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Facing Chaos, By Rev Fiona Bennett

Lorenz - a mathematician with a fascination for weather - identified that even the tiniest variable like the beat of a butterfly's wing had the potential to effect the patterns of weather, and as there are so many tiny variables in the world it is not possible to predict the weather precisely – the Chaos Principle. And yet chaos is not randomness, as all chaotic phenomena can only vary within limits.

I have often considered the Chaos Principle in relation to life. Why some people experience extreme challenges and suffering while others do not can, in some way, be connected to their choices or the choices of other people which have an immediate or broad ripple effect on them, and yet sometimes why people experience what they do seems utterly random. The marathon running non-smoker who gets lung cancer or the person made homeless due to a hurricane – why does God allow this?

Is God cruel or is God not in control?

Based on the teaching of Jesus, the story of faith and my own experience, I would not say God is cruel - quite the opposite in fact - but I wonder what I mean when I ask the question "Is God in control?" Is it helpful to think of God like a giant CEO or puppeteer who controls every movement of life, or is that a very human expression of control which God has never aspired to? I wonder more if God is like a force in the universe who shapes us like the limits which contain chaos?

Martin Luther King once said: "The moral arc of the universe is long but it curves towards justice." A moral arc is not a quick or simple set of instructions but it shapes and steers all life over time. Perhaps as we experience or witness injustice or suffering in different forms, or feel that chaos reigns in the powers which shape our world and lives, we can

Getting Involved

Within AUC there are 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.

Centre, Property & Finance

Tom Murray

treasurer@augustine.org.uk

Children & Young People

Kirsty Murray

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Our Tribe (LGBTI Ministry)

Rev Maxwell Reay

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Harriet Davidson

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Anne MacKenzie

anne.mackenzie@augustine.org.uk

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

AUC Volunteering

Fiona Somerville

rota@augustine.org.uk

Local Community Volunteering

Della Morris

della.morris@augustine.org.uk

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away from some of the frustration as to why God is not fixing things, if we can trust and seek for the long arcs or shaping limits of love and justice God has patterned into the world. To know the God who is with us and never leaves us, is in the midst of all pain, weaving in us and with us abundant life for all, despite how things may appear, has the potential to offer a deep hope in face of all chaos.

We're changing email!

Seeds is joining the rest of the official AUC emails. Any submissions (which we are always delighted to gratefully receive!) should go to newsletter@augustine.org.uk.

Don't worry though, the old email address will still be checked for the next couple of months as we make the transition.



Eilidh (Seeds Editor)



Maxwell and Fiona (Team Rev) completed the kilt walk (24 -26 miles) on Sunday 16th September, raising around £600 for the mental health art exhibition in October. It runs from Wednesday 10th to Sunday 28th October at Summerhall. If you head along you'll be able to see the stain glass windows made by the art group!

A Very Bay Goodbye

Fri 12th Oct, 5-9pm @ AUC

AUC is a second home church for us, but we are beginning the process of returning to California (see p.3 for more on this!). We would like to celebrate the relationships we've grown together here.

In true American style, bring something to share (food) and something to drink (for yourself). Or, feel free to just stop by and say your goodbyes.

Everyone is welcome.

Elizabeth & Jonathan Bay



Goodbye For Now

As almost everyone knows I am leaving the third week of October to head back to California.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to AUC for being my home church away from home. I have learned so much from all of your graciousness and generosity. I hope you continue to be a church filled with love even as everyone is so different, and find a way to continue to welcome and change as new people come through the doors. Just like people looked out for Jonathan and I to make sure we were welcomed just under six years ago.

In particular, I wanted to say thank you for helping me claim a Christian and loving understanding of sexuality, for enabling my opportunity to learn about community development and for being a refuge as I worked through a challenging supervisor for my PhD. I am so grateful for this time to grow for myself, and for Jonathan and I as a couple.

Do not worry too much, I will visit for Christmas. And Jonathan isn't leaving anytime soon. I know you all have skills and boldness that far exceeds what I brought to AUC, and I can't wait to see what new and amazing things this community does next!

Much love, Elizabeth

Who am I? Who are you? Who are we?

Dear all,

I am looking forward to getting to know you as I join you monthly at AUC for the next nine months!



