

Seeds

Jun/Jul 2024

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine
United Church



Love, pray, vote

Revd Fiona
Bennett



In April, I had the opportunity to share in URC Anti-Racist training delivered by Professor Anthony Reddie, Professor of Black Theology at Oxford University.

Professor Reddie left me with many things to mull over, one of which is particularly significant entering into a general election: to remember that everyone is multi layered.

For those of us living in Scotland, this is about more than wearing many semmits (vests), it is about remembering that every human being has layers and layers of story, experience and identity which have shaped how we see and react to the world around us.

When you look at me you may see a short white woman, a minister, a follower of Jesus... but I am also a mum, a spouse, an Aberdonian and Edinburgher, a daughter, a friend, a human who struggles with choices and hope, and so much more. We are all so much more, and none of us have a perspective on life shaped in a vacuum. When we look at each other, especially when we find ourselves in sharp conflict or disagreement with another, it is important to stop and remember that this person or party is not an adversary to defeat, but multi layered human/s to connect with.

Jesus offers us many examples of this approach throughout his life. One of the starkest is the story of the

woman he meets by the well in John 4. This story shows Jesus knowing and accepting the woman layer upon layer of who she was, and inviting her to see him and accept him layer upon layer of who *he* truly is.

In our current culture, polarising views and defining people in tribes seems to be a very common habit. Is that because people lack a sense of belonging? Or simply to aid marketing tools? Or to create forms of social control? Perhaps it is all or none of the above, but polarisation (creating goodies and baddies) is much more akin to how the pharisees worked than Jesus. With this in mind, the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (jpit.uk) has created great resources and podcasts to help us **Love, Pray and Vote** in the coming general election. They include a Conversation Guide to help us consider how to talk with people who hold different political views to ours.

The theologian NT Wright* reminds me why engaging with this general election in Love, Prayer and by Voting, is not an optional extra but a calling for followers of Jesus. 'Left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there's nothing much we can do about them. And we are wrong. Our task in the present... is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second.'

*N.T Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church* (For more on how to Love, Pray Vote see pp.10-11.)

This Month

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

AUC mark and celebrate LGBTQ+ life in March



MONEY MATTERS

Looking at how AUC annual finances have evolved



HOPING FOR HOPE

Hanna Albrecht finds inspiration in Corrymeela



RETURN TO SEASEM

Moira Holmes follows a thread in New Zealand





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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:

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Local and Global

News from the United Reformed Church



PRIDE AWAITS US

LGBTQ+ Pride (Edinburgh) will take place on Saturday, 22 June. 'This is an opportunity to celebrate, come out and be a community together,' says Lewis Reay.

'We will be carrying our God Loves All placards – a visible sign of God's inclusive love which have made us visible in previous years.'

Marchers will be joined this year by a group from Northern Lights MCC in Newcastle. AUC marchers and supporters will gather at AUC from 10am for coffee and cake, and walk to the march gathering point at 11am. This is usually outside the Scottish Parliament at the bottom of the Royal Mile. March details are still to be confirmed, so look out for further announcements.

GREENBELT GETS CRAFTY

Greenbelt, the Christian arts and spirituality festival, will take place 22-25 August at Boughton House near Kettering. This year's theme is 'Dream On'. AUC's own Wynne Luck is volunteering this year as part of a large United Reformed Church presence.

You can also contribute to the URC presence by expressing your own dreams for the world in a 15x15cm square. Knit, crochet, make a patchwork square or even draw. All the squares will be joined together to make one massive quilt of dreams.

More information, and details of where to send your square at bit.ly/3Vrohlo or email samara.andrews@urc.org.uk.

QUEEN JESUS SURVEYS AMERICA

Jo Clifford has packed her Jesus dress and prayer bell and embarked on a tour of three US states, seven churches and four denominations to give readings of her spiritual play in churches.



Before leaving, Jo said how grateful she was for 'the incredible love and kindness I've received so far, as we've been setting this journey up'. She added that she was 'astonished that the journey is happening at all; and especially just now, when the whole issue of trans presence and trans identity [in America] is being weaponised by those who want to resist the change that has to come'.

