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The
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Season of Remembrance, By Rev Fiona Bennett

The Season of Remembrance is the time at the end of the Church year when we look back to draw wisdom and insight on how to live well. This October provided us with two particular opportunities to look back, which I feel have offered much to aid our thinking about the present and future.

Marking the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation, and remembering (at book group) Martin Luther nailing the 95 Thesis on the Cathedral door, was a reminder that Luther was not trying to create a new church. Luther was trying to reform the existing church. He had come to the conclusion that many of the Church's practices were getting in the way of people seeing and understanding Jesus message of God's Salvation for all. He wanted the Church to reform its customs and teachings so that it would help, rather than hinder, the Gospel. Life has a funny way of

working out, but 500 years later as part of the Reformed tradition, Luther's concerns still hold sway. A challenging question for us today is: within our Reformed tradition today, how do our practices and teaching get in the way of Jesus' message and how much do they help to spread it? What do we need to change and adapt to be more effective for God?

Marking the 100 year anniversary of Erik Routley's birth was another gift of remembering a person who, like Luther, worked hard to make the practices and teaching of the Church help and not hinder in the spreading the Gospel. As part of a movement of hymn writing in the 1960s, Erik was a leader in encouraging people to write and use hymns which expressed the reality of God's hope of Salvation in our world today.

I do not believe Erik wrote his hymns as eternal texts, but beautiful servants

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)

Rev Maxwell Reay

revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com

Peace & Justice

(Commitment for Life)

Harriet Davidson

harrietdavidson@hotmail.com

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

Fiona Somerville

rota.auc@gmail.com

Local Community

Volunteering

Della Morris

dellagreenlanes@gmail.com

<1 of the Gospel in their time and place. "All who love and serve our city" is a fine example of this. It bears witness to the eternal Kingdom values of justice and peace, sought for in Erik's context. The reflections on Erik's life at the service on Oct 31st left me challenged as to how we can use our best skill and craft to witness to the message of God's salvation for all life through our worship, theology, customs and art today. Much to think about for the present and future.

*All who love and serve your city,
All who daily bear its stress
All who cry for peace and justice,
All who curse and all who bless.*

*In your day of loss and sorrow
In your day of helpless strife
Honour, peace and love retreating
Seek the Lord, who is your life.*

*In your day of wealth and plenty
Wasted work and wasted play
Call to mind the word of Jesus
"I must work while it is day"*

*For all days are days of judgement
And the Lord is waiting still
Drawing near to those who spurn him
Offering peace and Calvary's hill.*

*Risen Lord, shall yet the city
Be the city of despair?
Come today, our Judge, our Glory;
Be its name "The Lord is here"*

E R Routley

CCLI 1133487



On Sunday 19th, Transgender Remembrance Sunday, there will be a retiring collection for the Global Justice Institute. The GJI, founded by Metropolitan Community Churches in 2006, supports the work of LGBTQI and human rights activists across the world. For more information see:

www.globaljusticeinstitute.org/

After this there will be a stall selling gifts, DVDs and some craft items (just in time for Christmas!).

Election of Elders to Church Council

Elder elections will be being held at our Church Business Meeting on Sunday 26th November.

Ben Forsyth and Doris Caldwell have each completed two consecutive three-year terms, and Stephen Hoare has completed two three-year terms plus an additional one year. All three are therefore due to stand down, at least for the time being.

Nominations should be submitted to the Church Secretary, Kathleen Ziffo, **at least 3** days prior to the meeting (that's Thurs 23rd Nov). The nominations must be on paper, including the nominator's and seconder's signatures, and be made with the nominee's permission.

The Minister, Elders and Office Bearers are now also Trustees of Augustine and must be able to meet the Scottish Charity Regulators guidelines for Trustees. Further details are available from Kathleen.

Kathleen Ziffo

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

Throughout November we are hoping to receive household items to be delivered to FreshStart – kitchen and bathroom items like towels, toiletries, cleaning products, cutlery and crockery, bed linen, curtains, small electrical goods etc.

They must be in good condition (or new).