Photo: Alex & Jo on the day of Jo's ordination.

I'm Alex (they/them). I have been training for ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge, for 3 years, and have been married to Jo, who has just begun her ministry in Whitby and Scarborough, for 2 years. We live in Burniston with our dog, Digger, and enjoy reading, crafting, writing and going on adventures! I spent most of my childhood in Edinburgh and am looking forward to spending some more time there this year.

As a transmasculine Christian, I also work as a pastor, educator and advocate with and for

other trans people. My website is www.transgenderchristianhuman.com. If you would like to know more about this, or any other part of my life, just ask. I love chatting over a good coffee! I will also be asking some of you if you would like to meet with me to tell me more about AUC and your part in it.

When Paul says that 'in Christ there is neither Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female', I don't think he is talking about erasing our identities altogether; he is hinting at what it means to get to know each other. This newsletter hopefully helps you to start to get to know me and I look forward to getting to know you, with the understanding that, in Christ, we are already family; called to love each other.

I am Alex. This is me. Who are you? And who will we be together?

I look forward to finding out! **Peace, Alex**

Take a Tour...and tell us all about it.

The Augustine Visitor Ministry group is thinking about how we might develop urban pilgrimages. We are thinking about short tours that reflect on values and themes that are important to us, and which also help us engage with communities around George IV Bridge.

Here are two opportunities for you to join in this thinking.

1) Friday 9th November, 10am-12pm. "Walk and Talk" will be led by Simon Bendle from Mercat Tours. He will take us on a relaxed (free!) Royal Mile walk and we will ask ourselves "What makes a good tour"? If you can join us, please do. Everyone is welcome.

2) In your own time... Consider taking one of the many themed tours available in the city – explore our history, indulge your love of books or get to know Edinburgh through the voices of those who have experienced homelessness.

Let us know which tour you're going on and we will give you a short feedback form so you can tell us about your experience. Sign-up list and forms available in the foyer. If paying for a tour is a barrier for you, please have a quiet word with Tom Murray, our Treasurer, and we will be able to help.

Thank you for helping us – and enjoy your walk!

More information: Laurence Wareing
laurence.wareing@augustine.org.uk



Does Augustine need a defibrillator?



Last Autumn I wrote a short piece for Seeds asking the question: do we need a defibrillator? The answer was universal approval but a certain amount of trepidation about actually using such a device in the event of an emergency. Perhaps the result of watching too many hospital dramas!

We have identified a portable device that does its work fully automatically and requires no operator intervention apart from placing pads on the patient's chest. This seems to be ideal for our needs and we have had an anonymous and extremely generous donation to buy the equipment, which will now arrive shortly.

Staff and some volunteers will do some very simple training now and we will arrange wider training for anyone interested. It seems a very easy way to save a life.

Our initial thought is to place the equipment in the Church office or foyer with signage on the front door and around the building.

Our very grateful thanks to our anonymous donor for a generous gift to the Augustine congregation and those who use our building.

Tom Murray

Church Meeting Reports

At our September AUC Church Meeting we decided there should be a brief report of the meeting put into the next issue of Seeds, and in each Seeds thereafter – so here goes...

Why? We need to encourage more people to come to Church Meetings. This is the place for members and others to input into the life of *your* church, for which we are all responsible. The meetings *are open to everyone* – you don't have to be a member - we'd like YOU to come! Please let us know what you think about the business of the church and specific Christian concerns! Our alternate Church Meetings are discussions on particular themes. The October Meeting is a discussion about being inclusive – how can we become more truly inclusive of all sorts, ages and abilities, in our church life and activities? In November our meeting will again be about the business of our church, and/or Synod, our local churches and community.

From Sunday 7th October our Church Meetings will start immediately after worship at 12.15 pm.

Just bring your tea/coffee from the foyer straight back into the sanctuary for the start of the meeting. If you know you will feel peckish bring a sandwich! The meeting will finish by 1.15 pm.

What happens? Our Church Life Ministry Teams (CLMTs) - the teams where the work of AUC is done - update us on new developments or requests; other business comes up as necessary and attendees can initiate additional business).

