

# Seeds

Aug / Sep 2025

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine  
United Church



## The cost of discipleship

**Rev'd Fiona Bennett**



**J**esus said, 'You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Matthew 5:43-44.

He was making reference to 'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord' (Leviticus 18:19)

It is not always easy to love those around us. Jesus knew that.

He lived in a world of Roman occupation, where alongside the usual personality clashes and fallings out of families and communities, there were divisions and factions within the occupied Jewish people and a fear and resentment of the occupying Roman powers.

To love your neighbour was not easy, but Jesus challenged his hearers to go further; not only to love their neighbours but also their enemies.

News headlines, social media likes, gossip, and justification for violence are so easily fuelled by fear and hatred, and turn people (and systems) into enemies. It takes discipline as Christians to pursue love rather than being consumed by hate or fear.

I recently met a very compassionate person from a town in southern Germany with a significant population of immigrants. They commented that, 'Sure there are issues, but we must not lose sight that these are people, not problems; they are diverse beautiful people, with harsh and often painful stories.'

They reminded me that the heart of compassion is looking at others (and ourselves) as multi-layered and complex beings who are known and loved by God. I may find someone's behaviour or views offensive and deeply wrong, but part of my discipline as a disciple is to recognise that there will always be more to that person than the aspects of them which disturb me, and in that recognition to seek to love them.

**"There will always be more to them than what disturbs me"**

Writing in 1937 under the shadow of the rise of Nazism, Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book *The Cost of Discipleship* wrote, 'The will of God, to which the law gives expression, is that people should defeat their enemies by loving them.'

Loving ourselves, our neighbours and our enemies is a costly discipline; but a discipline which offers a peace (individually and collectively) which no defeat by violence can ever achieve. It is not easy to love, but it is the only way of true hope for us all.

### This Month

#### CAN WE MAKE DYING GOOD?

Faith perspectives on new assisted dying laws



#### SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Bishop Budde's life of hesitant courageous reviewed



#### ANY GOOD CLIMATE NEWS?

Renewable breakthroughs offer fragile hope



#### SEEKING THE SACRED

Faith takes centre stage at the festivals





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If you would like to know more or get involved with one of these, please email the contact person.

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#### **WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN AUC?**

Do you feel called to get more involved in the life and ministry of AUC? Then joining the volunteer rota might be for you! We are always looking for new people to join the rota to provide our inclusive ministry of hospitality for all.

There are a variety of roles available and full training will be given, mainly by shadowing current volunteers. The rota for September and October is currently being compiled, so now is a good time to get in contact.

Please pick up a 'Sharing' card at church or email **Lewis Reay** directly on [rota@augustine.org.uk](mailto:rota@augustine.org.uk).

# Local and Global

News from the United Reformed Church



## PARADISE RETURNS

Paradise Green is back. Every year, in what is a mutually beneficial partnership, the company turns AUC into a popular Fringe venue. Our Centre Manager, Rachel Fitzgerald, and the caretaking team, have been working hard to stow away equipment and furniture, and from Sunday 3 August, the sanctuary will be transformed into theatre mode.



## SACRED ARTS FESTIVAL

The seventh Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts will take place 10-16 August.

Dr Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, will preach at the opening service in St John's SEC on Princes Street, on Sunday 10th (and share his own poetry at an event later that day).

The week-long programme includes exhibitions (including 'Seeds of Hope' by Carol Marples of the Soul Marks Trust), music, poetry, architectural visits and film (Charlie Chaplin's silent movie, *The Pilgrim*). Full details at [edinburghsacredartsfestival.org](http://edinburghsacredartsfestival.org)

## CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBYING

The Revd David Coleman, Chaplain for Eco Congregation Scotland, and an AUC member, joined with 5,000 people on 9 July to urge the UK government to 'Act Now, Change Forever' on climate justice. Alongside him were five of the United Reformed Church's network of Green Apostles, and the Thames North Synod Moderator, the Revd George Watt.

The mass lobby was organised by the Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of individuals and organisations dedicated to tackling climate change and restoring nature, with input from Faith for the Climate. MPs were invited to meet with groups of constituents to discuss leadership, local action and impacts, the popularity of action on climate change and a just transition away from fossil fuels to a truly green, sustainable economy.

