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Scottish Charity no. SC000385

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## *Art, Faith & Adversity, By Rev Fiona Bennett*

Born into a Jewish family in Berlin in 1876, Bruno Schlesinger (who changed his name to Bruno Walter) was to become a great orchestral conductor. Driven from Germany by the Third Reich, Walter and his family settled in Vienna when he regularly conducted the Vienna Philharmonic until 1938 when the Third Reich annexed Austria.

Walter was conducting in the Netherlands at the time and from there he fled to the USA. In 1947, in the aftershocks of WWII, the Edinburgh International Festival was born, with an aim to 'provide a platform for the flowering of the human spirit' by bringing people and artists together from around the world.

During the first EIF, Bruno Walter was reunited with the Vienna Philharmonic and Walter's comment was "What you have done in Edinburgh is one of the most magnificent experiences since the war. Here human

relations have been renewed."

This shows a great sense of hope found in the wake of WWII, and reminds me of a story about the German Lutheran Pastor Paul Tillich who served as an army chaplain during WW1.

Tillich dug the graves and presided over the funerals of many soldiers and friends killed in the endless trench warfare. After the war, Tillich could no longer believe there was an almighty clock maker God and he spent some time in a wilderness of faith and hope, until one day chancing upon a painting by Botticelli.

The painting was so beautiful that Tillich was provoked into believing he could say yes to life again. In 1952 he published a book called 'The courage to be', where he expressed the courage we employ when we face the anxieties of death, guilt and meaninglessness – which he described

## 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

**Kirsty Murray**

juniorchurch@augustine.org.uk

### Communication

**Eilidh Carmichael**

eilidh.carmichael@augustine.org.uk

### Our Tribe (LGBTI Ministry)

**Rev Maxwell Reay**

associateminister@augustine.org.uk

### Peace & Justice

**Harriet Davidson**

harriet.davidson@augustine.org.uk

### Pastoral & Mental Health

**Anne MacKenzie**

anne.mackenzie@augustine.org.uk

### Worship

**Rev Fiona Bennett**

minister@augustine.org.uk

### Young People

**Matt Baines**

matt.baines@augustine.org.uk

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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as the threat of non-being.

Out of the death and horror of these wars people have struggled to make sense and find hope, yet through their struggle something new has been born. The lives of Walter and Tillich would never returned to what they were pre-war, but they both found ways to keep living and reason to keep creating.

The Edinburgh Festival this year is set in the back drop of a world permeated by great uncertainty. I wonder what the arts can offer us this year in perspective and hope? I wonder if the Festival and Fringe will continue to live up to the experience that "it will renew human relationships" (which seems to me key in building a healthy world and planet)? And I think perhaps at one level, it can only renew human relationships if I / we are willing to be involved and allow it to do so. And I wonder if the Arts, like Tillich's encounter with the Botticelli, can empower us in the midst of uncertainty to say Yes to life, and to find the courage to face our anxieties in the trust that even from experience of death, loss and inhumanity, new and good life can be born?



## *The Local Churches, Summer Pilgrimage, 18<sup>th</sup> August*

Starting from the secluded ruins of Dryburgh Abbey, our journey follows a section of the River Tweed, passes along public footpaths and deserted country lanes ending in the beautiful ruins of Melrose Abbey, burial place of the heart of Robert the Bruce.

The pilgrimage offers us time to journey and share together. The coach and minibus leave from outside AUC at 10am. At Dryburgh there will be a short reflection by Richard Frazer. After either walk or get the coach to the destination we'll all gather at 2pm for a communion service in grounds of Melrose Abbey led by Richard Frazer. Everyone will be dropped back at AUC at 4pm.

The trip will cost around £13 (children/unwaged free). To book a place please **contact Kathleen Ziffo by Sun 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

## A Year in Training



This first year of ministry training has really flown by! I have loved being part of the wonderfully diverse and friendly community of Northern College in Manchester. We are a community of URC and Moravian students who are training for ministry, either as a Church Related Community Worker or a Minister of Word and Sacrament. People travel from Scotland, Wales and England for some part of the week, either mid-week or weekend. Some commute and others stay overnight.

One of the things I value the most about studying there is the variety of theologies, contexts and experiences of the people we are studying alongside. From the other colleges which make up Luther King House, we study with Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals and other denominations. Not only do we study together, we also worship together, eat together and laugh together (a lot!).

Each and every one of us is on a journey to be the person and minister God has called us to be. The training and formation for our different ministries helps each of us grow in so many new ways, which can sometimes be challenging and exciting, yet it is always supported, encouraged and nurtured by our fellow students and tutors. And whenever you have any questions or concerns, you are always able to chat and explore with someone.

