

# Seeds

Dec 2021 / Jan 2022

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine  
United Church



## Planting hope-tree by tree

**Rev'd Fiona Bennett**



**A**dvent is a season of waiting, and the hymn "When out of poverty was born" by Kathy Galloway invites us to listen and to learn from people who really know what waiting in hope is all about.

*When out of poverty is born  
a dream that will not die,  
and landless, weary folk find strength  
to stand with heads held high,  
it's then we learn from those who wait  
to greet the promised day,  
'The Lord is coming; don't lose heart.  
Be blest: prepare the way!'*

Kathy Galloway

When the Youth Climate Change Network visited AUC on their walk to COP26 they invited us to watch the film *Thank you for the Rain*, a documentary about the Kenyan farmer, Kisilu.

Kisilu recognised that much of the arable land around him was turning to dust with too little rain and flash flooding. He recognised that planting trees helped to regulate the land more effectively and spent much energy encouraging all his neighbours to plant trees; but his efforts were not enough to overcome flash floods.

Kisilu went to COP21 in Paris, where he was very encouraged that people were moved to hear his story. However, when it came to significant

decisions to lower carbon emissions and address the climate change destroying the food from his family's table, he was despairing at the lack of willingness of powerful nations to act to help him and all his neighbours.

It seemed Kisilu's hope in humanity's willingness to stand by each other was misplaced. He felt that he and his community were condemned to suffer due to climate change, which they did not contribute to, nor had any control over. What would he do?

Kisilu left COP21 headed back to his farm and community in Kenya and increased his efforts to plant trees.

**"he and his community were condemned to suffer due to climate change"**

"When out of poverty is born a dream that will not die" speaks to me of Kisilu and all like him who teach us of Advent waiting: waiting that is actively working for the dream of wholeness and justice, even when it seems overwhelmingly difficult, trusting that "The Lord is coming; don't lose heart. Be blest: prepare the way!"

### This Month

#### AUGUSTINE TARTAN

AUC unveils a specially commissioned design



#### COP26 REFLECTIONS

What did the summit mean for AUC members?



#### SILENCE ON BISEXUALITY?

Dr Carol Shepherd shares findings from her research



#### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Finding out how we will mark Christmas at AUC





**Augustine United Church,**  
**George IV Bridge,**  
**Edinburgh, EH1 1EL**  
**0131 220 1677**  
**[www.augustine.org.uk](http://www.augustine.org.uk)**  
**[facebook.com/AugustineUnited](https://facebook.com/AugustineUnited)**  
**Scottish Charity no. SC000385**

#### CHURCH SECRETARY

**Linda Harrison**  
[secretary@augustine.org.uk](mailto:secretary@augustine.org.uk)  
or via the church office

#### MINISTER

**Revd Fiona Bennett**  
[minister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk)  
07552 162 717

#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

**Revd Maxwell Reay**  
[associateminister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:associateminister@augustine.org.uk)  
07957 543 359

#### CHURCH CENTRE MANAGER

**Rachel Fitzgerald**  
[centre.manager@augustine.org.uk](mailto:centre.manager@augustine.org.uk)  
0131 220 1677

#### WEBSITE

**Thomas McPolin**  
[web.editor@augustine.org.uk](mailto:web.editor@augustine.org.uk)

#### FACEBOOK

**Eilidh Carmichael**  
[eilidh.carmichael@augustine.org.uk](mailto:eilidh.carmichael@augustine.org.uk)

#### SEEDS EDITORIAL TEAM

**Laurence Wareing and**  
**Denis Mallon**  
[newsletter@augustine.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@augustine.org.uk)

## 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 email the contact person.

#### CENTRE, PROPERTY & FINANCE

**Ewen Harley**  
[treasurer@augustine.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@augustine.org.uk)

#### CHILDREN

**Kirsty Murray**  
[juniorchurch@augustine.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@augustine.org.uk)

#### COMMUNICATION

**Denis Mallon**  
[denis.mallon@augustine.org.uk](mailto:denis.mallon@augustine.org.uk)

#### OUR TRIBE (LGBT MINISTRY)

**Revd Maxwell Reay**  
[associateminister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:associateminister@augustine.org.uk)