Here's a flavour of what was discussed last month:

Worship (inc. education) CLMT: - Fiona explained the programme of services, and the new educational opportunities she is giving to have Bible study/study sessions each Sunday from 9.15–10.15 am, before worship.

Pastoral (inc. mental health) CLMT: Fiona and Anne led us in thinking about how we care for all members - in ways like the Coffee, Cake and Conversation events, the drop-in, visits to those at home or in hospital, the Walk & Talk group, lunches, etc.

Centre, Property & Finance CLMT: Tom reported that things had gone well for the Paradise Green Promotions (PGP) performances throughout the Fringe. He has now updated leases with PGP and Christian Aid. Unfortunately *the Studio ceiling had begun to crack, and very costly essential repairs had to be started! The ceiling has to come down and be replaced; we will take the opportunity to replace the lighting.* Our financial giving is ever more needed!

Visitors & Heritage CLMT: We heard of plans for Edinburgh Open Doors, when AUC would be open for the weekend to the public for the first time to welcome visitors who want to see the building! We had decided to highlight lots of our activities as well as things from our past! (*Note from Ed: we had 257 people visit in the end!*)

Children & Young People CLMT: We heard that Matt Baines has kindly taken over running our small Youth Group. We are so grateful to Elizabeth Bay who initiated Augustine Assignments. We thank Elizabeth very much as she returns to the USA in October. She has been so integral to the life of AUC these past several years – we will miss her hard work and thoughtful intelligent input in so many ways!

We also heard Steven Smillie has kindly agreed to take over minute-taking for Church Meetings from October. We have been fortunate to have had the wonderful services of Ian Johnson for more than a few years. Thank you so much, Ian! Della will now be taking orders for Reform (our denominational magazine); thanks to Ivy who did this most recently.

I will be briefer in future issues – but felt it necessary to give some indication of how Church Meeting works and its importance to the existence of AUC! There are opportunities for input, as well as receiving reports. Please remember that those telling us about what is going on, are only doing so because we have given them permission to work on our behalf.

Responsibility lies with each and every Augustine member and attender.

Kathleen Ziffo - Church Secretary

David Coleman's Induction



You can view more amazing pictures from the service at www.flickr.com/photos/digitalministry4/sets/72157697910017252



They were snapped by Karen Bass, while Tamsin operated the projector.



Getting to Know You

My name is... David J.M. Coleman, accompanied some of the time by son Taliesin (Talie) and daughter Melangell (Millie).

We live in a Church of Scotland flat about 25 mins (fast) walk from Augustine, with Roland the Manse Cat.

I am a URC minister who has been appointed for five years to encourage Scottish churches of whatever kind in realising the environmental potential of Christianity. And we're certainly not ruling out work with others of goodwill: the Muslim group that has begun to be in touch with the URC is also showing an interest.

My favourite place would probably be somewhere near Iona, or maybe the top of a

mountain. Or one of those wonderful white-sand Scottish beaches with no one else around. On a sunny day, with wild waves!

My favourite hymn... Well, it depends on what you're looking for for any given occasion.

I don't often get the chance to use St Patrick's Breastplate, but what's not to like about a majestic and magical text and tune, which stops halfway through a verse, changes tune entirely, and then encompasses the whole of Creation?!

**Love & peace,
David**

Express Yo'Self Challenge

Our Youth Group, formerly known as Augustine Assignments, currently going by the title TLC Youth Group and in the process of picking a permanent name (*Still with me? Good!*), has been set a challenge by new leader extraordinaire Matt. He's here to tell you a little bit more about it and also to share a little inspiration to get the creative juices flowing!

At our meeting on Sunday 16th September we looked at what matters most to us and the guidance Jesus offered on setting our priorities. I wonder if anything has changed for you in the way you think about your priorities and what really matters? If nothing else, I hope that our time together has helped you to reflect more clearly and deeply on your priorities and to express them in ways which are real and authentic to you. I have a challenge for you to attempt before we next meet on **Sunday 14th October** to help you think about and express what's important to you in a creative way. Read on...

The Challenge:

- Friday 21st September is **National Doodle Day**.
- Thursday 4th October is **National Poetry Day**.

