Dealing with corruption on a global scale

Revd Fiona Bennett



he season of Creationtide draws to a close on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St Francis, on Tuesday 4 October.

St Francis was an Italian Catholic Friar who lived in the 12th century. He proposed that creation was God's first incarnation and Christ the second. In this he was not trying to undermine Jesus' significance, but to make the point that the whole of creation is an expression of who God is; all life's source, creator and parent.

This led Francis to value all aspects of this earth as precious and imbued with divine artistry and love; and to understand the interaction, interdependence and balance of all the life which makes up earth as an expression of the mind of God.

This year, as we approach Creationtide, in the midst of record summer temperatures, droughts and floods, I am amazed at myself and the whole of our world at how apathetic we seem to be to take significant action to protect ourselves and the many life forms we are dependent upon.

As one of the richest nations in the world, why are so many houses still poorly insulated and carbon clean

sustainable energy sources not our sole sources of power? I feel this frustration as someone whose loft is not as well insulated as it could be, but who finds the thought and cost of clearing it and relaying the floor very overwhelming.

I am part of the problem, but there are also much bigger forces at play which are making sustainable choices inaccessible to people who are unable to cover the basic costs of life.

"While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart."

St. Francis of Assisi

The words of St Francis above challenge me that talk about environmental justice without action is meaningless, hollow. In fact, in our current situation, it is worse than hollow; it is corrupt, as it is destroying God's world.

As I face this season of Creationtide, I am challenged to take more action in my own life and to campaign for much more action by the human powers which influence our world.

[continued on p.8]

This Month

ACTIONS, NOT JUST WORDS

Black History Month is celebrated at Augustine



MEALS WITHIN OUR MEANS

Pat Tweedie shows how to eat well even when money is tight



THE GIFT OF A BEE

James Julian on a moment of connection with nature



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The latest reporting from Centre, Property and Finance







Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL 0131 220 1677 www.augustine.org.uk facebook.com/AugustineUnited Scottish Charity no. SC000385

CHURCH SECRETARY

Linda Harrison

secretary@augustine.org.uk or via the church office

MINISTER

Revd Fiona Bennett

minister@augustine.org.uk 07552 162 717

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Revd Maxwell Reav

associateminister@augustine.org.uk 07957 543 359

CHURCH CENTRE MANAGER

Rachel Fitzgerald

centre.manager@augustine.org.uk 0131 220 1677

WEBSITE

Thomas McPolin

web.editor@augustine.org.uk

FACEBOOK

Eilidh Carmichael

eilidh.carmichael@augustine.org.uk

SEEDS EDITORIAL TEAM

Laurence Wareing and Denis Mallon

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

CHILDREN

Kirsty Murray

juniorchurch@augustine.org.uk

COMMUNICATION

Denis Mallon

denis.mallon@augustine.org.uk

OUR TRIBE (LGBT MINISTRY)

Revd Maxwell Reay

associateminister@auaustine.ora.uk

PEACE & JUSTICE

Katrina Tweedie

katrina.tweedie@augustine.org.uk

PASTORAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Sheila Storrier

sheila.storrier@augustine.org.uk

WORSHIP

Revd Fiona Bennett

minister@augustine.org.uk

YOUNG PEOPLE

Matt Baines

vouth@augustine.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Alex Peden

safeguarding@augustine.org.uk 07747 300897

VISITOR MINISTRY

Thomas McPolin

thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk

We are always looking for volunteers to undertake various tasks each week to keep church happening. Perhaps you could consider learning how to make coffee or welcome people. To find out more, contact:

AUC VOLUNTEERING

Lewis Reay

lewis.reay@augustine.org.uk

LOCAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Kathleen Ziffo

.athleen.ziffo@augustine.org.uk

Local and Global

News from the United Reformed Church



GOD BLESS ROVER

The annual Greyfriars Kirk Pet Blessing Service will take place on Sunday, 9 October, 3-4pm.

Each year the Kirk opens its doors to furry, feathered and fluffy friends to give thanks for everything they bring – companionship and joy. Join the Greyfriars community, The Skye Terrier Club and other friends for this relaxed, fun service.

REMEMBERING KABUL

One year ago, Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, was overcome by the Taliban. Since then, one in four people crossing the Channel have been refugees fleeing the country.