#### PEACE & JUSTICE

**Katrina Tweedie**  
[katrina.tweedie@augustine.org.uk](mailto:katrina.tweedie@augustine.org.uk)

#### PASTORAL & MENTAL HEALTH

**Anne MacKenzie**  
[anne.mackenzie@augustine.org.uk](mailto:anne.mackenzie@augustine.org.uk)

#### WORSHIP

**Revd Fiona Bennett**  
[minister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk)

#### YOUNG PEOPLE

**Matt Baines**  
[youth@augustine.org.uk](mailto:youth@augustine.org.uk)

#### SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

**Alex Peden**  
[safeguarding@augustine.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@augustine.org.uk)  
07747 300897

#### VISITOR MINISTRY

**Thomas McPolin**  
[thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk](mailto:thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk)

To get involved volunteering  
within AUC or the local  
community:

#### AUC VOLUNTEERING

**Thomas McPolin**  
[thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk](mailto:thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk)

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

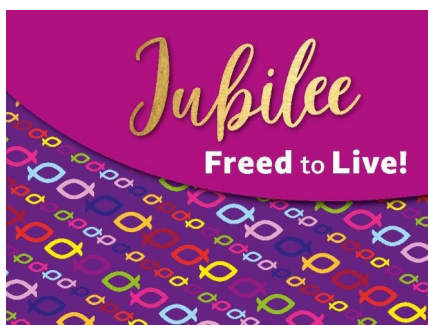
**Kathleen Ziffo**  
[kathleen.ziffo@augustine.org.uk](mailto:kathleen.ziffo@augustine.org.uk)

# Local and Global

News from the United Reformed Church

## SCOTTISH WRITERS IN NEW HANDBOOK

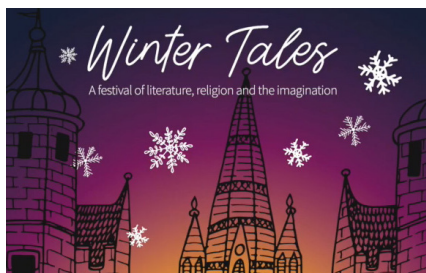
The new URC prayer handbook for 2022 has taken as its theme Jubilee: Freed to Live! It's brilliant to see a number of contributions from AUC members Siân Jones and Lewis Reay included, together with prayers by the Revd Lindsey Sanderson, a URC minister in East Kilbride and Hamilton.



The handbook's theme reflects the fact that the URC will be marking its 50th anniversary next year.

## WINTER TALES FESTIVAL BEGINS

To celebrate 175 years of research into religion, spirituality and the arts, New College is hosting its first ever literary festival. The Winter Tales Book Festival, which takes place 3-5 December at new College on The Mound, is described as "a festival of literature,



religion and the imagination". Top speakers and writers from the UK and beyond will explore the relationship between belief and fiction, religion and pluralism, fantasy and

spirituality, and "the complex web of religion, politics, and the environment". Contributors will include: Robert Harris, Sally Magnusson, Miles Jupp, Val McDermid, James Robertson and Mona Siddiqui.

Tickets are still available and can be booked via [blogs.ed.ac.uk/wintertales/](https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/wintertales/).

## CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE IN JANUARY

A service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on the evening of Monday 24 January at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square. This is an annual event organised by Edinburgh Churches Together (ECT). All are welcome. More details will be available nearer the time. Keep an eye on ECT's social media sites and website.



## SERVICE MARKS NEW NATIONAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

A service was held, appropriately, on St Andrew's Day to celebrate the adoption of the Saint Andrew Declaration by the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Declaration states that each Church formally recognises one another as part of the one Church of Jesus Christ and it lays a firm foundation, through a series of Acknowledgements and Commitments, for the two Churches

to work together in response to their common calling to minister to the whole people of Scotland.

The declaration, adopted overwhelmingly by both the General Assembly and the General Synod earlier this year, was signed formally by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Revd Mark Strange, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly, Lord (Jim) Wallace (pictured).

## SCOTTISH COLLEGE INVITES CHURCH ENGAGEMENT

Local churches in Scotland are to be invited to become members of the Scottish College, under a newly



agreed constitution.

The college, a United Reformed Church and Congregational Federation Resource Centre for Learning, has been restructured as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which has begun to operate as the formal legal structure underpinning college life.