Your challenge is to do one of the following:

- Draw a doodle on a A4 or A3 piece of paper on the theme of what is important to you.
- Write a short poem on the theme of what is important to you.
- Write a short poem and decorate it with a doodle on an A4 or A3 piece of paper on the theme of what is important to you.

Everyone who completes the challenge will win a small but satisfying prize! (Grown-ups reading this article, we'd love you to get creative with us, but prizes are just for those attending youth group!) Don't worry about creating a masterpiece though. The **important thing** is to create something that expresses **what matters to you**. Have fun with it!

Matt Baines

Interview with a Doodler

I (Matt) am here with Geoffrey Baines, who as well as being a university chaplain and doodle-artist, is also my dad.

Matt: Hi Dad, how do you do?

Geoffrey: I am doodling good.

Matt: Very good. A little doodling humour. So, how long have you been doodling for?

Geoffrey: Almost 5 years now.

Matt: Tell me a little about what got you started...

Geoffrey: I prayer-journal every day, often



finding myself exploring ideas from technology, entrepreneurship, the environment, society and the arts. My thought was to develop a blog out of this but I wanted to include a challenge, so what I came up with was to blog every day for a year (2014) as long as I could include a doodle with the blog. Do you want to know where the doodling idea came from?

Matt: Absolutely, why doodle?

Geoffrey: One of my favourite writers, Seth Godin, produced an illustrated alphabet book entitled 'V is for Vulnerable.' The artist was Hugh Macleod who developed doodling and blogging out of doodling on the back of business cards at the end of the workday as a graphic designer. I loved his ideas but also his doodles. I thought, "I could do that." So he's my inspiration.

Matt: So, would you say that the simplicity of the idea attracted you to it?

Geoffrey: Yes, and that simple can also be elegant, even beautiful.

Matt: Elegant is a good word for your doodles. They are often very intricate and detailed, but in a way that doesn't seem too busy or visually distracting, (to myself at least!). Can you talk us through how you develop one of your doodles?

Geoffrey: Thank you. The important thing, as I've mentioned, was to produce a doodle every day, so I disciplined myself not to worry about the quality. The important thing about this, I discovered, was that it ensured a development of my doodling. The important thing is to turn up and doodle it, not to wait for inspiration.

The journaling would give me ideas and I would note the possible texts (my doodles always include a text, even if it's just one word) and have something to work with. now make space to produce one doodle on every page of my journal. Sometimes I will choose one and other times, like today, when I've got three pages, I will use all three.

Some are very fast, some slower. It can be about how much time I have or the idea. I still do not worry about the end result. I rarely go back and replace a doodle.

Matt: That's good to know. It sounds like perfectionism, or the desire to create a polished piece can be an obstacle. Why do you think this is?



Geoffrey: One of the things that strikes me is that we can worry what others will think. I try not to. I want the doodle to convey something but primarily it's about me being able to be present with a thought.

Matt: So, you would say it's about being mindful and exploring an idea? What kinds of ideas really grab your attention? Are you ever surprised by them?

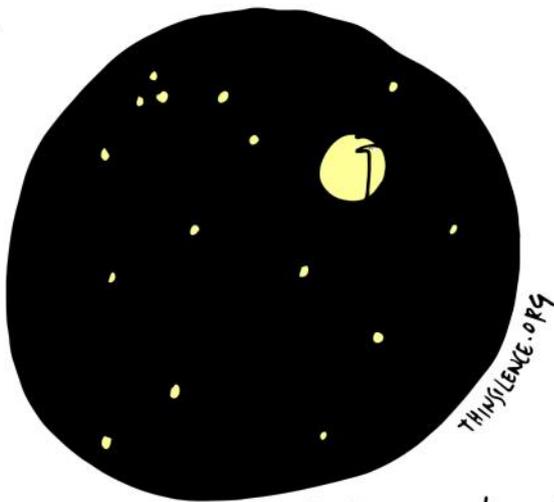
Geoffrey: Yes, it's literally about visualising an idea. When we're describing things with words, this is often what we are doing, but illustration take this on even further. I like to think that it was the earliest human alphabet - think about cave paintings of animals in French caves that are 30,000 years old.