But delays and lack of funding and support mean that they have been left in limbo, and the government is still pushing forward its plans to export many asylum seekers who enter the UK by this route to Rwanda, without considering their asylum claims.

Steve Tinning, the Baptist Union's Public Issues Enabler, highlights the issues on the JPIT website. www.jpit.uk

WHEN FIONA MET JUSTIN

Since becoming Moderator of the URC General Assembly in July, our minister, Fiona Bennett, has hit the ground running. Among many other commitments in her first month in the role, she was welcomed to the Lambeth Conference by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The conference is an international meeting of Anglican bishops that gathers every ten years. Fiona has reflected on its controversial 'call' on human sexuality in her Moderator's blog on the URC website (assemblymoderators.urc.org.uk). Also on the URC website, you can view Fiona's moving talk to the 2022 Free to Believe Conference on the theme of 'Keeping hope alive'.



INCLUSION MAKES ITS MARK

Five LGBTI+ organisations, including the Equality Network, have come together to launch The Scottish LGBTI+ Rainbow Mark.

The 'mark' is a visible symbol which can be displayed to show a social space is welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI+) and comes with a set of inclusive principles and guidance to help social spaces become more inclusive.

The initiative aims to help reduce isolation and social exclusion, create more welcoming places, and increase positive LGBTI+ visibility.



DON'T BANK ON PLASTICS

Between 2015 and 2019 the world's biggest banks – including Barclays and HSBC – provided the equivalent of \$790 million per day in finance to companies involved in the global plastics supply chain. Faith-based campaigning charity ECCR is calling on those banks to limit the financing of plastic products and polluters. Sign the ECCR pledge and find out how to contact your own bank at www.eccr.org.uk.

COMING UP...

24-25 September – Doors Open Weekend at AUC. See p.11

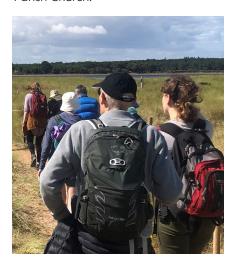
1 October – Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at Methodist Central Hall Westminster in London to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the URC

November – New College Festival of Books and Belief

PILGRIMAGE

Members of the three congregations who make up the local church around George IV Bridge joined a pilgrimage to Dunbar on Sunday 21 August.

A walk with reflections in the John Muir Country Park (or an alternate visit to the John Muir Birthplace museum) was followed by a picnic at Dunbar Parish Church.



SINGING THANK YOU FROM THE TREE TOPS

In the last issue of *Seeds*, we marked the end an era, as Susan and Kirsty step down as leaders of Junior Church.

During worship, they were presented with a Thank You Tree (pictured). Here are just a few of the messages it carries.

"I like being in the Junior Church team, we get to do all sorts of activities" (Max)

"Me too, I really like the holy moly videos and when we get to make things!" (Ozzie)

"... I really enjoyed making Christmas cards for the congregation. It feels

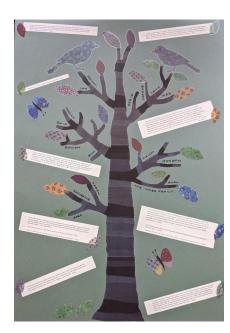
weird seeing everyone who has grown up and now being the oldest." (Ellie)

"I was really quite nervous before our first post-lockdown trip to church. The sight of the blanket and toys set up for Lewis and the reassurance Susan provided that any and all baby noise/activity was totally fine brought a tear to my eye. It's a kindness I won't forget!" (Eilidh)

"I was so happy that there was a safe and welcoming space for Elin when she was wee." (Elin and Anna)

"Their creativity made Junior Church truly magical!" (Rachel)

"I always remember thinking of Susan and Kirsty as a bit of a dream team! ... I was so appreciative of their support and encouragement when I helped out with JC activities! Giving me the opportunity to lead creative workshops gave me a taste of what I wanted to do in the future and I still look back on this so fondly today. Their enthusiasm well and truly rubbed off on me!" (Megan)





SIÂN AND CAROL - MRS & MRS

The new Mrs & Mrs Joyner would like to thank everyone from AUC who worked to make our wedding day so special.

We were married by Fiona on Saturday 2 July at Augustine, followed by a wedding breakfast at St Columba's by the Castle, with a ceilidh and Pride disco delivered by the fabulous Houlies.