A mass lobby of MSPs will take place at Holyrood on Thursday 18 September. More information at [stopclimatechaos.scot](http://stopclimatechaos.scot)



## FUNDING IDEAS AT URC WORKSHOP

Augustine's treasurer, Ewen Harley, and Thomas McPolin were among those who attended a Fit for Funding workshop at the URC's National Synod of Scotland offices in Glasgow in June. The workshop was led by Faith in Community Scotland and provided

training and information about seeking external funding for church-based community projects.



## MATT BAINES PRIDE LEGO

AUC member Matt Baines was invited by Abbey Church of Dunfermline to host a special Pride 'Everyone is Awesome' LEGO event in July.

Bright, beautiful, and bold LEGO creations filled the Abbey Church Halls and, later, in the church as well. 'We believe the church should be a place for everyone,' Matt said. 'A space where all people are welcome, celebrated, and loved, just as they are.'

Matt is Abbey Church's Children's and Family Worker.

## WCRC @ 150

A moving service was held on 12 July to mark 150 years of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). The service was hosted by WCRC member the United Reformed Church at its American International Church in the Thames North Synod. The event highlighted the power of music as an act of resistance and renewal amid a fractured world.

The WCRC comprises 100 million Christians from more than 230 member churches in 109 countries across the globe. Its strapline reads: 'Called to Communion, Committed to Justice'.



# Life on the Bridge

News from Augustine United Church



## THE LOCAL CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TO ST ANDREWS

The Local Church, the ecumenical group of churches around George IV Bridge, is hosting its annual pilgrimage on **Sunday 24 August**. We will travel to St Andrews, to hear stories of Hope and Change.

**Departure:** A coach will leave from outside AUC at 10 am on Sunday 24 August.

**Destination:** All Saints Church in St Andrews.

Those who wish to stay at the church or wander around the cathedral are welcome to do so. For those who are able and interested, there will be a guided walking pilgrimage (of about three miles) around St Andrews, with stories of Hope and Change.

At 2 pm we invite everyone who wishes to gather back at All Saints for a shared Communion service.

**Return:** Coach leaves at 2.30/2.45pm, aiming to be back at AUC for around 4.30pm.

Please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing.

**Registration:** Please fill out the registration form at [bit.ly/TLC-reg-25](https://bit.ly/TLC-reg-25). It will not only register you for transport but will provide us with emergency contact details. We ask that everyone coming fills it out, even if you're making your own way to St Andrews.

**Registration closes at midnight on Wednesday 20 August.**

The cost of transport is £20 per head (£10 concession + under 16's free). Please pay on the coach, in cash, on Aug 24th. In addition, please let us know through the form if you would be willing to drive your car to St Andrews (should the bus get filled) and how many additional seats you could offer.

If you have any issues filling in the form electronically, please call Rachel Fitzgerald in the AUC office on 0131 220 1677.

## SING FOR UNITY

On **Sunday 21 September, 2–3.30pm**, AUC is hosting a 'Sing for Unity' event, part of a global initiative to mark the UN International Day for Peace ([singforunity.com](https://singforunity.com)).

Sing for Unity is a worldwide musical movement. Voices from every corner of

the planet will sing to send a powerful message: We are one world, one people and we stand together in unity and community.

Sing for Unity is open to anyone who would like to join in. No audition. No singing experience required.

Just come along with a desire to join in and enjoy. Together we will raise our voices to promote unity, community and peace across the globe.

For more information contact Fiona ([minister@augustine.org.uk](mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk)).

## BINNOCHIO RIDES AGAIN

**Saturday 27 September @ 7.30pm**

Following up from her 2024 Fringe performances, Carol Joyner, aka Binnochio, returns to AUC with an evening of anarchic bi-sexual comedy and music. She is joined by special guest Jo Clifford.

The Studio, Augustine United Church. Tickets £9.50/£6.50, with all proceeds to Our Tribe LGBT+ ministry. 16+ only.



All Saints' Church garden, St Andrews – Bev & Paul Mynott

# Active hope and radical grace

**Over one hundred people from across Scotland gathered in St Matthew's Church, Perth, on 14 June.**

The celebration was to mark 25 years of the National Synod of Scotland, 'Living the Hope Within'.

Synod Moderator the Revd Lindsey Sanderson, quoting the German theologian Jürgen Moltmann, said the day was an opportunity to 'prepare ourselves and our communities for the things that God has promised through the resurrection of Christ'.

Special guests included representatives from the URC's northern synods, and from Wales – which formed its own national synod at the same time as Scotland.

