

Seeds

Oct / Nov 2025

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine
United Church



Sharing the fruit of the earth

Revd Fiona
Bennett



Earlier this year, I read a very inspiring book by Robin Wall Kimmerer called *The Serviceberry: an economy of gifts and abundance*.*

Robin is a botanist. She looks at the life of the serviceberry (a bush with fruit that can be eaten by animals and people) and asks what economic model it reveals to us.

The bush produces abundant sweet ripe berries, to entice other creatures to eat so that they will then spread its seed. The bush does not eat the sweet berries for its own nourishment, it is nourished by the soil, rain and sun. It receives its nourishment freely and gives its fruit freely in the cycle of living.

It does not claim to own its fruit, nor does it hoard back its fruit for a 'rainy day'; it lives in an economy of reciprocity where it freely receives what it needs to live, and protects its species for a 'rainy day' by investing its fruit in the stomachs of others. No one has told it that economies are based on the principle of scarcity and individual protection.

The economy of the serviceberry and the planet is reciprocal, creating its own culture of balance and respect. It is an economy which invests its profits in its neighbour's 'stomach', and trusts and protects not individual wealth but collective abundance.

How egotistical we humans are to think we can own what the earth freely gives.

How deceptive and stupid we are to trick ourselves into hoarding selfishly out of fear, when the planet offers us life abundantly and models for us the wisdom of reciprocity.

How fortunate we are to be alive within the reciprocal economy of life, which, despite how it may feel at times, is shaped, energised and sustained by forces and wisdom greater than humanity.

How blessed we are when we recognise and live reciprocally, with gratitude and respect.

In the words of the Revd Kathy Galloway, who sadly died recently:

Oh, the life of the world is a promise of blessing,

in the rain that renews, in the heat of the sun;

in the heart that confesses and the act that expresses

all things and all people are one.

Oh, the life of the world is the breath of our being,

it is fragile and precious and offers a choice;

shall we share the earth wisely, can we touch the earth gently,

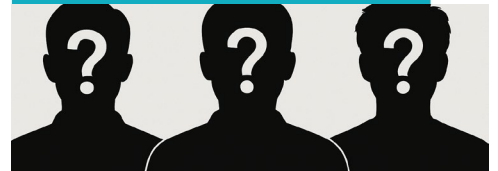
will we listen to earth's silenced voice?

* *The Serviceberry* is published by Penguin. A very good summary of it was published in Emergence Magazine: bit.ly/RWKberry

This Month

MEET THE ELDERS

What do you know about the AUC leadership team?



TRANS JOY CELEBRATED

European gathering offers hope and solidarity



PEACE OF MIND

Edinburgh scientists turn plastic into painkillers



THE 'GREEN APOSTLE'

Carbon literacy training builds confidence for climate activists





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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 November and December 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.

Local and Global

News from the United Reformed Church



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October marks Black History Month in the UK. It is designed as a time to share, celebrate and understand the impact of Black heritage and culture across the four nations.

This year's theme is 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. It highlights 'the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe'.

Resources available at www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk focus on Black leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth.



MAXWELL AND KAI'S SERVICE RECOGNISED

The Revd Elder Maxwell Reay and the Revd Kai Millar were presented with Distinguished Service Awards by the Metropolitan Christian Church (MCC) in July.

Maxwell's award recognised his service on the Core Team for MCC's General Conference 2025 and Kai's award was in recognition for serving on the Moderator Nominating Committee.

The awards were delivered and presented by MCC Governing Board Member Charlotte West as part of the Northern Lights MCC's Pride Service in Newcastle on 20 July.



SCOT SWAP

It has been good to see Victoria Turner (pictured) in AUC worship recently. Victoria has moved back north to take up the role of Director of Studies and Tutor at The Scottish Episcopal Institute. Until this summer, she was working as a lecturer at the Church of England's Ripon College, Cuddesdon, near Oxford. And in a neatly symmetrical move, it has been announced that the University Chaplain and Head of Chaplaincy Services at the University of Edinburgh, the Revd Dr Harriet Harris, will move south to be the next Principal of Cuddesdon.

Victoria's most recent book, *Awake, Emerging, and Connected: Meditations on justice from a missing generation* was published last year and focuses on the experiences of millennials and gen zers.

FESTIVAL TURNS FIVE

The fifth New College Festival of Books and Belief will be held 7-8 November 2025. A programme of speakers, conversations, and a creative writing workshop will take place in the fine surroundings of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly Hall on the Mound in Edinburgh.

Speakers include Vanessa R. Sasson on 'the first Buddhist Women', Shannon Vallor asking how we reclaim our

humanity in an age of machine thinking, and Niamh Ní Mhaioileoin on her bestseller, *Ordinary Saints*. More information at bit.ly/NewColbooks.

SCOTLAND DEMANDS BETTER

A march in support of better living conditions for every person in Scotland will take place in Edinburgh on 25 October.