Glenbervie Folk Duo also played during the reception, with a special Glenbervie arrangement of the Gentleman Jack theme tune!

Centre, Property & Finance update

As reported in the May edition of Seeds, the Centre Property and Finance team have begun trialling six key indicators to illustrate how things are going across our remit and reporting in a more visual way. Recognising the impact of Covid, we use the most recent equivalent pre-Covid quarter (in this case Q2 2019) adjusted by CPI for comparison purposes.

We hope you find this style of reporting helpful, and would love to hear your feedback so that we can make these updates as informative and digestible as possible.

Q2 2022 (Apr-Jun) vs Q2 2019 (Apr-Jun) Q1 2022 (Jan-Mar) vs Q1 2020 (Jan-Mar)



BUILDING UTILISATION (CHARGED AND OTHERWISE)

There were 270 bookings compared to 414 for the same period in 2019. In Q1 2022 we were still hosting the Grassmarket Community Project which masked an otherwise underlying change in church activity. In particular in-person ministry and mission activity has yet to return to pre-Covid levels.





BOOKING & RENTAL INCOME

Booking and rental gross income was £33,242 compared to £38,502 for the same period in 2019. It should be noted that our room booking charges increased by 7% in January. We believe we are still very competitively priced versus comparable city centre venues.





OFFERING INCOME

Offering income was £11,099 compared to £8,865 for the same period in 2019. We are very grateful for everyone's contributions whether financial or otherwise, especially in these challenging times.





BUILDING REPAIR COSTS

Building repair costs were £7,004 compared to £9,291 for the same period in 2019. The figures exclude the work to repair the Finials on the Church Tower, for which our insureres will only meet 50% of the cost. Other recent works include dealing with drainage issues in the Pend (the cause of THAT smell!), Filter flies in the Archive space at Pend level (still under investigation) and an ingress of water in the Sanctuary ceiling.





UTILITY COSTS (ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER & PHONE/BB)

Utility costs were £4,524 compared to £5,458 for the same period in 2019. We are fortunate to be on a fixed price deal for electricity which will provide stability until March 2025.





BUILDING RUNNING COSTS (EXCLUDING UTILITIES)

Building running costs were £22,745 compared to £29,432 for the same period in 2019.



- 1. 2019 Building Repair costs are measured as 25% of the 12 month costs up to end of Q2
- 2. To provide a better like-for-like comparison, the 2019 financal figures above have been adjusted using the Consumer Price Index, which rose 11.5% between April 2019 and April 2022.

Black History Month

In October AUC will mark Black History Month in worship. Here, Hanna Albrecht describes a walking tour taken recently around the streets of Edinburgh. The guide was Lisa Williams, founder of the Edinburgh Caribbean Association.



My route takes me past countless historic buildings and stately monuments, breath-taking views of the Old Town from Regent Road, and along the beauty and grandeur of the Royal Mile.

I've walked this way hundreds of times, but it's not become old yet, after five years of living in Edinburgh, this city, these views. But my thoughts on it have become more complicated, more reflective, more critical.

It was along those streets that Lisa Williams led a dozen of us after a Sunday service in early June. We spent two hours on the Edinburgh Caribbean Association's 'Black History Walking Tour' – two hours that weren't nearly enough time to cover Edinburgh's complicated, ugly history with the transatlantic slave trade and abolitionism, and at the same time, the powerful lives that People of Colour

have been living here, to this day. We learnt about the bitter history of Sugarhouse Close, a sugar emporium that was built on the work of slaves. We passed monuments to influential people whose riches and power came from the oppression of people of colour, such as tobacco merchant James Gillespie, or who further cemented racial injustice by endorsing slavery, such as David Hume. We heard hopeful stories of activist and reformer Frederick Douglass and his connections to abolitionist groups in Edinburgh.

Some people like to declare, dangerously, that the transatlantic slave trade is in the past and its effects are no longer felt. Lisa's expertly woven stories and incredible knowledge of Edinburgh's rich and painful history, however, showed us how wrong such a declaration would be. Hundreds of years of systematic oppression are not undone in a few decades. Slavery is indivisibly connected to the landscape of our city, the power it has given some people over others still felt today.

Lisa, whose own existence is inextricably connected to this history and its present consequences, offers these walks as part of a larger mission of 'healing'. Her focus is on educating, on closing the gaping wounds that the long-term oppression of people of colour has created. And she is graciously inviting and powerfully urging us to join her.