I mentioned technology, entrepreneurship, the environment, society and the arts, earlier. They form an acrostic of TEESA, pushing me to read widely. I love to see the ideas that emerge from doing this - how does someone writing about an American national park connect with someone writing about how to develop your own spaces for development? Then add in what I was reading and journaling last year, and the fun really begins.

Matt: It sounds like you read a lot, which means you're taking a lot of words in. That can mean you have a lot of information to take on board. I know that when I take on board a lot of info, from reading, listening to podcasts or watching

YouTube, it can be quite overwhelming. All those words and ideas tend to swirl around in my head like a flood! Do you think doodling is your way of making space to deal with all the words? A way to make sense of it all?

Geoffrey: I certainly think the journaling, followed by the development of thoughts into a blog with doodle, helps me to avoid being overwhelmed. I can also come back to my journal a year later, so I'm not worried about losing the most important thoughts...and I'm very happy to leave them for a year. Another part of this is that I see all the thoughts being added to a personal and unfolding story.



the future will be shaped by the many things that matter to many people, whose commitment will be our light

Matt: It sounds like the doodle (and the journal it starts in) have become a hugely important part of your life! Is it still fun to do?

Geoffrey: It is fun but it's also more than fun. It's like food. And it all began with an idea someone introduced me to 20 years ago.

Matt: So, 15 years before you started the doodling then? In a nutshell, what was that idea?

Geoffrey: The idea was in the form of a confession by a church pastor of 20,000 people that he wasn't able to sustain a personal time of prayer for more than 5 minutes. He came to write out his prayers long-hand. I went out from the session in which he shared this and began writing out my prayers longhand, something I have continued to do ever since the 15th May 1998.

I've still got that early book of prayers just to remind me where it all began.

My thought has always to be prepared. Don't wait to feel like this is something you want to do. Begin today and do it again tomorrow and the day after. Inspiration is all around us, quietly waiting to catch our attention. The journaling and the doodling help me to listen.

Matt: Thank you. To sum up, if you were to give some tips to first-time doodlers, would they look something like this?

- Start with an idea and see where it takes you.
- Don't worry about how it will turn out. Have fun!
- Be prepared to be surprised!

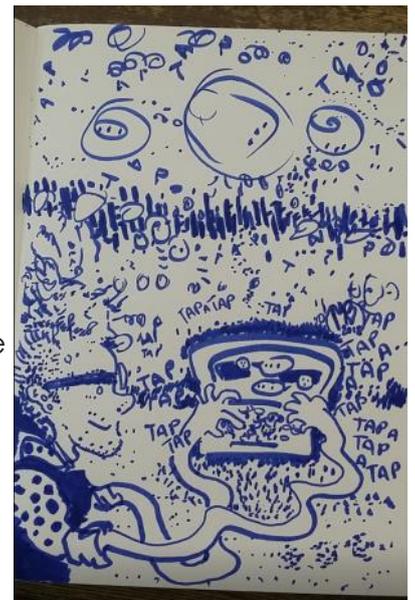
Geoffrey: Yes, a word is enough. With one group of people I was encouraging to begin doodling I simply offered the word "sunshine." That's all you need, go from there. Don't be in a hurry and enjoy it. Repeat, no matter what the outcome is.

I'm just surprised at where I am now with this - that's the best kind of surprise of all: the one that takes you on a journey.

Matt: Thank you for sharing about your doodling, doodle-Dad! Before we finish, can I ask one more question? Since interviewing by messenger is a process of typing and waiting, I decided to doodle it. Do you approve?

Geoffrey: I do and I now see you in it. That's a good illustration.

Matt: This interview was all an elaborate set-up to get a compliment. Seriously though, thank you for your time and happy doodling!



Geoffrey Baines is a chaplain at the University of Edinburgh. Things that are important to him include helping others find their strengths, his family, and his cat who everyone should know is a Very Good Boy. His daily doodles can be seen at www.thinsilence.org.

Top Poetry Tips

Here are my tips for writing poetry:

1) Writing comes from a need to get emotion out, often the first step to overcoming that fear of not being perfect is simply the act of writing.

Try warming up your writing first. Write for 3-5 minutes without thinking and without rereading what you've written until you're done. Then reread and work from there.