Thank you!



Did you know we're looking to gain an eco congregation award for our efforts to honour God's creation? Part of this work is trying to make sure we're all aware of what we can do individually to better support our planet.

This month's tips:

- Only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need
- Try to eat a little (or a lot) less meat
- Switch off electrical appliances at the wall at night, though not the freezer! ;)

Remember the Mantra **“Reduce, Re-use, Recycle”** to cut down on waste.

Sing for Joy!

We currently have two musical opportunities:

Advent Choir – each year through the four weeks of Advent, AUC begins its worship with singing from the Advent Choir. The choir welcomes all ages and abilities. It meets to rehearse at 10am on the four Sundays through Advent (3,10,17,24 Dec). If you are interested please email/speak with Mike (mike.holroyd@icloud.com).

AUC Music Group – the AUC music group is starting back in Jan to offer music as communion is being served on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month. This group also welcomes singers and musicians of all abilities. It will meet to rehearse after communion services on the 1st and the 3rd Sundays, preparing music for the 'next' communion. If you are interested please email/speak with: Karl (karl_macrae@hotmail.com) or Mike (mike.holroyd@icloud.com)

All About Eve

For years, my daughter's been telling me: "Dad, you should write your life story".

And I would think, "But wouldn't that be just awfully dull?" Because, at the end of the day, my life is my life and doesn't seem to me to be that special or interesting.

So it came as a bit of a surprise this Fringe to find myself in the Traverse theatre performing a show I'd co-written, called EVE, that was all about my life. With pictures and everything.

We'd started, me and Chris Goode, my co-writer, with a bag of old photographs that I'd scattered all over the floor...

...And a large roll of paper we tacked up on the wall that became the timeline. And it and the photos began to tell the story of my life. And that was how the play began.

I needed a co-writer because writing a play about your own life is not as easy as it might appear.

For one thing, the big temptation is to put things in the play because they actually happened rather than because there's a real dramatic need for them. For another, whenever I try to write about being trans I tend to get tangled up in all the dreadful shame that I suffered when I was young. And then I very quickly begin to imagine that everything I have written on the subject is completely worthless.

But through all this dear, fierce, strong Chris somehow kept me right and also beautifully crafted the play's structure.

But still, in the early days of rehearsal, and especially when I began performing runs of the play in front of other people, I would often find myself thinking: "Surely they must all think this just incredibly dull?"



And then gradually I began to understand the point of it.

Almost all of us trans people have been taught to be deeply, deeply ashamed of ourselves. And when I first understood who I was, I was so ashamed I really believed that if anyone knew who I was I would die.

And not only did I hide myself from other people, I hid myself from myself.

The best antidote to shame is pride. And the journey to pride begins with disclosure.

With telling people: "I am who I am and I will not hide any more".

And that was why it was so important to tell my story, and not a fictional one.

It seems to have worked, because so often straight people and cis-gendered people would come up to me after the show and tell me how moved they'd been by it. And I began to understand that the strange sniffing sound I would so often hear during the show was not due to a plague of colds but instead was the sound of people crying.

To be honest I don't really know what I was doing to make it happen. In the play, I show pictures of my past selves, and I talk to them in their unhappiness and give them my support and love.

Perhaps that had something to do with it. I remember one very conventional looking gentleman coming up to me afterwards, clearly deeply moved, thanking me so profusely because I had helped him come to terms with his past.

I think what makes me proud about all this is that I have made cis-gendered people relate to and empathise with a trans woman's story.

<4 I remember when I first came out one of the nastiest things that happened to me was people standing very close to me and very openly talking about me as if I wasn't there.

"It looks like a man", they would say to each other, very loudly, and laugh derisively.

And I would never know what to say.

But what they taught me, and what their use of the word "it" taught me in particular, was that in order to maintain prejudice against people we absolutely have to dehumanise them.

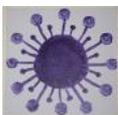
And once we have felt ourselves dehumanised, we reinforce the prejudice because we feel so

worthless.

Learning to tell, and becoming able to listen to, our own stories helps us value them.