As we in the URC explore the legacies of slavery, the 'Black History Walk' opens the conversation up even wider. What can we do to contribute to this healing process? How can we support the work of people like Lisa? What can we do to name and acknowledge the racial injustice in our society at large (and our city specifically) and, at the same time, work to actively abolish it? There is a long road ahead of us.

The path to healing is a difficult, complicated, stony one. But it is a walk we have to undertake if we want to create a city, a world in which there is equity for all.



Activist and reformer Frederick Douglass

Making apology – calling for reparations

evd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson has became the first woman from an ethnic minority background to be made Moderator-Elect of the United Reformed Church.

In the same week, the URC's General Assembly made a confession and apology for the role of its antecedents in transatlantic slavery and its continuing complicity in the legacies of the trade today.



The Church also made a commitment to undertake practical actions to address 'the continuing negative impacts of the legacies of transatlantic slavery on black communities in the UK, the Caribbean and Africa'.

As her first act as the Moderator for 2022-23, the Revd Fiona Bennett, with the Revd Adrian Bulley, Deputy General Secretary (Discipleship), declared that the confession and apology 'is firmly rooted in the gospel call to repentance and gives life to the commitment in our Basis of Union to be "formed in obedience to the call to repent of what has been amiss in the past and to be reconciled."

They said: 'We have heard the pain of sisters and brothers who have been hurt, and are still being hurt, by these legacies, including the continuing scourge of racism ... In a spirit of humility and vulnerability, we are urged on by a movement of God's Spirit, calling us for a journey of words and actions towards a future built on equity, justice, and love.'

Do we know?

he resolutions calling for both apology and practical actions in relation to the legacies of slavery have been introduced.

Karen Campbell, Secretary for Global and Intercultural Ministries (pictured) said: 'The hurt of slavery is still real for millions of people. You may not see the wounds bleeding, but they are still not healed. I was born in Britain, but I stand before you as someone who belongs nowhere. I'm cut off from my history, with no way of knowing something as basic as my true family name, and this is a legacy of transatlantic slavery.'

She said the Legacies of Slavery Task Group has heard many testimonies and been asked many questions.



Karen has captured some of these in this poem.

Do they know, Karen,
Does the URC know
All that we face, day out and day in
What we see, what we hear
What we take in our stride
What it means
How it feels
To walk in our skin?

Can they imagine the sting,
Standing fresh in the church,
Offering gifts of talents and time,
And much more,
To be told, 'You're not needed
For this, nor for that We've called a white colleague
We knew from before'?

Do they know how it burns
When the message is shared
'She says she's not coming on any
such day
That you lead, that you preach,
Because she insists
She can't understand a word that
you say'?

Do they have any idea
Just how much it smarts
When a colleague, in collar,
Seeks to keep me in check Says I welcome 'your folks' in the
pews, but cannot
Accept a white collar
Around a Black neck?

Do they know, Karen,
Does the URC know
Just what we encounter
While they say we 'belong';
What it means to be Black in this
Church –
Our Church?
Please, hear what we see –
See that something is wrong.

Karen Campbell, June 2022

Creation Time

n 1989 the Ecumenical
Patriarch (the spiritual leader
of Orthodox Christians
worldwide) suggested that 1
September, which is the first
day of the Orthodox Church's
year, should be observed as a
day 'of protection of the natural
environment'.

Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a Time for Creation stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October. It is a period dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change. This period is known as Creation Time.

Our very own (we can call him that, right?) David Coleman, Chaplain at Eco-Congregation Scotland is contributor/creator in JPIT's 'Season of Creation: Pick and Mix Resources' – poems, prayers, sermons, videos, produced in collaboration with Eco-Congregation Scotland. www.jpit.uk/creation. Check out the Gospel readings told by Jo Clifford. (Also 'our very own'!)

Dealing with corruption on a global scale

[continued from p.1]

However, another quote from St Francis leads my mind to hope. St Francis also said: 'A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.'

One sunbeam which I have encountered during my travels as

Moderator has been to meet with some people in the URC who are 25 years and under.

In them I have met people who are willing and ready to back up their words with actions – and not just one-off actions, but the willingness to accept that less obvious

and sometimes less comfortable and convenient ways of living are what they choose, so that other life can live.