The day offered an opportunity for people to share in workshops and worship that encouraged them to think about 'how we give an account of the hope that is within us'. Myles Dunnett, the URC's Church Life Review programme director, described the task as building 'a flourishing Church, less burdened and better enabled' (see p.6), while URC Head of Communications Andy Jackson brought evangelistic enthusiasm to the task of engaging with digital technology and the importance of how we present ourselves in a visual world. Scott Spurlock, a Church

historian, tapped into the current enthusiasm for genealogy to unpick 'who we are'. He pointed to the different branches of the URC in Scotland (many of them reflected in AUC's own make-up) and asked what gifts they bring to the mix. And the Revd Sally Foster-Fulton reflected on justice as she spoke about Christian Aid's 70th anniversary.

Meanwhile, AUC's Mike Holroyd explored creative worship in a lively session of singing. Mike also led the day's worship and offered the Synod a celebration song that reminds us of who we are and what we are called to do:

*We celebrate all that has shaped us  
as one*

*The prayer and the praise and hard  
work and fun*

*The service to neighbour and stranger  
and friend*

*the witness to Jesus, the wounded to  
tend.*

*And still we are called to a radical  
grace*

*To seek peace and justice in all that  
we face*

*We look for our saviour to lead us  
from here*

*We call on the Spirit to drive away  
fear.*

# A fish wish

**On 8 June, we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost – 'the birthday of the Church', when God's Holy Spirit was experienced amongst the first disciples and shared with those round them.**

During one of the activity sessions, Jo Clifford wrote this poem. It remembers that the early Christians used as their secret sign of community, a simple fish image.

The Greek word for 'fish' was *ichthus*, which is made up of the first letters of

the Greek words for Jesus, anointed, of God, Son, Saviour.

*I wish  
we still used the fish  
because a fish  
is a symbol of life  
and a cross  
is a symbol of death.  
I wonder  
how it would be  
if we all decided  
to be fishy  
and live in shoals  
instead of being  
cross  
and living  
alone.*



# We're reviewing... the situation\*

**The United Reformed Church's Church Life Review will affect every local congregation in one way or another. Proposals are being brought to a special General Assembly in November.**

**T**he Church Life Review (CLR) has been on the go for around three years. Alert to the challenges facing every major Christian denomination in the UK (an aging demographic, buildings no longer fit for purpose, and public perceptions of what we have to say), the review has been developing a vision of a flourishing United Reformed Church, less burdened and better enabled.

The review has taken as its guiding message words of the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah. He emphasised communal welfare, hope in times of uncertainty, action in times of change, and trust in God's sovereign plan: 'Seek the welfare of the city ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' (Jeremiah 29:5-7).

Phase 1 of the review established its priorities, and evolved into four workstreams that have looked at finance, employment, services, and new communities.

Phase 2 has been investigating, proposing, and guiding changes which it is hoped will help the URC flourish into the future. Proposals include refocussing the Church's financial resources and the creation of a substantial new shared fund, to collectively make best use of the denomination's resources and finance activities in line with agreed values and principles.

**"The review emphasises communal welfare, hope in uncertainty, action in change and trust in God's plan"**

By establishing a shared fund, the Church Life Review is seeking to fund and support:

- a denominational resources portal, to reduce administrative burdens in local churches (e.g. submitting accounts, finding the right documents to report the right information)
- more local lay workers, some of them salaried
- new URC communities of worship and discipleship

Five principles underpin how the URC hopes to share its services and financial services across the denomination:

1. We seek to use our resources effectively.
2. We look to be efficient, as part of our commitment to good stewardship.
3. We will take considered risks for the Kingdom.



4. We prioritise partnership within and beyond the United Reformed Church.
5. We value local diversity within the family of the United Reformed Church, rather than constraining uniformity.

Following the Extraordinary General Assembly in November, Phase 3 will implement the outcomes of the four workstreams; collaboratively explore longer-term strategic questions as the denomination continues its journey; and focus on delivering for the URC's existing and future church communities.

You can keep updated with the Church Life Review via its dedicated web page ([urc.org.uk/church-life-review-group](http://urc.org.uk/church-life-review-group)). For more information, or if you have any questions, email [churchlifereview@urc.org.uk](mailto:churchlifereview@urc.org.uk).

\*Spot this month's unabashed stage musical reference! (Answer on p.12.)