Under the constitution of the new college all congregations of the United Reformed Church and the Congregational Federation based in Scotland are entitled to be members of the College. Local URC churches will shortly be asked to confirm their willingness to become members and to nominate a representative to attend College General Meetings.



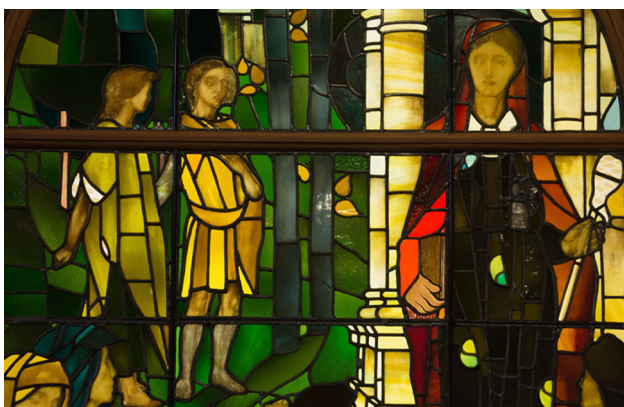


# Augustine tartan launch planned

To mark AUC's 160th year of worshipping on George IV Bridge, a unique Augustine tartan was commissioned from local kiltmaker and designer, George Nicolson.

**In the summer, AUC members voted on a range of designs and the winning tartan has now been forwarded for registration with the Scottish Register of Tartans.**

Pat Tweedie, who has guided the process, says she hopes that registration will be complete by the end of the year and that the tartan can be launched at AUC's Burns meal in January.



The colours of our new tartan were prompted by the church's only stained glass windows, created by 'the other' Robert Burns, a noted glass designer and artist who lived from 1869 to 1941. These colours, which can be found in the windows at the front of the sanctuary, interweave over a rich green background, representing the congregation's

commitment to raising environmental concerns (we are an eco-congregation) and justice issues more broadly.

Our motto is 'Growing seeds of justice and joy', which we believe encapsulates the Christian task of establishing God's Commonwealth on earth. It is no coincidence that Christian Aid Scotland has its offices at AUC and that the congregation has partnered with other justice organisations over the years.

**"The colours of our new tartan were prompted by the church's only stained glass windows, created by 'the other' Robert Burns"**

The tartan has been created in a year when we have marked 160 years since our building on George IV Bridge was opened.

Because we are a congregation that has formed over the years from congregations and traditions worshipping in different parts of Edinburgh, some of us trace our roots to other buildings and religious experiences. We link our current building with the congregation that moved here from a chapel that stood where the National Museum of Scotland now dominates Chambers Street.

That congregation saw itself as part of the "radical" Scottish Reformation that extended across Scotland in the closing years of the 18th century, led by James and Robert Haldane. Their supporters included John Aikman, who built (with his own money) the chapel in North College Street.

When the site was bought up in order to build what is now the National Museum, the congregation moved to George IV Bridge, led by the Revd Lindsay Alexander, one of Edinburgh's foremost preachers of the day. It was in his honour and that of his wife, Mary, that the two windows were gifted by their son, and it is the vivid colours and design of these windows that have inspired our new tartan.



# Saying no to cynicism

**COP26 is over. The work is not. What are we learning?**

**The Revd David Coleman, Environmental Chaplain for Eco Congregation Scotland (and a member of AUC), has reflected on the Glasgow gathering in his blog. Here are just a few of his thoughts.**

**I**n the midst of a Blue Zone session on the role of parliamentarians, things are happening, a surprising togetherness with those who are charged with holding governments to account. . .

The Blue Zone is an amazing place. . . so many disciplines, expertises, coming together.

I'm therefore coming down so far well outside any obligatory narrative that COP will 'fail'. The cynicism which characterises the whole thing as a waste of time should be devoutly resisted.

**"Injustice – as the prophets prayed and hoped – always does come back to bite the unjust in the bum"**

There is a remarkably widespread recognition in what I'm hearing, that the job of government will be in engagement with the public. Ignorance is a liability; informed and functional democracy, like spirituality, assumes the role I perhaps always hoped it might.

The old mantra of 'education, education, education' has a continued or recycled place in every nation.