2) Poetry is often something that will never feel finished to the poet. The act of writing a poem is similar to a journey, there are many steps along the way and not all of them are expected.

3) Try to let the poem take you to unexpected places. Often your designs of what to write will not be what the poem becomes.

4) If you are struggling to begin, hand writing out a poem you love can help you start to think about the way that words work together.

5) Have fun!

Jonathan Bay

Harvest Service, Sunday 30th September



Thanks to Harriet for these beautiful pictures of the goods collected at Harvest for our local foodbank.

After the service we gathered for a wonderful African feast prepared by Chris Wedge. So many from among our numbers helped out that day in one way or another!

Helplines:

LGBT Support: 0300 123 2523

Childline: 0800 1111

Breathing Space: 0800 838587

Samaritans: 116 123

Rape Crisis: 8088 010 302

Edinburgh Crisis Centre: 0808 8010414

Service for those Affected by Suicide

This moving installation from the service shows life flowing as a stream. Someone you know takes their life and it's like a rock dropped in the middle, blocking any flow. After a while, 1st a trickle of water will find its way past the rock and find another way forward. The rock is still there, and hasn't gone away. The flowers in pool represent individuals people were remembering.



DEC has opened an appeal following the Indonesia Tsunami.

DEC brings together 14 leading UK aid charities, including Christian Aid, in times of crisis. Since its launch in 1963, it has run 70 appeals and raised more than £1.5 billion - saving millions of lives and rebuilding communities devastated by disasters.

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@augustine.org.uk) or **Rev Maxwell Reay** (associateminister@augustine.org.uk). 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 directly 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-12pm in the Sanctuary. This is hosted by AUC and run by the NHS Lothian Spiritual Care team. Further details available on through Maxwell.

If God is Love, is God my Love, too?



*Celebrating the 50th Birthday of
Metropolitan Community Churches*

Sunday 14th October 2018

2 - 5.30pm

(Doors open at 1.30pm)

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

Often biblical texts and concepts have been used to exclude and hurt LGBTQI+ people. Yet the story of Jesus, is a Gospel of Love and Compassion.

What does the Bible really say?

Join us for this exciting workshop exploring what it means to be LGBTQI+ and Christian. Guest facilitator Rev Dr Axel Schwaigert.

The event is **FREE** and open to all. You do not need to attend church to come.



Further information

Maxwell Reay on 07957 543359

maxwell.reay@augustine.org.uk

Booking essential by **10th October**
Rachel Fitzgerald, Administrator
0131 220 1677
administrator@augustine.org.uk

*Augustine
United Church*

Synod Report

Our Moderator Rev David Pickering, explained that the Synod has gone through various stages since 2000 when it became part of the URC. Since he came two years ago the whole of the rest of the Synod team has retired or moved on - this at a time when churches have moved from being central 'institutions' in society to having to 'come out' as mission movements.

We heard that Action of Churches Together in Scotland (known as ACTS) is going through the doldrums, with little ecumenical endeavour presently in Scotland. However, Rev John Bremner is now our new Synod Ecumenical Officer, and he'd like to visit those churches with any kind of ecumenical connections. His induction will take place on Thursday 18th October at 7.30pm at Grahamston United Church, Falkirk.

Fiona told Synod that a new Synod Children's Worker has been appointed but that they need to re-advertise for a part-time Youth Worker.

Alex brought an Environmental Resolution at Synod, from Church & Society Committee, which was amended before agreement. This now requires Synod-held events to comply with, and churches to try to comply with, environmentally friendly use of cups, plates, etc. The essence is that only washable crockery or biodegradable disposable cups and plates should be used; polystyrene and single-use plastic should always be avoided! (However, there are exemptions for when we are working with churches of other denominations which might not yet be so environmentally ambitious!) It got me wondering, at AUC should we continue to use clingfilm and teabags with plastic in the mesh 'bag', knowing this is single use? There are alternatives!

Did anyone watch the BBC TV programmes aired on 1st October - "Drowning in Plastic" or "The Secret Life of Landfill: A Rubbish History"?

Kathleen Ziffo

It's official!

Jude is becoming a member on Sunday.