COMING TO OUR SENSES

Our minister, Fiona Bennett, is one of the worship leaders at this year's Free to Believe conference, which takes place at The Hayes Conference Centre, 4-6 September.

Taking the theme 'Coming to our Senses', this annual URC gathering will explore our roles as created beings. As 'co-creators', say the organisers, 'we can create nothing out of nothing, but only in relationship and exchange with the earth, with other people, and with God'.

Speakers will include Kathy Galloway, a former Leader of the Iona Community, and of Christian Aid Scotland, and friend of AUC, Victoria Turner. More information at www.freetobelieve.org.uk.

'YES, WE HAVE FAIR TRADE BANANAS...'

Despite pressures on purses and wallets, shoppers are voting for the planet and ethical work practices more than ever before, The Fairtrade Foundation says.

The Fairtrade green and blue logo, 30 years old this year (see Fiona's article in the April/May *Seeds*), is a globally-recognised symbol of fairly produced and sustainable goods. The Fairtrade Foundation expects to have banked £13m for licensing the certification in 2023, up from £12.8m in 2022 – a sign that sales of ethical goods are holding their own despite the cost of living crisis.

RWANDA LEGISLATION 'SHAMEFUL'

The Rwanda Bill was voted into law by the UK Parliament in April. The URC and Churches represented by the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team signed an open letter with over 250 organisations from across civil society, denouncing the new Act as a 'shameful and performatively cruel law that will risk people's lives and betray who we are as a society'.

Church leaders also joined with ecumenical colleagues in the UK to express gratitude for those who work alongside refugees and asylum seekers, in the face of rising hostility and unjust malignment of this support from some quarters.

Life on the Bridge

News from Augustine United Church

UNIQUE AND WONDERFUL

The children of Junior Church have been busy making connections.

This year we have been learning about ways people can connect with God in Junior Church.

This included talking about who we are as unique and wonderful people – in the photo, you can see our self portraits and the words we used to describe ourselves (in purple writing) and the words we used to describe each other (in black writing).

We've also talked about how Junior Church fits into the congregation as a whole.

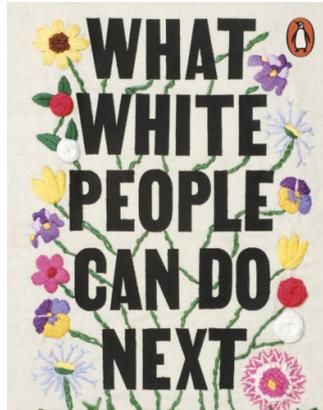
The kids identified that, in the wider church, Junior church. . .

- brings fun
- shares things we make
- talks about what we are learning
- tells the nativity story
- plays music
- offers a different perspective
- . . . and so much more!



NEW BOOK GROUP FOR THE AUTUMN

The Peace and Justice Team will offer a new Book Group (led by Jim Kerr) continuing the Legacies of Slavery group from last autumn. We will discuss Emma Dabiri's *What White People Can Do Next: From Allyship to*



Coalition during three meeting times in the autumn. Dates tbc but if you are interested, make a note of the book and have a read! *What White People Can Do Next* can be purchased for around £5-7. It is available as an audio book.

EXPANDING THE TENT CONTINUES...

The URC National Synod in Scotland weekly programme of workshops inspired by the Synod Aspirations will continue through June and again from August.

Sessions, which began in May, will run right through to February 2025 on Zoom on Wednesday nights, 7.30-8.30pm.

There is real flexibility about when and how to join sessions. All the information is at www.urcscotland.org.uk/news and you can read the synod's aspirations in full at www.urcscotland.org.uk/synod-aspirations More information, and Zoom link, from Gemma Walker (pa@urcscotland.org.uk).

TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Lewis Reay and Carol Joyner recall some of the ways AUC marked and celebrated LGBTQ+ life in March.