The UN is taking the empowerment and education of women and girls with an unprecedented seriousness,

which does not allow for the separation of climate justice and gender justice.

All the undeniable scientific and statistical evidence was there in your face that the marginalisation, exclusion and condescension to women, children, and the indigenous peoples of the Earth who live close to God's Creation, is a dire and manifest liability.

Injustice – as the prophets prayed and hoped – always does come back to bite the unjust in the bum. The well-meaning suspicion that the empowerment and education of women was a plus for climate action is now well-established.

**T**o hound a species to extinction is, objectively, to hasten our own. The strongest terms in which I have ever expressed that treasure of our faith, have this week begun to look decidedly half-hearted.

And this chastening comes more often than not, not from elders and hoary old COP regulars, but young indigenous women who, without artifice, take your breath away.

'We are not "part" of nature. We ARE nature.'

'I was writing a job application, and spoke in it of my animal relatives. My father became terribly anxious and said "you must never dare tell that truth to the others: they will make you suffer for it".'

I know our churches have come some distance in this time of crisis, which is also a time of spiritual healing. Great. That's what we now need, with the greatest urgency, to build on.

Our friend James Baghwan, from the Pacific Council of Churches, has pointed out how the traditions and spirituality of his own people are not in conflict, but enhanced by Christianity.

Ours, can I suggest, have been cowed and manipulated by other forces, but – since you're reading this – not wounded beyond healing.

Read more at: [www.ecocongregationscotland.org/chaplain/](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/chaplain/).



# Bi-lence in the Church

Back in February, Dr Carol Shepherd gave a presentation to Our Tribe about her research on bisexuality. Now she shares some of her findings with *Seeds*.



**L**GBT and Christianity are not easy bedfellows, and bisexuality and Christianity even less so.

Even the most affirming of LGBT Churches struggle to acknowledge, let alone address, the issue of bisexuality within teaching and pastoral resources. This is curious, since a 2015 study by GLAAD (originally the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) showed that over half (52%) of the LGB community identified as bi, three times as many as identified as lesbian (17%) and about a third more than identified as gay (31%).

What is it about bisexuality that makes it so difficult to talk about in a church that increasingly engages, however positively, with same sex marriage and transgender issues? It is almost as if there is a kind of conspiracy of

silence around the orientation. And this silence can be deadly, as I have discovered in my body of research on the bisexual Christian intersectional identity.

**“there are other aspects peculiar to religious environments which exacerbate the silence on bisexuality”**

There is a good reason for this ‘bi-lence’ – why bisexuality and Christianity remain almost invisible. As in the secular world, this silence is largely due to the twin aspects of ‘biphobia’ (fear of bisexual people) and ‘bi-erasure’ (ignoring bisexual experiences or conflating them

with homosexuality). But there are other aspects peculiar to religious environments which exacerbate the silence on bisexuality, even when the church purports to be affirming.

Bi-erasure via cultural appropriation takes place in queer theology and church life, just as in the secular world. For example, a number of well-known works of gay theology promote King David and his close buddy Jonathan as gay icons. Yet David sees a naked woman sunbathing in 2 Samuel in the Old Testament and is overcome by lust – hardly the act of a gay man. David is either heterosexual with an intense friendship with Jonathan or, more likely, is bisexual, but certainly not homosexual.

In a similar way, Ruth in the Old Testament is either portrayed as loyal friend to Naomi or her lesbian lover, while the notion that she could be attracted to Boaz and Naomi is rarely entertained. And then there is Jesus and ‘the Beloved Disciple’ (commonly identified as John the Evangelist) and Jesus and his close friend Lazarus, yet also Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

Clearly, we don’t really know for sure about the sexual orientation of any of these figures from Scripture, and it is arguably anachronistic to attempt to



Photo by Kristina Flour on Unsplash



Photo by Amy Tran on Unsplash

do so. But if we are going to ascribe sexual orientations to such figures, let us at least do so with integrity and an open mind, and accept that David, Ruth and Jesus might just be bisexual!

Queer theologians are particularly guilty of bi-erasure, either through this kind of cultural appropriation of potentially bisexual role models, or by ignoring the subject altogether. Most affirming LGBT Christian books I have encountered usually do little more than include 'B' nominally in the title. There is almost never any content on bisexuality.