As I reflect on the year as a whole, I feel I have learnt and grown a lot: both theologically and personally, from the modules I've studied, from my church placement with St James' Episcopal Church and my community placement with the L'Arche community, from relationships with new friends as well as from praying and reflecting with God. A key realisation is I do not need to be (or strive to be) perfect, simply do my best because that's good enough.

After the summer, I am so excited that I am going on a three month international placement in Taiwan. I think this placement will be really awesome and give me the opportunity to experience and share in the life and mission of the world church. I am looking forward to immersing myself in a different culture, country and ideas. And it's a really interesting time there because Taiwan is the first country in Asia to legalise equal marriage! When I get back in January, I will be starting an MA in Contextual Theology alongside a placement in a chaplaincy setting, which could be a hospital, prison, university or something else entirely.

Thank you so much for your on-going love and support which sustains and nourishes me so much.

**Nicola Robinson**

### Door Training, Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 1.30-3pm

The Door Stewards are a vital part of the worship experience at AUC. This training is for everyone who volunteers on as a Door Steward (as Meeter Greeter, Fire Officer, Reader) and for those who might be interested to do so. The training will run through the Door Steward Tasks and invite those with experience to think about ways we could make this even more effective. If you are interested to participate please register with [minister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk)

### Cammo Visit, Sun 25<sup>th</sup> August

Post morning worship, people are invited to visit the home of Stephen and Kathleen Ziffo. Walks in the Cammo estate and by the River Almond to the old Grotto Bridge can be guided; tea & cakes available! Bus No 41 (towards Cramond) goes from George IV Bridge to Barnton Junction, plus 15 minute walk to our home although there are other routes. See Kathleen for further information.



# *God Loves All—Pride Edinburgh*



My first time walking in the Edinburgh Pride march was both liberating and emotional. It was a joy to begin the march with so many people and to celebrate and give thanks for the 50 years of Stonewall and all that occurred during that time to promote and establish human rights for LGBTQI people.

For me, it was amazing being outside the Scottish Parliament, the hub of Scottish politics, and to be able to do this as I am. As we gathered as the Augustine Church community, it was amazing to see not just LGBTQI people but also our church allies. The march was slow to being with but as we stood among 'Our Tribe' there was laughter, smiling faces, lots of colour and excitement as well as a sharing of life in story.

As we marched I was moved by a woman on the periphery of the march who wore a t-shirt saying 'Free Mother Hugs Here' and she hugged many people as they passed. Then as we moved on we were confronted by homophobia as a man held a sign saying 'Jesus made man and woman to be together'.

As the parade came up to him he was surrounded by our pride placards that state

'God Loves All', our banners in beautiful rainbow colours and everyone cheered.

We moved further in the parade, to be met with dancers and music so we got into the rhythm of the beat and danced through the streets, blowing whistles and having fun. We continued to walk up George IV Bridge and people all along the pavement smiled, cheered and many gave their support.

We reached Augustine's and Maxwell, Fiona and a few others stood outside the church door and those who passed cheered. Some people came over and asked for a photo, they thanked us for being an open church acknowledging and accepting that God loves all. It was very moving.

We moved on from there to the stall at Teviot and there we chatted to people, giving out our leaflets letting people know about our church and invited all.

Overall, it was an amazing day being with so many people who were proud to say 'This is me'.

**Lorraine Millar**



This beautiful image of the march, which features our banners so prominently, is from the official Pride Edinburgh photos.



## Helplines:

Stand Alone: [www.standalone.org.uk](http://www.standalone.org.uk) (for those experiencing family estrangement)

LGBT Support: 0300 123 2523

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

Rape Crisis: 08088 010 302

Breathing Space: 0800 838587

Edinburgh Crisis Centre: 0808 8010414

## Our Tribe Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July

This month we are exploring the theme 'Stand Firm'. This is not only a key building block of the civil and human rights movements, but also a deeply Biblical notion.

We will explore what it means to 'Stand Firm' particularly in the light of our presence at Pride.

Join us for a time of reflection, discussion, story telling and worship. Refreshments will be available.

Hope to see you then.

Peace,

Mike and the Our Tribe Team

## 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](mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk)) or **Rev Maxwell Reay** ([associateminister@augustine.org.uk](mailto: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 through Maxwell.



## Church Meeting Reports

At our May church meeting, among a number of important decisions and updates, it was agreed that Deborah (Pike) be appointed as a Consultant to work with us over the next few months to help us discern how we could make various aspects of AUC life more sustainable. How can we make our finances work to more consistently fit the needs of our activities and secure our almost 160-year-old building? How can we develop more leaders from among our members. How can we engage and help develop our new people, members and others to assist in our outreach? These are the sorts of questions that will be considered. You can read a little bit more about Deborah in the June edition of Seeds.