This year Transgender Day of Visibility fell on Easter Sunday. It always falls on 31 March but this year it seemed particularly fitting as Jesus was coming out of the tomb in resurrection.

Building on the successes of last year, this year we held an event to celebrate transgender joy, mark the first birthday of Resisting Transphobia in Edinburgh (RTiE), and listen to speakers from local transgender community and campaigning organisations.

RTiE is a community-based organisation which collaborates with progressive organisations, champions trans liberation, joy and a safer future for trans youth, and aims to foster unity within the trans gender



community and beyond. AUC provides meeting space for RTiE and several members of AUC regularly attend.

Find our more about them at www.rtie.org.

We had a diverse cross-section of around 70 people at the event. For



some, this was their first time in our building. This provided a safe space to mark our collective achievements and find energy to continue in the action towards transgender liberation.

Vic Valentine from Scottish Trans spoke about their work, and the current climate of transphobia in Scotland and Edinburgh in particular. Kit from RTiE spoke about how the group came into being after anti-trans speaker Posie Parker held a rally in Glasgow in February 2023, and the realisation that counter-protestors needed support to keep themselves safe from far-right elements. This was in the context of the murder of Brianna Ghey on 11 February that year.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence spoke about their work as a group of radical drag nuns, who have been LGBTQ community activists since 1979. We had spoken word poetry from Amy-Jo Philip and Lewis Reay, with work written specially for this Transgender Day of Visibility, and Laurence Wareing played a selection

of wonderful show tunes. Several local clergy were present, as was the Revd Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator of the Scotland Synod of the URC.

Ashley also made a wonderful rainbow cake to celebrate RTiE's one-year anniversary and a very excited Leslie Cunningham was invited to blow out the candles, making us all smile with a jig of joy in the sanctuary!

February also saw Our Tribe mark LGBT History Month with a Human Library organised by Maxwell. It proved a rich learning experience as we walked in the shoes of others and listened to stories of suffering and redemption. This was followed by a time of eating cakes and partaking in a rather challenging quiz run by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. (So challenging that the winning team scored 5/20!)

The evening was given over to an Open Mic event compered by Carol (who also premiered her stand-up routine), and featuring

Steve's remarkable storytelling in highly expressive Scots Gaelic, Bill's Ministry of Magic (especially the sock trick!), Christian's vocal and guitar performance of well-loved numbers by Joan Osborne and Billy Eilish, and an impromptu rendition of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by some assorted Sisters!

AUC also provided a safe space and place of quiet reflection for the queer community on 6 April, during a demonstration on The Mound against trans rights, held by radical feminist group Let Women Speak. A counter demonstration was organised by RTiE involving singing, dancing and music. Trans siblings and allies had the choice to attend the rally or be with us at AUC. It was pleasing to see a good number make use of the latter.

Following feedback from the queer community, AUC plans to host another Open Mic event, alongside further collaborations with RTiE and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, so watch this space!

CAKE AND COMMUNITY

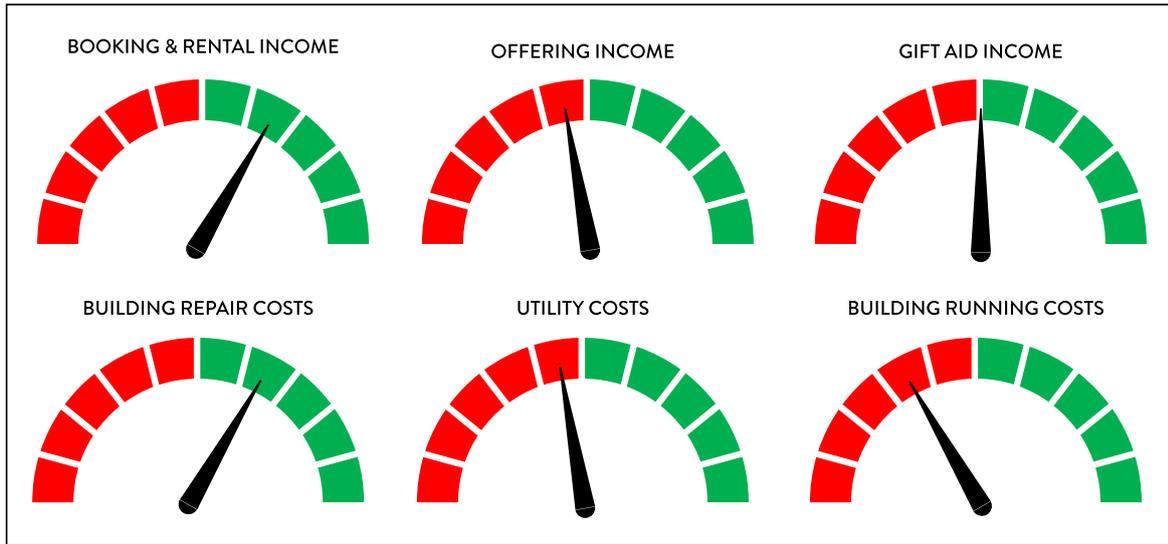
AUC's afternoon tea party on 27 April was a magnificent and happy event. Don't the pictures just say it all?