## **“Bisexual people are seen to be flies in the ointment of sexual identity politics”**

Sexual identity politics also play a role in the stigmatisation and erasure of bisexual Christians. Many gay and lesbian Christians have fought hard to have their rights recognised, culminating in the achievement of marriage equality in many countries of the world, including the UK. Bisexual people are seen to be flies in the ointment of sexual identity politics as they are perceived as diluting what I

call the Lady Gaga argument, that 'I was born that way' i.e. born lesbian or gay. Bisexuality indicates an element of fluidity, which is not part of the lesbian and gay politic.

In addition, bisexuality carries the stigma of promiscuity, which is even more taboo within Church circles. Lesbian and gay Christians do not want their image tainted by 'dirty bisexuals' when they are trying to achieve moral parity with heterosexual Christians. As with their heterosexual counterparts, this is the result of ignorance of the bisexual orientation and the true lived experiences of bisexual Christians.

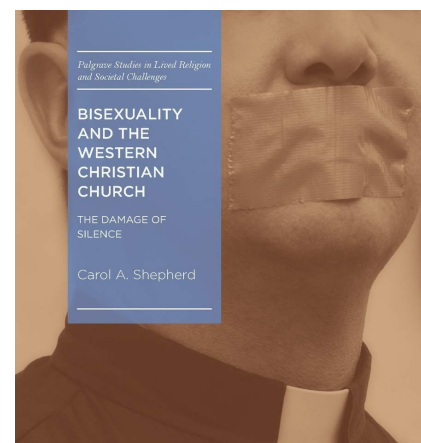
There are many more reasons why bisexuality is erased and stigmatised, and you may wish to read some of my own work on the subject to find out more. The sad reality, which I must highlight here though, is that bisexual people suffer from extremely poor mental health. This is magnified several times over in the Church, where attitudes are even more judgemental and less informed than in secular society.

A Canadian Health Survey from 2010 showed that bisexual people are six times more likely to attempt suicide

than straight people, and twice as likely as their lesbian and gay counterparts. And these are 'secular' figures. In my own research in the UK and US, I found an 88% overall rate of depression and suicide ideation among bisexual Christians. This is hardly surprising, when bisexual people face prejudice from both the straight and LGBT communities.

These figures are horrifying and should alone galvanise pastors and supporters of LGBT folk into action.

*Dr Carol Shepherd is a global expert on bisexual Christian identities and a Social Sciences Lecturer at University of Highlands & Islands. She is the author of The Damage of Silence: Bisexuality and the Western Christian Church (Palgrave, 2018) and Bi: the Way, Pastoring Bisexual Christians in Europe (EYP, 2020).*





# WHAT COP26 MEANT FOR US

At the beginning of November, COP26 came to Glasgow. Marchers marched, pilgrims pilgrimed, world leaders sped across the central belt from Edinburgh (naturally!) in their limo cavalcades. Campaigners campaigned and decision makers decided things that were duly

applauded and criticised in the world's media.

But what did it all mean for us at AUC? How did we engage with COP26? What experiences will take us into the new year as we make fresh resolutions as we continue to combat climate change?



Clockwise from top left: Some images from the "Our Precious and Precarious World" exhibition, Harriet Davidson performing at Dynamic Earth, Junior Church banner hanging at New College on the Mound, Karen Bass at the COP 26 Global Day of Action.



## Our Tribe

"Our Precious and Precarious World" exhibition of art was held at the parish church of St Cuthbert's in Edinburgh as part of the Climate Fringe for COP26. It included photographs taken by folks from Our Tribe and Augustine United Church. They represented personal responses to climate change and the beauty of our world.

### "Personal responses to climate change and the beauty of our world"

Photographers: Karen Bass, Katrina Tweedie, Katrina Hadland, Lewis Reay, Maxwell Reay, Kai Millar, Anne MacKenzie and Mandy Rathjen.

The images have been gathered together by Thomas McPolin in a short film, with music by Mike Holroyd and Ryan Shoemake. It can be seen on the Our Tribe Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ourtribeauc/videos/2331837806946820/](https://www.facebook.com/ourtribeauc/videos/2331837806946820/).