## Bright, affirming and proud

Saturday and Sunday 21-22 June was Pride Weekend in Edinburgh. AUC was there, loud and proud, both during our special service on the Sunday and for the carnival on the Saturday.

We enjoyed pastries, tea and coffee at the Pride Breakfast, marched during the parade carrying our 'God Loves All' and 'Trans Affirming Church' placards, gathered outside the church to cheer on the parade as it went past, and hosted a stall (attracting a lot of interest) in the University of Edinburgh's McEwan Hall



# Can we make dying good?

**What are your thoughts about assisted dying? Have you worked out your point of view (and has it changed over the years)?**

Do you still have a host of different questions? The United Reformed Church has wrestled with the issues over the years and has returned to them as current legislative proposals pass through the UK's parliaments.

On 20 June, Westminster MPs narrowly approved the landmark Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill by 314 votes to 291. If passed into law, the Bill could bring major social change by giving

The Scottish Parliament is working on detailed legislation with a bill having already passed Stage 1.

The Terminally Ill Adults Bill, passed by the House of Commons in Westminster, is now subject to further scrutiny through various stages in the House of Lords. MPs will then get a final say when they have looked at any proposed changes. This is the point at which the bill will officially become law, unless it runs out of parliamentary time or those in the House of Lords who oppose the bill find a way to block it.

The United Reformed Church's General Assembly last discussed assisted dying in 2007. It said a

The Church recognised the value of good palliative care and that additional resources were needed (even then) to make it more uniformly available. However, it also stated:

'We could not support legislation that would empower medical staff to intervene in ways which deliberately seek to assist a patient to die. We would therefore oppose any change in the law to permit voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide.'

As legislation advances in all of the UK's four nations, the URC has offered prayers to help us all navigate the complex issues around assisted dying.

Here is one of them. Others can be found on the URC website – just type 'terminally ill' into the search bar.

## A FULLER LIFE AWAITS

*Eternal One,*

*we pray for our legislators,*

*faced with complex lives, situations, and finances,*

*and trying to discern right from wrong,*

*in the face of high-powered campaigns.*

*Suffering Lord,*

*You walk with us in our pain, bewilderment, and grief,*

*give grace to those who approach the end of life,*

*wisdom to clinical staff who care for them,*

*and time for loving farewells.*

*Renewing Spirit,*

*remind us that death is not the end,*

*that a new, fuller, life awaits us,*

*where there will be no more death, sorrow,*

*mourning or crying. Amen*



Alexander Grey/Unsplash

terminally ill adults in England and Wales the legal right to end their own lives.

Issues around assisted dying are being discussed by legislators across the four nations.

The Isle of Man allows assisted dying, and Jersey is in the latter stages of legal preparation for this.

number of things, including that, 'as Christians, we regard all human life as being God given, and therefore precious; we believe that death is not the end and we have faith that there is a more perfect life to follow'. The URC recognised that 'there is a time to die and that there are circumstances in which it will be wrong to continue to provide treatment designed to prolong life'.



# Climate crisis - is there any good news?

**In a world increasingly shaped by wildfires, floods, and record-breaking heat, Christian hope is something different from optimism.**

Hope is grounded in God's dream for the world, requiring energy and commitment even when the dream appears world-weary and tattered.

And surely it helps even faith-led hope to read or hear signs of good news, however fragile, and however sceptical we might feel about what governments are or are not doing. While the climate crisis undeniably remains urgent, a few recent developments suggest some momentum building – in policy, justice, and clean energy.

In the UK, the Climate Change Committee (CCC) recently reported that since 1990, the UK has cut greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 50% as the economy has started, tentatively, to grow. The CCC acknowledged that more action is needed, particularly in heating and agriculture, but it confirmed that net zero by 2050 is still achievable – if government action keeps pace. It's a reminder that targets are important, and achievable with consistent effort, innovation, and policy support.

Second, a landmark ruling from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) could reshape how climate inaction is judged under international law. The case was brought by Pacific Island nations, led by the low-lying island of Vanuatu. They argued that countries have a legal duty to prevent climate harm. The ICJ agreed. In what has been described as a David versus Goliath ruling, the ICJ affirmed that states must protect both current and future generations from environmental damage.

Lea Main-Klingst, a lawyer at ClientEarth, called the decision a

breakthrough: 'The age of producing and bankrolling fossil fuels with abandon is over. This new-found clarity will equip judges with definitive guidance that will likely shape climate cases for decades to come.'

