMT. Some newer people in AUC do not know what Commitment for Life stands for, or what it is. The renaming of this team to make obvious that we are concerned with issues of justice and peace makes things much clearer, we hope.

C for L is the URC's programme supporting many justice and peace concerns. C for L originally focused on a personal

commitment to give 1% of disposable income to C for L or charity; and the aim of C for L now is to raise awareness, pray for people affected and raise funds for specific projects. 80% of finance gathered goes to Christian Aid and about 20% goes to Global Justice Now (the campaigning organisation previously called World Development Movement). We at AUC have adopted a suggested specific area of focus – Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. C for L will continue to be a large part of what we are concerned with in AUC, regardless of the CLMT's changed title.

Christian Aid (CA) was set up by the British protestant churches after WWII, in response to the plight of refugees across Europe, irrespective of who they were, where they were from and any religious affiliation they might, or might not, have. Now Christian Aid offers emergency aid in crises (often along with other agencies like Save the Children or Oxfam), focuses on campaigning for fairer world systems and provides assistance to local people (of any religion or none) to help

them overcome the problems they encounter where poverty, war and damage from climate change takes its toll. We do not often hear of the work of CA in the media, but this is because CA does not have its own workers employed to go to these areas. Rather CA uses local organisations already at work 'on the ground' who are aware of the real needs of the local population. Thus,

avoiding the situation where those outside develop what they think is needed on the ground when what is really needed is quite different!



Our AUC Justice & Peace CLMT also considers climate change as it affects us in Scotland and around the globe, and we are an Eco-Congregation. We are also a Fair Trade church; we support Jubilee Scotland in its attempts to rid poor countries of poverty due to unsustainable debt; we consider how those poorer within our own society are being treated by our governments and political systems, attempting to counter measures which are unjust; and we support those who are, or have experienced, homelessness often using campaign information from, for instance, Scottish Churches Housing Action, Fresh Start or the Iona Community. We believe in supporting Amnesty International's work in calling for redress of human rights abuses; we look at our own denomination's advice to try to rid our world of nuclear weapons, and so on. Indeed we will consider our response to any injustice in society and any cause of a lack of peace in the world which we feel AUC or individuals in the congregation might influence.

Kathleen Ziffo

Fairtrade Fortnight: 27th February to 12th March

'Justice Matters' – that is what Fairtrade is all about. By choosing fairly traded goods – food, textiles, stationery, crafts, even wedding rings – we are helping to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable families around the world, whether they keep bees, grow coffee, farm cowpeas, or recycle old tyres. Much has been achieved over the last 30 years but we cannot give up. Brexit means uncertainty to producers around the world as well as in the UK and for our friends across the Channel. Did you know that 70,000 cups of tea are drunk globally every second?! Those who produce it need to get a fair deal.



To Celebrate Fairtrade

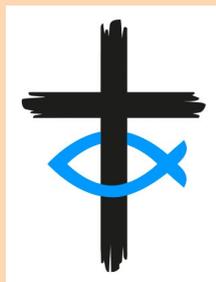
Come and enjoy a fairly traded 'cuppa' at a
'Big Brew'

On Saturday March 4th 10.30am to 12.30pm
and 2.30pm to 4.30pm

All Welcome

Details of venue on AUC noticeboard and on weekly sheet.

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.urch.org.uk/past-case-review.html or phone 020 7916 8682



Helplines:

Trauma Counselling Line Scotland: 08088 02 04 06 (M-W 5-8pm; Th-F 9am-2pm; 24/7 answerphone;
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

Isobel Scott 1923-2016

Isobel Scott, who was a much-loved member of AUC and formerly Dalry URC, died in December 2016. Isobel was born on 23rd Sep 1923 and grew up in East Lothian. She was the last remaining sibling of the Scott brothers and sisters who grew up with their Dad, a local postman, and Mum, who worked at the old Cranshaw Post Office.

All her working life Isobel spent as a waitress. After leaving school she worked in the Black Barony Hotel in West Linton, then during the war she got called up to serve in the catering core of the WRAF. After her national service, Isobel stayed on in Edinburgh. She worked in the Grosvenor Hotel, in the café in Smalls Dept Store and ended up in the Rothsey Hotel where she stayed until it closed and she retired – by which time she was in her 70s.

When Isobel came to Edinburgh she stayed in digs in Sciennes Rd, with John & Irene Scott. They formed a lifelong friendship and Isobel spent many Christmases with them. It was in the early 70s that Isobel got her flat in Cally Cres. Isobel quite liked a bit of gardening and one afternoon while pottering about in her garden Doris, a member at Dalry Congregational Church (which was on the other side of the road from Isobel's flat), stopped and invited Isobel to a coffee morning. Isobel went and then attended – more or less – every service & event at DCC from then on. In 2000, Dalry became Dalry URC and in 2005 Dalry merged back into Augustine United (which was its mother church) and

Isobel became a member of AUC. Isobel came regularly to worship, to the Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC and to any events which were happening. She was a very reliable person, which could be seen at church events, but also in her visits to her family.