## Junior Church

Children from our Junior Church made their own contributions to the huge banners hung from the twin towers of New College on the Mound.

They were delighted to go and see them in place, together with all the other COP26 panels from across Scotland.

## Ewen Harley

"Through the COP26 Homestay Network we hosted Juliet Grace, a young woman from Uganda. She was a delightful guest and always happy to discuss the latest news from Glasgow. Juliet Grace spent her day off helping us to plant trees at Carcant (the Somerville family farm in the Scottish Borders)!"

## Anne MacKenzie

"I went to the opening of the Climate Fringe exhibition at St. Cuthbert's, which included hundreds of displays, filling the whole space with all kinds of arts and crafts. Our Tribe's photographic display was the AUC contribution and included a photo of our Silver Eco Congregation award!"

"Both the exhibition and the two banners on New College's towers (see left) represented lots of interest in the climate crisis, and hours of commitment and hard work by thousands of folk, both young and old. I feel that this is a sign of hope as the future of our planet depends not only on any agreement reached today, but on individual choices we each make on how we live our lives.

"On the Global Day of Action, I shared in the Iona Community 'Big Sing,' which took place outside the Parliament building. There were more than 100 folk gathered there and perhaps the same number on zoom. This was an opportunity to raise our voices in songs of concern and hope for this 'Dear Green Place' and it attracted interest from passers-by."



## Davidson Family

Harriet Davidson had the opportunity to perform beneath Luke Jerram's spectacular sculpture of Earth, ("Gaia"),

floating majestically in the main entrance area of Dynamic Earth (see left). Gaia was the Greek goddess of Earth, mother of all life.

Joseph and Miriam got back to basics, litter picking around Edinburgh (see below).

## Karen Bass

"After spending much of the last 18 months seeing hardly anyone and being very apprehensive about being out in crowded places, I travelled to Glasgow for the Global Day of Action. A hundred thousand-plus people in all, but having spent most of my life engaged in the pursuit of environmental justice, I felt that I had to break through the anxiety and just be there.

### "I felt that I had to break through the anxiety and just be there."

"I joined the faith group, a large gathering of people of many denominations and faiths and together we walked through the streets of Glasgow, singing, marching and bringing our hopes, fears and determination for a future for all."

You can also read the thoughts of David Coleman in 'Saying no to cynicism' (p.5)

# Junior Church news

**M**embers of our Junior Church (and the amazing team that supports and nurtures them) are never knowingly under-employed!

On p.9, we have evidence of the way they engaged with COP26 and issues of climate and care for nature. We know, too, they have something in common with Santa's elves (though *Seeds* hasn't been told what!).

And as if that weren't enough, they are looking forward to – and planning for – our Christmas Nativity service on 19 December.

AUC owes a huge debt of gratitude to our younger members, who truly help us to become the kind of community we aspire to be.

**“AUC owes a huge debt of gratitude to our younger members”**

To that community was welcomed Reuben Nuñez, when he was baptised on 10 October. Welcome, Reuben!

Plus, Lewis del Viscio will be blessed during our Nativity Service. (Lewis will also be one year old in December. Happy birthday, Lewis! – where did one year go?!)

# Conversion Therapy testimony given in parliament

**C**hristine Rarity-Middleton, was one of a number of AUC members who gave testimony about their experiences of the practice at the Scottish Parliament last month.

Christine wrote in the September edition of *Seeds* about being subjected to conversion therapy in different forms over the years. The parliament has been carrying out an extensive consultation with a view to banning conversion therapy in Scotland.

Our ministers Fiona and Maxwell, along with others, also gave evidence in support of the ban.

In England, the initial stages of a government consultation have also been taking place and the United Reformed Church has taken steps to submit its own statement, formally opposing the practice. At its Assembly

Executive (a smaller gathering that carries on the work of the URC's General Assembly) last month, an emergency resolution was passed unanimously.

**The URC resolution states that such therapy is “unethical and potentially harmful”.**

The resolution supports and adopts the definition of conversion therapy set out in the Westminster government's 'Memorandum of Understanding on Conversion Therapy in the UK' and states that such therapy is “unethical and potentially harmful”. It calls on all church members and ministers “to refuse to offer or participate in offering conversion therapy in any form” and declares that “no conversion therapy can take place in the name of the United Reformed Church”.