The ruling isn't legally binding, but its moral weight could strengthen future

progress and impact.

But Guterres said, 'Countries that cling to fossil fuels are not protecting their economies – they are sabotaging them. The fossil fuel age is flailing and failing,' and he highlighted the role of renewables in strengthening global energy security. 'There are no price



climate litigation and diplomatic pressure.

And finally, as the global energy transition appears to be accelerating, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that 'fossil fuels are running out of road'. In 2024, 92.5% of all new electricity capacity came from renewable sources, including solar, wind, and hydro.

He didn't deny that there have been serious setbacks. In the United States, clean energy programmes have faced major cuts, and climate research has been defunded under the second Trump administration. Globally, emissions still reached new highs in 2024, revealing the gap between

spikes for sunlight, no embargoes for wind,' he said.

Taken together, do these developments offer cautious hope? They show that carbon cuts are possible, that legal frameworks are evolving, and that renewables are no longer aspirational but are a present-day force. At the same time, they underscore how fragile and uneven this progress remains.

The path ahead requires urgency and resolve. But in a year of mixed signals, these breakthroughs remind us that change is happening – and that a liveable future is still within reach.

# Seeking the Sacred: what's on at the festivals?

**D**o faith and theatre not mix? Oliver Cromwell thought so. Theatre, he said, was a very bad thing. (Or are we doing him an injustice? Discuss!)

Whatever Oliver thought, this year's Edinburgh International Festival invites audiences to reflect on the theme 'The Truth We Seek'.

This somewhat echoes the New Testament Gospel of John: 'And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' If nothing else, the theme is a striking lens through which both the Festival and the Fringe might explore faith, belief, and spiritual resilience.

If that's your interest, and you're in Edinburgh this August, here's a few options. Others are available.

We've already mentioned the Festival of Sacred Art (see p.3), but opening the International Festival is Sir John Tavener's monumental eight-hour choral masterpiece *The Veil of the Temple*, in only its second-ever UK performance. It draws on sacred texts from multiple world religions and is performed by over 250 singers in five languages. Those who know it say the result is more than a concert – it's a shared act of contemplation, echoing the timelessness of spiritual ritual. ('Complementary tea, coffee and biscuits will be available throughout the performance...')

Meanwhile, at the Fringe (where the typical show time is just one hour) the search for deeper truths takes less demanding forms. *Pilgrim of Hope* is a one-man show from writer-performer Stephen Callaghan, who asks: Where does one find hope today? 'A funny, poignant fable about life, death, air-fryers and one man's search for hope.'

Very different will be *A Period of Faith*, Angela King's one-woman play about how belief sustains through trauma. Framed by the experience of PMDD (premenstrual dysphoric disorder), it's an account of finding strength in faith while navigating chronic illness and emotional hardship.

One of the strongest hubs for faith-related performance this year is Palmerston Place Church (Venue 254), where Searchlight Theatre Company is in residence. Their programme includes stories of faithful lives: Olympic champion Eric Liddell, wartime chaplain Woodbine Willie, and the Revd W. Awdry, the cleric/train enthusiast behind Thomas the Tank Engine. C.S. Lewis questions Aslan and there's an adaptation of his *The Screwtape Letters*. Meanwhile, a church minister and a shipping executive meet in *Titanic: The last hero and the last coward*.

Also at Palmerston Place, *The Passion* retells Christ's final days from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, while shanties feature in tales of the first disciples in *Salt and Light*.

Elsewhere Fischy Music are in concert with Christian music for children, *The Lost Priest* is (surprisingly) about growing up Jewish in America, and – because this is the Fringe, after all – Four Door Theatre presents *Sex and God*.

Across these works (and these are just the tip of the cultural iceberg), artists ask what it means to believe – whether in God, beauty, or one another – in an age of uncertainty.

Their approaches vary, but all echo that central question: What is the truth we seek?

**For details of all the above shows, see the Festival and Fringe programmes, in print or online.**





# Speaking truth to power

Carol Joyner recommends sticking with Marian Budde's memoir  
**Learning to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith.**

**only became aware of the Episcopal Bishop of Washington, the Revd Mariann Edgar Budde, when she made *that* speech in January 2025, at the inauguration service marking the start of President Trump's second term of office.**

Budde launched a scathing attack from the pulpit of Washington National Cathedral on Trump's rhetoric towards immigrants and the LGBTQ community. She made herself an instant enemy amongst Republicans, who labelled her a disgrace and demanded her immediate removal from office.