More than that: telling our story in a way that enables people to understand and empathise is perhaps that is the most powerful weapon against prejudice that there is. **Jo Clifford**

I hope you enjoyed this wonderful update from Jo as much as I did. Keep your eyes peeled in the coming editions for an update on Jo's travels with her play Jesus Queen of Heaven. ~ed.



Cooking Up A Storm!



Augustine Assignments is happy to share a recipe book!

Some have been distributed to AUC, Grayfriars, and Saint Columba's, along with the books shared with participating youth. Full of prayers we wrote or shared as a group, and things we made together, or discussed, this recipe book is probably a bit unusual.

Last year, Augustine Assignments, the ecumenical group of 11-18 year old aged youth, focused on history, social justice, and baking. We did this by looking at the history of specific ingredients like sugar and chicken domestication for eggs, reading about how to be peacemakers, and then making food together and discussing scripture and empowerment. Particularly meaningful things we shared included the comic book of The Montgomery Story about Martin Luther King Jr. and the See Me mental health campaign's What's on Your Mind card (found here: www.seemescotland.org/young-people/young-peoples-mental-health/resources).

One error in the book is that the recipe included for the banana bread is different from the one used in the youth group. I apologise for the error. (*I think we'll let you off!* ~ ed.)

To see more of what we have been up to see

our Tumblr page or Facebook:

aucassignments.tumblr.com and www.facebook.com/aucassignments

If you would like a copy of the recipe book and did not get the chance to pick one up, feel free to email aucassignments@gmail.com and something can probably be arranged. Do keep in mind that donating to AUC helps make recipe books like this possible.

And I hope to see more youth as we look forward to our meetings this autumn about God. Sessions are 11th and 25th November and 2nd and 16th December, 2-4pm.

Elizabeth Bay

Assignments Sauerkraut

Mix five pounds of shredded cabbage with 3tbs salt. Pack the mixture tightly into an earthenware pot or jar (glass works fine), keeping the cabbage beneath the water level (which comes from water being drawn out the cabbage). Remember, the sauerkraut is fermenting and gases will form if sealed, so usually cover with cloth or open to release gases at least once a day. Test every day until you like the taste.

Recipe adapted from Wild Fermentation by Sandor Ellix Katz

Prophetic Peden

What follows is a transcript of the reflection I gave at the Stewardship service in October. In my research, I relied heavily on the Dictionary of National Biography.

My name is Alex Peden, and in this reflection on stewardship I want to talk about another Alexander Peden. The Reverend Alexander Peden was born in 1626 in Ayrshire in Scotland. He was a Presbyterian minister and Covenanter. The Covenanters played an important role in Scottish Reformation history. In 1638 a large group, in the gardens of Greyfriars Kirk, signed a covenant to remain true to the principles of their reformed faith.

Life became hard for the Covenanters when King Charles II was restored to the throne, as he wanted a return to Episcopalian traditions. Peden refused to accept these changes and consequently he became a marked man. Ejected from his own church, Peden took to field preaching. He used a mask and wig to evade the authorities, which are on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

Why am I telling you about Alexander Peden? It is because I want you to consider the question 'What is church?'. For Peden, following his ejection, church was a conventicle. These were unofficial religious meetings, often held outdoors, like at Peden's pulpit in Ayrshire. They were illegal. Peden, at one time, was captured and imprisoned for four years on the bass rock, and then the Edinburgh Tolbooth, next to St Giles.

But what is church to you? The Elders have been thinking hard about what Augustine United Church, stand for. Work is still in progress, but there are recurrent themes. Our liberal theology, our inclusivity, our though-provoking worship, our concern for peace and justice, our commitment to Christian Education for children and adults, and our activities, both reflective and outward looking. These are all important to us. Have we missed anything?

Some say Peden had prophetic powers. I have some prophecies of my own. The first is that the United Reformed Church is shrinking. In the future, we will need a strong vision of ourselves

to justify our entitlement to a full-time minister.