In January, eco church organisation A Rocha commended the URC's Youth Executive for the leadership that URC Youth Assembly and its Executive have shown in encouraging the whole Church to act swiftly to develop how it cares for the environment

They are challenging themselves to make choices which are less driven

by how much they earn or how much power they gain over others, but by what they can give and create and what balance they can find.
Sunbeams which refresh me with the potential in our humanity for goodness.



URC Youth Assembly and its Executive

If Francis is correct and creation is God's first incarnation, then it shouts at us about the importance of interdependence and the inbuilt realities of resurrection and evolution. The brief lull in travel during the pandemic showed how extraordinarily quickly the earth seeks to restore its health when it is permitted; another

sunbeam which drove away many shadows, born from the tragedy of Covid.

God has built perpetual hope into this world and in Jesus has shown us how to live that Way of hope. The Good News is all around us. Our challenge is to live in it, to act and not just talk about it, and in our action to be amazed at the transformation and joy God can grow.

Sacred Spaces

A reflection by James Julian.

do voluntary work at Redhall Gardens, which is a SAMH project (Scottish Association for Mental Health) intending to help people with mental health issues.

It is a sacred place to me. It is somewhere I find peace and tranquillity as part of God's garden.

On the 1st of August, during my tea break, sitting quietly by myself on the bench, I was looking at a flower in a pot, which had a bright yellow centre and pink petals. A bee flew past and landed right in the middle of the flower. It was only a few inches from me. It was beautiful and wonderful to watch God's little creation moving around at the centre of the flower.

I don't know how long it was there, but eventually it flew off. I was left with a sense of how fortunate I was to have had that connection with nature and the little bee. It made my afternoon special along with watering the tomato plants in the polytunnel and the hanging baskets that we had made

When I received the AUC August News Sheet from Fiona, only a few days later, I realised that God is always with us. Fiona had included a postcard of eight British bees. There was also a little bee on the back of the postcard and a blessing:



May the Spirit bless you ... not with easy roads but strong steps; not with certainties and proofs but with leaps of faith; not with happiness for an hour, but peace and joy forever.

Practice mindful wildlife spotting

ere's an idea for Creationtide that could be adapted to other settings and any time of the year. It comes from a 'mindful newt-spotting workshop'!

'Try to spot amphibians or other wildlife in a local pond. Firstly, you must be patient. If you are bored within 30 seconds, then notice the feeling and switch your attention back to the pond. Attention and awareness is a created gift from God with different elements.

We can focus our attention on one part of the pond – perhaps one of

the plant pots the newt might be sheltering under, or have a more open awareness of the whole pond.

If this practice of sustained attention is new to you your mind will wander frequently, taking you out of the present moment and an observant state. Do notice what your mind has wandered to and bring it back to the pond. With practice this will enable you to learn to both sustain and switch your attention – eventually leading to a capacity to be more deeply attentive – which is life in all its fullness!'

(Borrowed from A Rocha UK's Wild Christian newsletter)

9

Tight budget...tasty food

Private chef, cookery campaigner and AUC member Pat Tweedie is passionate about eating well even when money is tight. Pat is going to share some of her best ideas for budget-friendly meals here in Seeds, including tips for making the most of your food. This month, it's all about courgettes.



Courgette Fritters

INGREDIENTS

makes 6

1 tin of tuna in sunflower oil

1 courgette grated

1 egg beaten

2 measures of bread crumbs (see tips below) salt and pepper to taste

TO MAKE

- 1. Drain the oil from the tuna and reserve.
- 2. Put the tuna a medium sized bowl; add courgette, egg and breadcrumbs.
- 3. Season with salt and pepper.
- 4. Mix.
- 5. With your hands, separate the mixture into 6 equal parts. Shape into rounds then flatten.
- 6. Heat the reserved oil from the tuna and cook gently for 4 mins each side.

Serve with a simple salad in a bun.

Approximate cost: £1.40

TOP TIPS

If the mix is too wet add some more breadcrumbs; if too dry, add some more egg.

Breadcrumbs. I freeze individual slices of leftover bread. This makes it easier to defrost for toast etc., Frozen bread is easy to grate or to blitz in a food processor. Measures for this recipe are done by using the clean tuna can as a measuring device.

If you are not a fan of courgettes, replace with a grated carrot or some sweetcorn.