Money matters

A summary of AUC's 2023 finances from the Centre, Property & Finance Church Life Ministry Team

The traffic lights are back, swing-o-meter style! Below is a consolidated comparison between 2023 and 2022.* The 2023 results are largely influenced by two factors: cost of living challenges and a return to pre-Covid level usage of the building, which is welcome but increases costs.



Booking and rental income

Booking and rental gross income was up by £17k (13.75%).

Offering income

This was about £6k (10%) down. We are very grateful for everyone's contributions, whether financial or otherwise, and recognise these are challenging times.

Gift Aid (including the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme)

This was down by about £3k (19%), but this is misleading and mainly due to a very generous donation in 2022, without which the underlying position was broadly comparable.

Building repair costs

Costs were down by about £5k (15%). Augustine being an old building routinely provides maintenance challenges as was particularly the case in 2022.

Utility costs (electricity, gas, water and phone/BB)

Costs went up by about £1k (5%) (reflecting the improved usage of the building). We have been shielded from the worst of inflationary energy charges through a fixed term contract which is nearing an end. We are actively looking for (a) a competitively priced green energy replacement contract, and (b) ways to improve the energy efficiency of the building, and associated grants.

Building running costs

These are proving particularly challenging and went up by circa 16K (over 16%).

NOTES

Swing: each segment of the chart represents a 10% change for better (green) or worse (amber/red).

***Indexation:** To provide a like-for-like comparison, the 2022 figures have been adjusted by CPI.

Gift Aid declaration forms are available on the website: www.augustine.org.uk/gift-aid-declaration

A painless way of giving

Ian Rathjen with Rachel Fitzgerald are thinking ahead

The Centre, Property and Finance Church Life Ministry Team has recently been looking at the Annual Accounts.

We have been struck by the contribution made over the years by bequests from members and friends.

Can we give a gentle reminder that, without some action at some point in your life, these valuable bequests may one day dry up?

You may think that this does not apply to you: 'I'm young, I don't have much money. I know that making a will is a good idea – I will get round to it when I have something to leave.' Or you have already made a will, tucked it away and can now forget about it!

Many members and friends make their contribution to Augustine through monthly standing orders. Others contribute, not through cash giving, but through their personal volunteering, and this too is a vital part of the life of our community. Leaving something in your Will helps the work to continue when personal giving has ceased.

There is never a right time or a wrong time to make a Will. It is not a document set in stone which commits your executors to definite future action. It can be revised as often as you like. It can allocate specific sums to family. It can mention one or many good causes. It can give a percentage of your assets to each beneficiary so that as your fortunes wax or wane,

all bequests automatically adjust to the amounts available. It is always a good idea to blow the dust off your Will every few years, so that you can make amendments as they become necessary.

Making a Will for the first time need not be an expensive business. You can do it entirely yourself or get a friend to advise.