Budde had already criticised Trump publicly, after he used St John's Church, Washington, as a backdrop to threaten military action against those protesting George Floyd's racially motivated murder, Trump's hand resting on an upside-down Bible.

Nevertheless, to then speak out so pointedly four and a half years later at the National Cathedral, in front of a global TV audience, was truly courageous – some might argue stupid, given the threats on her life that followed.

Budde's memoir, written prior to that admonition, is a slow starter. By her own admission, Budde is fairly quiet and anxious, and that comes across in the accounts of her life thus far. By the end of the book, I still couldn't decide whether she was remarkably unremarkable or unremarkably remarkable. What strikes you as you persevere (and it is worth it), is how astounding it actually is that a slight, sixty-something female priest, riddled with self-doubt and self-admonition, and prone to public gaffes, managed to speak truth to power so boldly earlier this year, with the object of her righteous anger sat glowering directly in her line of vision.



The book charts Budde's journey from a church-centric family to become a priest in the Episcopal Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Following 18 years as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 2011 she became the first woman to be made bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Yet what looks like a remarkable career trajectory turns out to be a meandering path littered with self-doubt, public recriminations and torturous periods of waiting for doors to open. It is testimony to Budde's humility that the book focuses more on the greatness of her mentors than on herself. I loved the eulogy to her late mentor, Rabbi Edwin Friedman, who said about pursuing bravery: 'The safest place for ships is the harbour, but that's not what ships are for.'

But it is in her spoken word, not her written compositions, that Budde's bravery comes to the fore. I would recommend listening to her recent interview on the popular US podcast, ***We Can Do Hard Things***, for a true appreciation of both the courage and purity of Budde's heart (<http://bit.ly/4maVXOL>). Here she gives some practical tips on how to deal with anxiety prior to making life changing decisions, or stepping out in faith – when to jump, and when to stay put.

Both the book and the podcast speak of a journey to courage. It is perhaps not by chance that Budde's surname is pronounced 'buddy'. She does indeed come across as an ally, a friend at your side, gently encouraging you to follow that nudge from the Holy Spirit and speak out against injustice, whether at local or national level.

**Learning to be Brave is available in paperback (2023: Authentic) at around £13.99**

# 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 posts on the AUC Facebook page.



Giving made easier with AUC's QR code



\*This month's unabashed stage musical reference is from... *Oliver!*

# August / September 2025

Every Sunday at 11am: Blended Sunday worship and after-service Zoom social. During August the sanctuary is set up in theatre style, with raked seating.

Contextual Bible Study takes place online twice-weekly, on Wednesday at 7.30pm and on Thursday at 12 noon. **Not during August.**

NHS Mental Health Drop-in is cancelled until further notice.

August		
Mon 4	7.30pm	Church Council
Fri 22		<b>International Day to mark victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief</b>
Sat 23		<b>International Day to remember the Slave Trade and its Abolition</b>
Sun 24	10am-4.30pm	Pilgrimage to St Andrews with ecumenical partners (see p.4)
Thurs 28	7.30pm	Church Council
Sun 31	1.30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St., Edinburgh
September		
Wed 3	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study resumes (see above for details)
Thurs 4	7.30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ gathering
Sun 7	12.30-3pm	NDAS
	12.45-3.15pm	Belonging: Exploring church membership
Sun 14	12.30pm	Church Meeting (In building/hybrid)
Sun 21	1.30-2.30pm	Sing for Unity (see p.4)
Thurs 25	7.30pm	Church Council
Sun 28	1:30pm	Coffee Social: Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St., Edinburgh

## Seeds deadline

The next issue of *Seeds* will be a double issue for October and November 2025. The copy deadline for the October/November edition is Wednesday 17 September.

## WANT TO WRITE FOR SEEDS?

If you're thinking of writing a longer piece for *Seeds*, we hope this information will be helpful. Roughly speaking, we find that a good length for a one-page article is c.570 words, allowing for an image as well. A two-page article will be no more than 900-950 words.

Augustine United Church has been in ecumenical partnership with Greyfriars Kirk and St Columba's by the Castle since 2002, and we enjoy joint services and events through the year. You can discover more about our partners at [greyfriarskirk.com](http://greyfriarskirk.com) and [stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk](http://stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk)