This recipe works very well for bulk preparation. Make up batches and then freeze with greaseproof paper separating the layers. These can be cooked in the oven but only if you are using the oven for something else. The most energy efficient method is on the hob.

Batch cooking is a great way to save time and money especially as tins of tuna are regularly on special offer.

You can read more about Pat's passion for cooking in the April 21 edition of *Seeds*.

OUR TRIBE

Our Tribe will meet on Thursday 1 September.

Exploring Gender & Sexuality: A non-binary & Bisexuality Perspective

- Life Stories
- Labels (Helpful/Unhelpful?)
- Moving Beyond (Alphabetti Spaghetti)

Led by: Carol Shepherd & Kai Millar On Thursday 6 October, we will celebrate Black History Month.



And in related MCC news, the Revd Kai Millar (pictured at her ordination in May) is to become the next pastor of Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle.

Members recently voted to accept their pastoral search committee's recommendation, which now means a very exciting move for Kai. They start their new role on 18 September.

Announcing their news, Northern Lights wrote: 'We look forward to welcoming them, and working together with them, on our continuing journey as a fabulous and beautiful community of faith here in the North East. We pray that God will guide our paths.'

AUC DAY AWAY

It will be here before you know it!

This year's AUC Day Away will take place on Saturday 5 November, from 10 'til 3. And the event will take place in our own church building.

The Revd Sarah Moore, who works within the URC's Scotland Synod to help congregations at times of change, is leading the day.
We plan to look forward over the next five years: building on our experiences of the past two years, identifying the challenges and opportunities ahead.

More information to follow but, in the meantime, save the date.

BRIAN AND ELEANOR BAILEY – A CHANCE TO REMEMBER

The Revd Brian Bailey was minister at Augustine, 1984–96. A celebratory tea for the lives of Brian and his wife Eleanor will take place at AUC, Saturday 8 October, 2–3.30pm.

As well as some hymns, prayers and readings, we will share stories and photographs, music and perhaps even a wee dance (Brian and Elly loved Scottish country dancing!) – along with tea and cake.



If you want to go, please let Caro Penney know by Sunday 2 October – by email <u>caro.penney@augustine.org.uk</u> or phone 07419 377 698.

(A Memorial Service will take place on Saturday 3 September at 2.30pm at Coldingham Priory.)

DOORS OPEN % DAYS %

DOORS OPEN - CAN YOU HELP?

We are opening our doors to welcome in visitors during Edinburgh's Doors Open weekend, September 24-25.

Can you help? Be a welcomer? Help us offer hospitality? Be a guide, sharing information about our life as a congregation? (We will provide support and training as required, and we have loads of resources you can have at hand – you don't have to remember all the facts!)

If you're interested or want to know more, please contact our Doors Open coordinator, Thomas McPolin at thomas.mcpolin@augustine.org.uk.



Most of our gatherings and resources are currently online. You can find out details on our website 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).





Check our posts on the AUC Facebook page.

Sept / Oct 2022

Every Sunday at 11am Blended Sunday worship and after-service Zoom social.

Contextual Bible Study runs each Monday at 7.30pm (online) and Thursday at 12 noon.

You can find more details on the church website at www.augustine.org.uk/about-us/diary/.

September		
Thursday 1		Season of Creation Time (– 4th October)
	7.30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sunday 4	1pm	Intergenerational Lego Creation Time (tbc)
Monday 5	7.00pm	Divine Dance book group – David Townsend online
Tuesday 6	10.30am-1pm	NHS Mental Health drop-in
	7.30pm	Church Council
Sunday 11	12.30pm	Church Meeting with sandwich lunch in person
Thursday 15		Week of Peace in Israel and Palestine
Sunday 18	5pm	Online Social
Sunday 25	1:30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+)
October		
Saturday 1		Black History Month
Monday 3		Challenge Poverty Week (Scotland)
	7.00pm	Divine Dance book group – David Townsend online
Tuesday 4	10.30am-1pm	NHS Mental Health drop-in
	7.30pm	Church Council
Thursday 6	7.30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Monday 10		World Homeless Day
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sunday 16	5pm	Online Social
Sunday 23		One World Week
Sunday 30	1.30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+)

Seeds deadline

The next issue of *Seeds* will be a double issue for November and December. *Seeds* is published on the Sunday prior to the beginning of each month. The copy deadline for the November/December edition is **Wednesday 19 October**.