My second prophesy is that our most active members have been working hard for many years, and there will soon come a time when they need a rest. If we are to survive and inspire new people to manage our building or build our community, they will need a strong sense of purpose and the solace of knowing that there are many others co-participating, in some way, in that vision. We don't just need it: it is part of our vision that Augustine is a participatory church.

The structure of our church in its current form is based on seven church life ministry teams.

The **Membership team** is coordinated by myself and we always need new ideas for building our community and communicating our vision internally and to the wider city. We need people who can help keep our website and social media fresh and full of content.

The **Children & Youth team** is coordinated by Kirsty Murray and a number of new people have stepped forward to help this team, but it is always looking for new ideas.

The **Worship & Education team**, coordinated by Fiona Bennett, needs people to create, lead and develop our Inclusive worship.

The **Our Tribe team**, coordinate by Maxwell Raey, needs people with skills, passion and new ideas for LGBTQI ministry.



Peden's mask (above) and Pulpit (below)



The **Centre, Finance & Property team**, coordinated by Tom Murray, needs those with the skills to maintain and fund our building in a state fit for its ministry and mission.

The **Justice & Peace team**, coordinated by Harriet Davidson, has the potential to be one of the most inspiration teams. It needs activists to pray and campaign for justice in our world.

The **Pastoral team**, coordinated by Doris Caldwell, needs people with a passion in pastoral care to support both simple and complex pastoral concerns and mental health needs. But it also needs people to think up and organise outings and social events, as these provide powerful therapy.

In addition to these teams, Fiona Somerville organises the **Sunday Rota**. Everyone on this rota has an invaluable role in ensuring our welcome. If any of you would like to join the rota, but you are

unsure of what is involved, the membership team can advise and can adapt roles if necessary. Above all, if you think you have something, anything, to offer please speak to one of these coordinators. Their contact details are in this magazine (p.2) and on the website.

Unfortunately, there is much to our vision, for which the Reverend Peden would disapprove. He would have been aghast that this Alexander Peden, in the first decade of this century, had signed an ecumenical covenant—in the gardens of Greyfriars Kirk no less—between our church, Greyfriars and St Columba's-by-the-Castle church! But one connection we have with Peden and his followers is that they clearly saw no separation between themselves and the love of God, and they were willing to take risks to express their faith.

Alex Peden

Does Augustine need a defibrillator?

It is increasingly common to see Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in busy public places, community buildings or other places where large numbers of people have access. You may well have seen them mounted on walls in places you visit. Their purpose is to restart the heart of a cardiac arrest victim as soon as possible.

In developed countries sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of premature death and a victim's chances of survival reduce by 7-10% with every minute defibrillation is delayed. While treatment of victims is best carried out by trained people, the equipment can be successfully used by untrained lay people to maximise the victim's chances of survival with little or no downside.

We have been asked to consider whether Augustine should get the equipment to discharge our duties of care to congregation, staff, users and the general public who simply pass by. The choice of equipment is wide and the cost varies from not very much to very expensive indeed. We are seeking advice from the Scottish Ambulance Service, who operate a scheme to register the availability of AEDs in the community for use in emergencies.

We may have to spend £1,000 to £1,500 on the equipment and look to expanding the number of people with some first aid training to make the project most effective.

Is this a project that you would be prepared to support with money or your time to undertake some training? Please let me know (murray.tom@blueyonder.co.uk or in person) if this is a project you may be prepared to support.



Tom Murray

Shoes and Socks Requested for Crisis Centre



The Crisis Centre is run by an amazing organisation called Streetwork. Folk experiencing homelessness and a multitude of related obstacles to finding settled accommodation are welcomed by staff at the Crisis Centre who work very hard to assist the person to navigate their way through the complex housing, health and welfare system. People also come to have a shower, get their clothes laundered, find new clothes, store their possessions, have a cuppa, or charge up mobile phones.

Streetwork also send Outreach Workers to check on the welfare of our city's homeless citizens. I had the privilege of witnessing an Outreach Worker provide incredible compassion, respect and practical help in difficult circumstances.