Isobel has no children of her own, but was very fond of her niece Anne and family. Anne and husband cared for and saw a lot of Isobel. Every Friday she would come for tea at 5pm and they could set their clock by her arrival. Isobel was gutted by Anne's early death due to breast cancer, but Robert continued to offer her support and she continued as long as she was able to visit her great niece Gillian and family at 5pm on a Friday. Isobel was very fond of Gillian & Gary and their children Stacy & Danielle, along with Danielle's partner Dave.

Isobel really liked going out and she like her food. If she wasn't out visiting family or at a church event, she popped down to the St Bride's Centre for lunch. She liked shopping in second hand shops where she would both deposit and buy. Her flat was stuffed full, as she had a habit of not just keeping things but also the boxes they came in. Isobel was quiet but had a bright mind – she could rattle through a crossword – and along with her routineness and quietness, Isobel was always kind.

When niece Anne died in 2011 she was buried in Cranshaws graveyard, and Isobel was buried alongside her, back surrounded by the hills she grew up with. As Auntie, friend and church member, we are thankful for Isobel's life.

Rev Fiona Bennett

Charles Somerville

It is with sadness we pass on to readers the news that Charles Somerville passed away at the end of January. A full tribute to Charles will be included in the next edition of Seeds.

In the meantime our thoughts and prayers rest with the Somerville's.

In January, Junior Church explored the theme of The Beatitudes. These blessings are surprising and sometimes turn things upside down! We explored this theme with art, and by making 'Blessing Bags', decorating these, and filling them with some surprising foods!

In February we are moving on to a new theme – 'Lost and Found'. We'll start with a Godly Play story about the Parable of the Good Shepherd and share a Feast afterwards then we will explore this theme through cooking and games. We'll have a Joint Service towards the end of the month, and we'll learn about a new way for children and adults to help fundraise....the Penny Pots may be gone, but we'll have something new for your pennies soon!



"There was once somebody who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people followed him.....Once when they asked who he was, he said "I am the Good Shepherd....I know each one of my sheep by name."

Words from 'The Parable of the Good Shepherd' from Volume 3, The Complete Guide to Godly Play by Jerome Berryman.

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).

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.

Calendar

February 2017		Season of Wellbeing
Saturday 4 th	1.30pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group)
Sunday 5 th	10am	Music Group
	11am	Morning Worship with Communion and Blessing of a Baby
Monday 6 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Bertha Walker – Handbags
Tuesday 7 th	7.15 for 7.30pm	Church Council Meeting at 12 Newmarket Road
Friday 10 th	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Bible Study on Matthew 20:1-16 'Labourers in the Vineyard' at Church of Scotland offices, 121 George Street
Sunday 12 th	11am	Morning Worship, led by Laurence Wareing
	12.30pm	Church Meeting: Introduction to Mindfulness, led by Rev. Maxwell Reay
Monday 13 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Springwell House Choir
Tuesday 14 th	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study: Titus 3:1-11 'Quarrels'
Friday 17 th	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Bible Study on Numbers 27:1-11 at Church of Scotland offices, 121 George Street
Saturday 18 th	1.30pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group)
Sunday 19 th	11am	TLC Student Sunday Service, with Communion, led by Rev Ali Newell at St Columba's by the Castle
	7pm	Refugio at Greyfriars
Monday 20 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall: Corstorphine Hill
Tuesday 21 st	7.30pm- 9pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Thursday 23 rd	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake and Conversation
Saturday 25 th	6.45-9pm	Our Tribe: History Month Celebration
Sunday 26 th	11am	Morning Worship for LGBTI History Month, led by Nicola Robinson and Rev Graham McGeoch (TBC)
	12.30pm	Church Lunch
	2-3pm	'Old Favourites' Hymn Sing
Monday 27 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall: Bring and Buy Sale
Tuesday 28 th		Shove Tuesday
	7.30pm	Spirituality Book Group
March 2017		Season of Lent
Wednesday 1 st	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service at St. Columba's by the Castle
Friday 3 rd	2.30pm	World Day of Prayer Service at St Patrick's RC (on the Cowgate)
Saturday 4 th	10.30- 12pm & 2.30-4pm	Fairtrade 'Big Brew' (details of location on church notice boards)
	1.30pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group)
Sunday 5 th	10am	Giff Day Bacon Roll Breakfast and Music Group
	11am	Morning Worship with Communion

Please note that the deadline for material for the next issue is Friday 24th February.

You can send your material to 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.