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

Benedictine Spirituality at Emmaus House

For anyone interested in exploring the wisdom of St Benedict for today, all are welcome to join us on Saturdays, 29th September; 3rd November; 1st December, 10am-12pm.

After coffee on arrival we'll begin with morning prayer, followed by lectio divina, then a talk by Andrew Bain on an aspect of Benedictine spirituality and time for us to share our own responses and thoughts.

These mornings are also an opportunity to find out about the Emmaus Community of St Benedict.

For any queries, do contact Andrew on 07929 047896 or email scio@emmaushouse-edinburgh.co.uk.

Emmaus House, 14 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh EH& 9NQ.



Iona who turns 10 on the 22nd

Welcome back to Junior Church to all our explorers! October always feels like a 'new start', so we have a new Annual Theme:



Our colourful Board is ready to show our work and reflections over this coming term and year!



We explored our first module, the story of Samuel, in September - through storytelling, art, and Godly Play. Our introduction involved exploring the theme of listening within this story. Pillowcases were decorated (some beautiful examples can be seen in the picture on the left!), clay sculptures made, and little candles lit.

Our next module in October is the story of David and Goliath. We will explore this through storytelling, games and thinking about 'missions'. At the end of the month we start another module, 'The Wise King', and there will be a Joint Service with our local partner churches at Augustine.

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

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

| October | | Season of Wholeness |
|--|---------------|--|
| Sunday 7 th | 9.15-10.15am | Bible Study/Study Group: '1 Corinthians 9: 16-23 – All things...' |
| | 11am | Morning Worship and Communion for Covenant & Stewardship Sunday |
| | 12.15-1.15pm | Church Discussion Meeting – Inclusivity Forum Review |
| | 2-5pm | Exploring Church Membership |
| | 3pm | Annual Pet Blessing Service at Greyfriars |
| Monday 8 th | 2pm | Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – 'Lady Pilots' |
| Tuesday 9 th | 7.30pm | Bible Study - 1 Corinthians 9:16-23. "All things to all people..." |
| Wednesday 10 th - Sunday 28 th | 11am-6pm | Out of Sight, Out of Mind, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival Exhibition at Summerhall (see p.2) |
| Friday 12 th | 10am | Walk & Talk |
| | 5-9pm | 'A Very Bay Goodbye' – farewell party with Elizabeth (see p.2) |
| Sunday 14 th | 9.15-10.15am | Bible Study/Study Group: 'A basic introduction to Benedictine Spirituality & Lectio Divino' |
| | 10.15am | Craft and marmalade stall (and again after the service) |
| | 11am | Morning Worship, celebrating the MCC, with Rev Dr Axel Schwaigert |
| | 1-3pm | TLC Youth Group (see p.8-11) |
| | 2-5pm | Our Tribe "If God is Love, is God my Love too?" (see p.13) |
| Monday 15 th | 2pm | Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC - Bring & Buy |
| Tuesday 16 th | 7.20pm | Living the Questions Discussion – What is 'Payment for Sin' about? |
| Sunday 21 st | 9.15-10.15am | Bible Study/Study Group |
| | 11am | Morning Worship and Communion, led by Rev Leslie Morrison |
| | 1pm | Caretaker Training Session |
| Monday 22 nd | 2pm | Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – 'Mercy Corp' |
| Tuesday 23 rd | 7.30-9pm | Coffee, Cake & Conversation |
| Thursday 25 th | 1.30-3pm | Coffee, Cake & Conversation |
| Sunday 28 th | 9.15-10.15am | Bible Study/Study Group |
| | 11am | Joint TLC Morning Worship and Communion at AUC |
| | 1-3pm | TLC Youth Group |
| Monday 29 th | 2pm | Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – Fiona on 'Sri-Lanka' |
| November | | Season of Remembrance |
| Saturday 3 rd | 10am-12pm | Benedictine Spirituality at Emmaus House (see p.14) |
| Sunday 4 th | 9.15-10.15am | Bible Study/Study Group |
| | 11am | Morning Worship and Communion |
| | 12.15-1.15 pm | Church Business Meeting |
| Monday 5 th | 2pm | Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC – live music |
| Tuesday 6 th | 7.30pm | Contextual Bible Study |

Please note the deadline for material for the November issue is Sunday 28th October.