FOR 25 YEARS WE'VE SUPPORTED PEOPLE'S LIVES OFF THE STREET.
Help us reach more people



Shoes are in demand at the Centre especially as the weather gets colder. One day I observed a pair of shoes being passed round several men. Eventually the shoes fitted one chap. I could not help but think of my wee daughter who has ballet shoes, tap shoes, gym trainers, party shoes, school shoes and Star Wars Wellingtons! Everyone needs shoes but if you are on the streets and winter is coming you really need a solid pair. So I wonder, if any of you have adult-sized spare shoes or boots in good condition, perhaps you could donate them, please? And it would be super useful if you could pop a pair of same sized socks into the shoes. The box is kept in the Hymn Book Cupboard. Thank you,

Lindsay Macdonald

Advance Notice!

The Augustine Concert will be on Sunday 10th December from 3-5 pm

Pop it in your diary!

Our Tribe News

Our Tribe has been going since 2010 and we decided it was time to review our monthly Saturday evening events. We have developed a questionnaire which is available at church in a paper format or can be completed online by following the link:



<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WMZS6W9>

We are hoping to organise face-to-face consultation at Coffee, Cake and Conversation. We appreciate your feedback in any way that you choose to give it. Contact Maxwell Reay on revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com for further information.

'Come Out' with Our Tribe

In the meantime, join us for a new Our Tribe social event which will take place on the first Sunday of each month at Starbucks, Middle Meadow Walk, Edinburgh from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Dates are Sunday 5th November, Sunday 3rd December and Sunday 7th January 2018. There will be no Saturday events during the Autumn and Winter period.

Michael Smyth

Michael died peacefully, at St Margaret's Care Home, Edinburgh, on 4th October. He was formerly Senior Lecturer in the Dept. of Astronomy at the Royal Observatory.

Michael first went to the Royal Observatory as an astronomer in 1951 with his new wife Mary. They also came to Augustine Bristo Church (now Augustine United). They departed in 1954 for Dublin but returned in 1959, firstly to 14 Observatory Road and then in 1965 to the larger 18 Observatory Road which was just a few hundred yards further up to the observatory itself. They gained two sons, Patrick who was born in Edinburgh in 1952 and Timothy (Tim) in Dublin in 1955. The occasional extravagances included an extensive electric model railway set (we only had clockwork) and a series of Jaguars and Daimlers.

Michael had a real presence. He was always neatly turned out; had a warmth about him; twinkling eyes and a sense of humour that revelled in the ridiculous, the quirky and odd coincidences. He was a natural teacher and always very encouraging. He was a very active member of the congregation and an office bearer. He was reserved, but not self-effacing, when thought necessary. Elegant and witty, a highlight was an early exposition to church members on the big bang theory, elegantly described for all of us to hear and understand.

Michael was a great hill walker, completing all the Munros (Scottish mountains over 3000ft) and the Wainwrights (all the best big hills in the Lake District). Climb every mountain he did!

We remember with fondness three recent birthdays. His 80th birthday party was at the Royal Society of Edinburgh where he was a Fellow. Without notes and with Mary at his side, he gave an entertaining speech littered with anecdotes and involving everyone in the room. His eyes would alight on a table and he would spot someone and launch into explanations as to what part they played in his life and tales of scrapes they had got into together. He recalled visiting us in New York in 1982. We were too

mean to run the air conditioner in our house on Staten Island, but made an exception for his visit. What happened? The air conditioner went up in a puff of smoke much to Michael's apparently lasting amusement (we never turned in on again).

On his 85th birthday, he was still living at Observatory Road and, although a little more confused by this stage, he was sharp enough to remark that 85 was an interesting age, being the product of two prime numbers (17 & 5). By this time we were giving him lifts to church on a Sunday (he all the while plotting how he might drive himself there again one day in his beloved Jaguar). He would amuse himself and us with songs from his youth; tales of rowing in his student days; and tales from holidays taken. He had carers who he called his "lovely ladies" and we think he sang to them too!