“Leaving something in your Will helps the work to continue when personal giving has ceased”

There are also points in the year where you can get a will drawn up by a solicitor entirely free of charge – usually in return for a donation to one or more charities. Take a look at freewillsmnth.org.uk and willaid.org.uk.

The internet has plenty of advice and, remember, if you do not leave a Will there is always the possibility that the state will take what you have left. If you eventually have more to leave than at present then you would probably take advice from a solicitor. Everyone's circumstances are different and the last thing we want to do is interfere in your private arrangements.

We just hope that this reminder might help you to take a step which will be of value to the work of Augustine in the years to come.



Photo by Álvaro Serrano on Unsplash

Hoping for hope

When the work of making peaceful change becomes overwhelming, how do you restore hope? By working together, says Hanna Albrecht.

What are you hoping to gain by the end of this week?' our instructor Colin asks us on the first day, and the silence lingers heavily in the room.

I don't know how to answer. I've come here tired and exhausted.

In the last year, I've struggled with the lack of response the world is giving to the climate crisis. I've witnessed an increasing amount of hate poured out against people who are different, particularly the trans and nonbinary communities. I've seen the death toll in Palestine climb every day for months. I've wrestled with the fear that no matter how much I advocate for peace through justice, it will never be enough.

When I look around the room, I can see the same tiredness in the faces of the people around me – public health workers, diplomats, religious leaders, educators, all gathered here because they have gotten stuck, one way or another, in working for peaceful change.

'I'm hoping for hope,' I answer when it is finally my turn. We've gathered in a sunlit room at the edge of Northern Ireland, in a place that has dedicated itself to building peace and connection between people and fostering the hope that I am searching for so desperately.

For five days, we have come together in the Corrymeela Community to learn about 'Dialogue for Peaceful Change' (DPC), a mediation model focused on understanding the

nature of conflict and facilitating mediative dialogue. We spend a day exploring our own attitudes towards conflict – a difficult one for me, as someone who loves to avoid it as much as possible!

I scribble furiously as we turn towards the neurobiological foundations of conflict on Day Two. What happens in our brains when we go into conflict with one another? How can we make sure that people stay open to being in relationship with one another, to empathise with one other?

For three days, we practise our mediation skills by working through difficult conflict scenarios from around the world. I am still tired because it's tiring work, and the days are long. But I am no longer hopeless.

With every passing day, we grow closer as a community. When someone gets stuck, another person steps in to help out. We watch each other grow in confidence, admit our fears to one another during early morning walks along the coast, belly-laugh together during evening social times around the fireplace. And by the end of the week, it really does feel possible, sometimes, that conflicting parties can find common ground. That people can be courageous and empathetic despite pain and fear clawing at their hearts. That a new story can be told.

As part of the DPC model, we never mediate alone. That is what sticks with me more than anything else. We are not supposed to be doing this work by ourselves, we are part of a community. When I lose hope, someone else will be able to offer it to me with an outstretched hand. Which is also the way that we live out our faith, not in isolation from God and others, but in messy and authentic community, ready to tell new stories, waiting with an outstretched hand.

With grateful thanks to the communities who made it possible for me to attend this training: The URC through the Discipleship Development Fund, AUC's Our Tribe, and a dedicated Family Group of the Iona Community.



Return to Seasem

Moira Holmes follows a thread in New Zealand

Readers may remember that I was blessed, in February/March 2023, to spend six weeks at St Elijah and St Enoch Monastery (Seasem) in New Zealand (Seeds, June-July 23).

On returning to Scotland, I found myself longing to go back, which I did last December, staying three months, as a postulant.

I was convinced that everything was in alignment for a future life there. Not long after I arrived, Prior Rob described how most monastics, in the beginning, often feel like they are in a coffin. I thought, That's not me, I'm where I'm meant to be. After all, Jesus had already knocked on my bedroom door to welcome me! Slowly, however, the discernment process brought me to realise that my time in NZ was to be only for a season.

The photo is one of the cross-stitches I completed while there and it is a wonderful visual representation of

my discernment process. The nature of the pattern made it impossible to hide. Any mistake had to be unpicked, and often in the unpicking the thread broke. However, by God's grace I was able to pick up the pieces and move forward.