May's church meeting also agreed that Deborah would lead our June discussion meeting to get as many members as possible engaged in the process.

The meeting also heard about the preparations for our four yearly Local Ministry & Mission Review (LMMR) by three representatives from Synod – our AUC group, consisting of Harriet, Ian J, Kathleen, Lewis, Linda and Tom, presented to the representatives later in May.

We also heard that the pantry ceiling had been re-plastered. Water ingress from a downpour had travelled through a (plastic bag) blocked, inadequate drain at the roof gutters, came into the organ loft, thence down into the sanctuary (damaging the lighting there) and then doing damage to some of the equipment in the Christian Aid Office below. Repairs are still ongoing.

At the meeting led by Deborah in June she explained her remit and led us in examining, in a more detailed way, how to improve specific areas of our church life which we have identified.

We firstly explored how we might make the congregation more sustainable by looking at the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and the Threats that exist (a SWOT analysis as it is known). We also considered who the stakeholders were in each scenario in each of the five categories identified.

We broke into smaller groups where Elders led us in another SWOT and Stakeholder analysis of each of the other four areas we are exploring in more detail – the Leadership of our Church Life Ministry Teams (CLMTs), which are the engines of AUC; the Church Finances; the broad reach and speciality of the Ministry of AUC; and the Church Centre. These, all together, make up the five areas being looked at more closely, from now till well into the autumn.

Kathleen Ziffo



## *Big Brekkie Fundraising Total*

Wow! Our Big Brekkie for Christian Aid week raised £463.75 to date. That figure may still rise as we hear there were a few extra donations sent in recently. On behalf of Christian Aid, we thank all those who were able to contribute.

## Summer with Seedlings

Welcome to the summer edition of Seedlings. We can't guarantee the weather, but we are planning some sharing, fun, and learning over the summer, whatever the weather does!

Our church is named after St Augustine, so we are going to find out more about him & his story in July. In August, as the Edinburgh Festival takes hold, we will be out & about, exploring some of our wonderful city centre. If rainy, the Museum will be a back up, and snacks will be provided.

- 30 June - We will learn first about a little of the history of St Augustine, and hear a Godly Play Story about his life.
- 7 July - From St Augustine to Augustine United
- 14 July - Dandelions @ AUC
- 21 July - Hippo Hospitality
- 28 July - Making a Hippo Banner
- 4 August - Visit to the High Street and gather Festival leaflets
- 11 August - Kite Flying in the Meadows
- 18 August - Church Outing to the Borders
- 25 August - Games

We wish everyone happy holidays - don't forget to tell us all about your summer activities, or your chill out schedule. :)



*"One day, he stole pears from a tree. He wasn't hungry. He didn't sell them. He just took them, and couldn't figure out why. He would wonder all his life about why people did the things they were not supposed to...."*

Quote from 'The Story of St Augustine of Hippo' in Volume 7 of The Complete Guide to Godly Play by Jerome Berryman.  
Image from [www.godlyplayresources.com](http://www.godlyplayresources.com).



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](http://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

July		Season of Pentecost
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship and Communion, led by Fiona Bennett, with preacher Caro Penney
	12.15-1.30pm	Church Business Meeting
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship, led by Kathleen Ziffo, with preacher Linda Harrison
	12.15pm	Bring Your Own Picnic Church Lunch
	3.30-5pm	Our Tribe, 'Stand Firm', doors open 3pm (see p.5)
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Eco-Congregations Picnic at the Meadows Community Garden
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Worship and Communion, led by Linda Harrison, with preacher David Coleman
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30-9pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship, led by Fiona Bennett
August		Season of Festival
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship and Communion, led by Fiona Bennett, with preacher Nicola Robinson
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC - Bring & Buy
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship, led by Laurence Wareing, with preacher Caro Penney
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Dryburgh to Melrose Abbey Pilgrimage (see p.2)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Worship, led by Fiona Bennett, with preacher Laurence Wareing
	2pm	Cammo Visit with refreshments at Kathleen and Stephen's home (see p.3)
September		Season of Creationtide
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Worship and Communion, led by Gill Lawrence with preacher Fiona Bennett
	12.30-1.30pm	Church Business Meeting
	1.30-3pm	Door Stewards Training (see p.3)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC - Bring & Buy
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study 'Lamentations 1:1-6'
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.15-10.15am	Adult Study Sessions restart
	11am	Morning Worship, led by Fiona Bennett
	3-5pm	Our Tribe
	5.30-7pm	'There is No Planet B' Book Group begins

Please note the deadline for material for the September issue is Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

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.