His 90th birthday came last year and by now he was in St. Margaret's Care Home. Sitting regally whilst guests took turns to chat to him, he was in very good spirits and remembered who most people were. Sense of humour still in evidence, when it was our turn, it seemed he was most intent on teasing Robert about his beard.

We will remember Michael as an intellectual with the common touch; a scientist with a natural curiosity; a born teacher; a sense of humour that was both funny and clever; his delight in the quirky; his kindness; and someone who was always interested in others.

Robert & Fiona Somerville



The Centenary of the Balfour Declaration of 1917.



Is this a time of celebration or of contrition for British people?



The 2nd November, 2017 was the centenary of the Balfour Declaration in 1917. At the time Arthur Balfour was British Foreign Secretary (he was previously Prime Minister from 1902-5); on behalf of the UK Government, he agreed to the Jewish

Zionists' aspirations to have their own homeland in Palestine (now the state of Israel). The Statement in his letter of 2/11/1917 to Lord Rothschild (who represented the British Zionist Federation) says:

"His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

This Centenary is a great cause of celebration for Jewish people in Israel and many millions around the world – though not by any means all the millions of Jewish people worldwide! Many people of all faiths and none would, and do, argue that the 3rd-4th line in this statement ("...it being clearly understood that nothing may be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine...") has

clearly been contradicted in relation to the Palestinian people.

This 1917 pledge has had fateful and continuing consequences for the Middle East and the world. It paved the way for the birth of Israel in 1948, but also for the eventual defeat and dispersal of Palestinians, and the struggles and deprivation of Arab people in Israel and the Palestinian territories now occupied by Israel to this day (Muslim, Christian, non-religious and even some Jewish Arabs).

There are additionally contested versions of what was actually promised to Palestinian and Jewish groups in 1917— some say that Palestinians also were promised a homeland in negotiations (and that this was later renegeed on).

No matter the actuality of what happened, Britain (and France) certainly at that time had imperial ideas, colonial mindsets, and wartime propaganda was rife; never mind any Biblical understanding (or misunderstanding) which contributed to the decision. Historian Elizabeth Monroe has previously said that "it has been the biggest mistake of our imperial history".

How should we remember this Centenary and how do we take forward the legacy left to us?

Kathleen Ziffo



The Centenary of the Balfour Declaration of 1917.



To accompany our reflection on the centenary, we reproduce here an article from the URC's Moving Stories newsletter which provides an update on life in Gaza.

In Gaza, after nearly ten years of blockade and isolation from the rest of the occupied Palestinian Territories, due to Israeli policies and internal political division, almost 80% of the population rely on humanitarian assistance. In recent months, the impact of this can be clearly seen through the electricity crisis.

The Gaza Power Plant (GPP) shut down in April after exhausting its fuel supplies, and electricity supplied by Israel was cut by 33% at the request of the Palestinian Authority in June. Imports of fuel from Egypt have allowed a partial resumption in operations at the GPP, but electricity supplies are far below the needs of the population. Even before the current crisis, Gaza received only 50% of its overall power needs from all sources. Gaza now has daily blackouts of 18-20 hours, with many homes receiving just two hours of mains electricity per day and essential services and infrastructure are severely affected, including desalination plants which are only able to operate at 15% capacity, leaving tens of thousands without regular access to drinking water.



Electricity shortages, and severe shortages of essential medicines and medical disposals are also severely impacting medical care and have meant significant reductions in vital hospital services. As of May 2017, 31% of 516 essential medicines were completely out of stock, including half of all drugs for the treatment of cancer and 32% of medical disposals were at 'zero stock' meaning less than a month's supply is available, and nurses in neonatal intensive care units have reportedly had to hand-ventilate babies for up to 50 minutes due to power cuts. With these shortages, the need for patients to leave Gaza to seek treatment is ever more pressing. However, in May, Israel approved permits for under half (47%) of all patients needing to exit Gaza for treatment elsewhere in OPT or abroad and since the start of the year, at least 22 patients are reported to have died after exit for treatment was blocked.