While there were many challenges, there was also much joy. This manifested gloriously one morning a couple of weeks before I left. I was sitting in contemplation at the start of Lauds, the sun beating down on me. I opened my eyes and noticed that my robe looked like millions of stars against a night sky. I was looking at God's wonderful cosmic creation; clothed in the glory of Christ.

I now believe that I was called back to Seasem as a holding place to allow me to deepen my relationship with our Lord; to

heed that knock on the door and open my heart to Jesus; to become better equipped for the challenges ahead; and to help me become the person God needs me to be. I trust that her great plan for me will continue to unfold, and I just need to keep saying 'Yes!'



A global exit plan for fossil fuels

Jane Herbstritt and Liz Murray, from Global Justice Now, explain what we can do to support a movement for change. Global Justice Now is one of AUC's building partners.

We all understand that we need to tackle climate change.

To do this, we are going to have to phase out oil, gas and coal; and transition to climate-friendly energy sources to heat our homes, power our transport systems and grow our food in the future.

But phasing out of fossil fuels doesn't just mean decreasing demand for it – we also need to cut the supply of fossil fuels and keep the remaining coal, oil and gas in the ground. This is not going to be easy, but it is doable. The growth in renewables – a rise of 50% worldwide in 2023 – proves what's possible when proper investment is made into the alternatives. What we now need is for governments to take the lead on ending fossil fuel extraction – and collaborate to make a global exit plan.

That's why Global Justice Now is campaigning for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. The proposed treaty would be an international agreement for a global plan to quickly and fairly phase-out the extraction of oil, gas, and coal worldwide. It would be based on three pillars:

1. End all new fossil fuel exploration;
2. Fast and fair phase out of fossil fuel extraction globally; and
3. A global just transition from fossil fuels that makes sure no worker, community or country is left behind.

The Pacific Island Nations of Fiji, Vanuatu and Tuvalu – countries

that are already being hit by the worst impacts of climate change – are leading the call for this treaty, which has now been endorsed by 12 countries in four different continents, as well as the World Health Organisation and the European Parliament. More than 100 cities worldwide, including Edinburgh, have also endorsed the proposed treaty.



Patrick Hendry on Unsplash

In Scotland, we are campaigning for the First Minister to endorse the proposal, and join subnational states like California and Hawaii in championing what could be a cornerstone agreement. We are hoping to hand in a petition to the Scottish parliament in September and need as many signatures to the petition as possible. Please sign, and ask others to sign too!

Sign the petition here:

www.act.globaljustice.org.uk/ending-fossil-fuel-era

And if you'd like to get more involved in the campaign, you can email Jane and Liz who are based upstairs in Augustine's church tower office: scotland.office@globaljustice.org.uk

JPIT GENERAL ELECTION BRIEFING

The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team's election briefing is designed to help us think about not only how we will vote on 4 July, but also what to question and petition our local candidates about. The briefing sets out some of the key issues at stake in the coming general election in each of six policy areas, and suggests questions which might be raised with candidates about them.

Find out more and download the briefing from JPIT's special General Election Newsletter:

bit.ly/4c5eZRB

Kathleen Ziffo adds: 'Christian Aid, along with Eco-congregations Scotland and Scottish Fair Trade, has also produced questions on topics such as climate change. Christian Aid 'crib sheets' on debt, climate and peace concerns might be used in a Question and Answer session at any hustings meeting; or to send to prospective candidates.'

Have your say - General Election 2024

By the time the next issue of Seeds is published, the United Kingdom will have a new government, and the devolved parliaments will also have a new set of relationships to navigate.

**How will you have your say?
Kathleen Ziffo explains.**

What do I have to do to be able to vote in the 4 July 2024 UK General Election?

In order to vote in this UK General Election, you need to be on the Voting Register and be 18 by the date of the election. Registration has to be completed **by 18 June**.