# Celebrating Christmas



**S**ixty gift bags have been filled with gifts from AUC for people who find themselves as patients in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital over Christmas.

The gifts were bought out of a collection made at AUC, and will be distributed by the REH chaplains (see above).

If you want a reminder of AUC's other suggestions for giving this year, you can find all the information in the November edition of *Seeds* or in the news section of our website at [www.augustine.org.uk/about-us/news/](http://www.augustine.org.uk/about-us/news/).



This year's Christmas tree in the sanctuary has been wonderfully decorated with over 200 stars made by AUC members, to give away and shed some light and peace this Advent.

And because every tree needs a partridge during the 12 days of Christmas (why should pear trees only get the good gigs?), we're delighted to have been sent one by friend of AUC Jayson, whose passion for art and making gifts has been absolutely thriving in his new(ish) home on Shetland.



## Special worship for Advent and Christmas

(further details on back page)

### DECEMBER

5th - Advent Service with our Ecumenical partners in Greyfriars Kirk and online, with communion  
 12th - Advent Gift Service  
 19th - AUC Nativity Service with communion followed by Coffee and Christmas Picnic\*  
 19th - 1.15-1.45pm Service of the Longest Night; remembering those we miss  
 25th - 10.30am Christmas Day all-age celebration (online only)  
 26th - Boxing Day Service (online only)

### JANUARY

2nd - New Year Service with communion

\*Christmas Picnic – after the service on 19 December, pick up a bag of Christmas goodies (all vegan) to have with your coffee, and share an indoor picnic @ AUC. If you require a gluten free bag, please email Pat ([pat.tweedie@augustine.org.uk](mailto:pat.tweedie@augustine.org.uk)).

# What's On?

Most of our gatherings and resources are currently online. You can find out details on our website [www.augustine.org.uk](http://www.augustine.org.uk).

## STAYING IN TOUCH

If you wish to receive weekly updates of AUC events please register to receive the Friday email by contacting our Centre Manager ([centre.manager@augustine.org.uk](mailto:centre.manager@augustine.org.uk)).

Find us on 

Check our daily posts on the AUC Facebook page.

## Worship

### SUNDAYS, 11AM

Join services online every Sunday through the zoom link (see Friday emails), website or Facebook page. **Some times are different over Christmas – see p.11.**

Join services in the building for worship every Sunday. No booking is required but track and trace will happen on the door and masks are required to be worn whilst inside. For services with communion, bread & wine/juice will be provided, but feel welcome to bring your own.

Junior Church will also happen in the building every Sunday.

### Sunday Social Time

The Post Service Social Time online is a valuable way of keeping in touch with each other 11.45 – 12.30pm each Sunday. The link is in the Friday email.

On the third Sunday of the month in-building there will be post-service coffee which people are welcome to take and walk round the meadows with others from AUC; or if the weather is poor or you are less mobile, to have seated in the sanctuary. We would like to encourage you to bring your own cup / travel mug, but there will be compostable paper cups available if you forget.

## TLC Youth

### SUNDAYS, 1.30 - C.3.00PM

Inclusive youth group for all young people from S1 up. Email Matt for more information.

## Our Tribe

### FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7.30 – 9.00PM

LGBTQI+ ministry at Augustine United Church.

## Contextual Bible Studies

### TUESDAY 12-1PM, WEDNESDAY 7.30-8.30PM, THURSDAY 12-1PM

Final meetings for 2021 will be on Dec 6,7,8. CBS will start back again in 2022 on Jan 14,15,16. Email our minister, Fiona, to join in.

## Wednesday Blether

### WEDNESDAYS, 1-2PM

Drop in and chat for 10 mins or the hour. Link in the Friday email.

## Church dates in December and January

**December 5** – TLC service at Greyfriars Kirk, with Revd David Paton-Williams leading worship

**December 13** – Julian of Norwich book group

**December 25/26** – Christmas Day and Sunday worship (online only)

**January 17** – Julian of Norwich book group

## Seeds deadline

**Seeds** is published on the Sunday prior to the beginning of each month. The next edition will be published in February 2022. The copy deadline is **Friday 19 January**.