Christian Aid continues to work with partners in Gaza to alleviate the humanitarian crisis and support individuals and communities to rebuild, establish livelihoods and access essential services. In East Jerusalem and the West Bank, they and their partners, support people to stay on their land, to access markets for their goods and are developing new projects to support the high numbers of unemployed Palestinian young people to access employment and economic opportunities. They also continue to work with both Israeli and Palestinian organisations who work to document and highlight human rights violations by all parties as they seek to bring justice for victims and advocate for an end to this conflict.

If you enjoyed this article you can find more from the series here: www.unc.org.uk/mission/commitment-for-life/resources-c4l.html. Or email lmeadcforl@gmail.com to receive updates.

Alan Dickinson

Older members may remember Alan Dickinson who died very peacefully on 27th September aged 87. He and his wife Helen, and their young family, worshipped at Augustine in the 1960s and later joined the Society of Friends. He was a very eminent scientist and founding Director of the Neuropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh. He pioneered the strain-typing of scrapie and alerted the world to the risks of contracting CJD from BSE and human growth hormone treatment – work that saved many lives. Alan was also a great gardener and the Dickinson's garden at Greenfield Lodge, Lasswade, was among other things home to the national collection of *Chionodoxa*. He was also a lifelong socialist who cared passionately about social justice.

Robert & Fiona Somerville

Pastoral Care

*“...bearing with one another in love...”
(Ephesians 4:2)*

At AUC, we aim to provide a web of care which promotes growth in relationships and good spiritual/mental health, through both informal and formal contacts.

If you are looking for individual support please contact a minister: **Rev Fiona Bennett** (minister.auc@gmail.com) or **Rev Maxwell Reay** (revmaxwell.auc@gmail.com).

As well as offering 1:1 support in the setting which is most appropriate for you, they can link you with the pastoral visiting team which offers regular support to the housebound.

Prayer requests are welcomed. They can be shared with the ministers either directly or via Nicola in 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-12pm 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 and the office are on the cover of Seeds)



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

Farewell

Erik Routley was Minister here 1959-67. We marked 100 years since his birth in October. This is his farewell letter to the church, produced in Movement, then the joint magazine of Augustine and St-Columba's-by-the-Castle.

I am not even sure whether, by the time you read this, I shall still be in Edinburgh. I shall probably have said all my Goodbyes to the Augustinians; but I must say that it grieves me very little less to have to say Goodbye to the Columbans. The friendship which has grown up between our two congregations is one of the happiest things that I shall remember about Edinburgh. Allow me to say to the Columbans as I have said to our own people that I hope you will find yourselves in Newcastle at some time, and that if you are you will remember where St. James's Manse is - namely at 13A Linden Road, Gosforth.

Those of you who were at our Anniversary Conference in the spring, when we talked about the role of the city church, have heard of St. James, because one of the documents we put in as evidence came from there. It is a central church whose people have already done a good deal of thinking along the lines we were following at our conference, and who hope that some of their dreams may come true. Whether it will be my job to get them airborne, or to pull them down to earth, or just to get out of the way, remains to be seen; but it is an exciting prospect.

So off we go to Hallowe'en, and you go into the second year of 'Movement'. What will you be dreaming up in the coming years? In a sense it's none of my business: but I can't help having some hopes and wishes for your future.

One thing I profoundly hope for is a new leaf turned over in the matter of church relations in Scotland. I don't think I want the 'ecumenical movement' as we know it speeded up. That is not what I mean. If anything, I am afraid that in some things we have gone a little too fast. I personally don't feel at all worried at the sight of different groups of Christians doing things in different ways. The elimination of the difference between the Church Hymnary and the English Hymnal isn't what I understand by ecumenical

movement.

What I do understand by it is the removal of genuine abominations: of ignorant bitterness, of press-inspired vendettas, of demonic prejudice. To be brutally plain, there is a more genuine hatred about than I care to see. Occasionally it crops up in conversation: sometimes it gets into the papers. How I should love to see that done away! It won't be removed by pretending it isn't there. I feel that the proper work of our ecumenical machinery is going to become much more personal and dangerous before it comes really effective at the pew-level.