You can register to vote if you're a British citizen or an Irish citizen. You can also register if you have permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, or are a member of categories of people who do not need permission. (Includes most Commonwealth citizens and people from Hong Kong.) (EU citizens living and working in Scotland can register to vote, but cannot vote in the UK General Elections; though they can vote in Scottish Parliamentary and local Elections.)

(In Scotland persons from age 14 can have been put onto the voting register but cannot vote in a UK General Election until aged 18. This is different to Scottish Parliamentary Elections when individuals can vote from age 16.)

You will need your National Insurance Number (found on payslips and letters concerning tax, pensions or benefits). If you have previously voted, have retained the same name and nationality, and still live at the same address, you will already be on the Voting Register. If things have changed, or you are not sure about your voting status, this can be checked at the UK Government online site (gov.uk), or at the City of

Edinburgh Council (www.edinburgh.gov.uk) (p.0131 200 2315), or Lothian Electoral Registration Officer (www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk) (p.0131 344 2500) or via the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office.

New procedures for voting in person mean that you have to take a **specific form of identification** with you to your Polling Station. This identification needs to be:

- UK or Irish passport
- UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving license (Full or Provisional); or a driving license issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country
- Pass Card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme) e.g. bus pass, Scottish National Entitlement Pass etc.
- Blue Badge
- Biometric Residence Permit
- Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90)
- National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card
- Voter Authority Certificate (for which you apply beforehand)
- Anonymous Elector's Document

Any person can apply for a **Postal Vote** if they are unable to vote in person for whatever reason. Applications for postal voting and proxy voting **forms need to be received by 19 June**.

Other Useful Links: The GOV.UK site also includes lots of information about how to vote, including how to set up a **Proxy Vote**.

A PRAYER FOR VOTERS

Loving God, we face a choice.
Be with us as we consider the options
weigh the arguments
and assess the claims and the candidates.
But also prompt us to listen:
to the voices on the margins
to the cry of the earth and
to those who reach a different conclusion to us.
God, we pray that you would
stimulate our minds
stir our hearts and
sanctify our choosing.
Help us also to remember your command
to love our neighbours
both during and after this election. Amen

What's On?

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).

Find us on

Check our posts on the AUC Facebook page.



Giving made easier with AUC's QR code

June / July 2024

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

Contextual Bible Study is running online each Wednesday at 7.30pm and Thursday at 12 noon until the end of June. There are no sessions in July.

NHS Mental Health Drop-in cancelled until further notice.

June		
Thu 6	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sun 9	12:30pm	AUC Church Meeting, with bread and soup lunch
Sun 16	12:45pm	Belonging Course ONLINE
	17-23	Refugee Week (Theme: Our Home)
Sat 22	10amff.	Pride (see p.3)
	11am	Eric Liddell Centenary Service, St Giles Cathedral
Sun 23	11am	Pride celebration in worship
Sun 30	11am	Celebration of end of school year, followed by AUC picnic (The Meadows or in AUC) – see emails for details
	1:30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St
Sat 27	2pm	AUC Tea Party
Sun 28	12:45pm	Carbon Literacy Course pt2
	1:30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints
July		
Tues 2	7:30pm	AUC Church Council
Thu 4	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Tues 9	7:30pm	Church Meeting ONLINE
Thurs 11		100th anniversary of Eric Liddell's gold-winning 400m race, Paris Olympics 1924
Sun 28	1:30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King Street

Eric Liddell stories?

The next edition of *Seeds* will come out during the Olympics being held in Paris. One hundred years ago, Eric Liddell won a remarkable 400m race at the 1924 Paris Olympics – a story of great faith and sportsmanship told in the film *Chariots of Fire*. Eric Liddell's home church was Morningside Congregational here in Edinburgh. Do you have any stories about Eric Liddell we can share in *Seeds*? If you do, please get in touch at newsletter@augustine.org.uk.



Seeds deadline

The next issue of *Seeds* will be a double issue for August and September. It will be published 26 July. The copy deadline for the August/September edition of *Seeds* is Wednesday 17 July.