The other thing I hope for is the transformation of the lives of our city churches, and a closer concern between people and groups who see this matter from different angles. Our Central Churches' Council is soon going to be split between the people who think they are 'ecumenical' and the people who appear to that group to be 'unecumenical'. The engine is going to come uncoupled from the train. That would be a lamentable thing. 'Ecumenical' people simply must do their best to understand why other people simply aren't 'ecumenical', and thoroughly dislike people who are. Our Central Council, I think, is not there merely to promote the 'ecumenical movement' in forcing impersonal associations on different Christian groups. It must reconcile, not divide. The kind of patience this needs is not the kind with which the most strenuous people are well endowed. That's the lesson which PND ought to have taught us.

The movement for understanding between Christian groups is too good and godly a thing to be spoiled. If it is spoiled, it will be a case of *corruptio optimi pessimum*, which means roughly that the best eggs taste worst when they go bad.

Warmest greetings to you all, and my most hearty thanks for all the friendship and cheerful memories you have left with me. **Erik Routley**

Our module for October was "Noah – Rainbow Promise".

Our Godly Play story 'The Ark and the Flood' prompted some animated discussion. How did all those different creatures cope on an Ark? What does the story say about God – is God a serial killer?! Why don't we know Noah's wife's name? Where in the Bible is this story?



We ate some delicious animal snacks – two by two!

Afterwards we made some real rainbows in the darkness (in the theatre space) using CDs and torches.



Our new module is 'Abraham and Sarah'. We'll be exploring this story through science, Godly Play, games, and reading the 'Great Big Book of Feelings' by Mary Hoffman as part of our focus on mental wellbeing.

We might be starting to think about Christmas gifts..!

Coming up next month...our module will be 'Advent' – see December/January edition of Seeds for more details! Your Godly Play storyteller is going on a retreat...I wonder what that will be like?



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

AUC Worship Services at 11am on Sundays at AUC, George IV Bridge. (All events at AUC, unless otherwise stated. Later updates on website/notice sheet)

November		Season of Remembrance
Friday 3 rd	10am	Walk and Talk session (see below)
Sunday 5 th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion. Preacher: Rev Leslie Morrison
	12.45pm	Church Business Meeting
	2.30-4.30pm	'Come Out' with Our Tribe at Starbucks on Middle Meadow Walk
Monday 6 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – Linton Adie Choir
Tuesday 7 th	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study
Friday 10 th	10am	Walk and Talk session
Saturday 11 th	2-4pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group)
Sunday 12 th	10.45am	Morning Worship for Remembrance Sunday
Monday 13 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – Bring & Buy
Tuesday 14 th	7.30pm	Spirituality Book Group
Friday 17 th	10am	Walk and Talk session
Sunday 19 th	11am	Morning Worship with Communion for Transgender Remembrance Sunday. Preacher: Rev Mike Holroyd
Monday 20 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – Live Music
Friday 24 th	10am	Walk and Talk session
Saturday 25 th	2-4pm	Augustine Assignments (Youth Group)
Sunday 26 th	11am	Morning Worship
	12.30pm	Church Business Meeting, with Election of Elders
	5-6.30pm	Ecological Advent Calendar Making, led by Elizabeth Bay
Monday 27 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – Christmas Choir & Carols
Tuesday 28 th	7.30-9pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
Thursday 30 th	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
December		Season of Advent
Sunday 3 rd	11am	Morning Worship with Communion. Preacher: Rev Trevor Jamison
	12.45pm	Church Lunch and Advent Making Party
	2.30-4.30pm	'Come Out' with Our Tribe at Starbucks on Middle Meadow Walk

Walk and Talk sessions meet at 10am for 10.15am start. Meet outside the National Gallery, by the columns at the front entrance at the bottom of the Mound. There will be a leisurely 2 mile walk, finishing at a café for chat and a cuppa by 12.



Psst! Remember, the service on Sunday 12th November starts at 10.45am to allow us to observe Remembrance Sunday.

Please note the deadline for material for the Dec-Jan issue is Sunday 26th November.

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.