Supported by the Methodist Church in Scotland, the URC National Synod of Scotland and the Church of Scotland, Scotland Demands Better emphasises the need for politicians to make the changes needed for a society where every household can thrive and prosper.



You can sign up for a newsletter and email updates about the march at www.scotland-demands-better.com.

BRIDGE BUILDER TO SPEAK AT CITY CHAMBERS

Adrian Cristea will give the keynote lecture at the Edinburgh Interfaith Association Civic Reception and AGM on Tuesday, 28 October, 5.30-7pm, at the City Chambers.

Adrian has dedicated his career to building bridges across religious and cultural divides. He has played a pivotal role in establishing Ireland's first official Interfaith Forum, spearheaded the creation of the Dublin City Interfaith Charter, and founded Safe Haven, a programme supporting victims of hate-motivated incidents.

Tickets available via ticketsource.co.uk (search for event).

Life on the Bridge

News from Augustine United Church

REMEMBERING SPACE

Remembering Space will gather again on Sundays 5 October and 21 December, 2-3pm in the AUC sanctuary.

This is a sacred space to come together and share stories of those for whom we grieve. It meets quarterly in AUC on a Sunday afternoon. With coffee etc available from 1.45pm and starting at 2pm, this is a time to pray, reflect and share together.

Open to all. If you would like to know more please contact Fiona (minister@augustine.org.uk) or Moira (moira.holmes@augustine.org.uk).



BE CARBON LITERATE

The Carbon Literacy Course is returning to AUC on Sundays 2, 16 and 23 November.

The course is for people who want to understand the climate emergency and to learn what they can do to tackle it. Everyone will be impacted by climate change and everyone is welcome.

Taking place on three Sundays in November, the sessions will run after church, from 12.45 until 3.15pm. They will cover the science of climate change and issues of climate justice; how the wider community and local

area will be impacted; the significant changes we will all need to adapt to as Scotland moves to a low carbon future; and practical actions we can take to reduce emissions and communicate about climate change.

The accredited course is offered by SCCAN (Scottish Communities Climate Action Network) using content created by Manchester Metropolitan University, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Climate Action Fife and The Salisbury Centre.

For more information and to register your interest please email Katrina (katrina.tweedie@augustine.org.uk)

Read one person's positive experience of carbon literacy training p.10.

DOORS OPEN 2025

As *Seeds* goes to press, AUC is preparing once again to throw open its doors for the city-wide celebration of Edinburgh's heritage, in partnership with local charities and building hirers. We will report on the event in the next edition of *Seeds*.

HARVEST GIFTS

Harvest was celebrated at AUC on 14 September as part of the Season of Creation. An all-age interactive service in café style was led by Kate Owens, with Mike Holdroyd preaching.

As part of the service, there was a collection of donations of food and money for the Edinburgh Food Project

Writing to thank the church for its support over the years, the Edinburgh Food Project said, 'This harvest time you donated an incredible 57.8 kg to help foodbanks. Together you have helped hundreds of people, getting them the essentials they urgently need.'

FAIRTRADE ISN'T JUST FOR A FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade fortnight for 2025 draws to a close on 4 October, but its aims and possibilities extend all-year-round.

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers in more than 1,900 producer organisations across 68 countries.



FAIRTRADE
FOUNDATION

Fairtrade Fortnight was established in 1997. It is the longest-running awareness campaign for fair trade. The event highlights the importance of fair wages, ethical sourcing, sustainable farming practices, investment in communities and businesses, and the improvement of living standards. It encourages consumers to make ethical choices when purchasing products.

The website www.fairtrade.net contains information about the organisation and its work, including ways in which we can support its aims and goals 365 days a year: Choosing Fairtrade products (looking for the Fairtrade logo on products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas, and clothing); hosting fairtrade events; educating and advocating; and buying Fairtrade gifts.



STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST HATE

Under the heading ‘Standing together for the Scotland we love before it’s too late!’, the Edinburgh Interfaith Association put out the following statement following racist protests in Falkirk over the summer..

‘We like to think that Scotland is a welcoming place. People are fond of saying, “We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s bairns”, all the same regardless of colour.

‘However, the appalling scenes in Falkirk last Saturday [16 August], where over 1,000 fascists, racists and far right activists gathered outside a hotel housing asylum seekers, has shaken that illusion and should be a dangerous wake up call for everyone in Scotland.

‘The events ... demonstrated that Scotland is not immune to the

propaganda and misinformation being used to spread racism and hate ideology towards minorities, including refugees.

**“these gatherings
are not ‘peaceful’
non-racist protests
or about protecting
women’s rights”**

‘Make no mistake, these gatherings, like others across the UK, are not “peaceful” non-racist protests or about protecting women’s rights.

‘You only had to witness the Nazi salutes and the banner stating, “kill them all, let God sort them out”, and listen to the calls supporting Tommy Robinson and the threats directed towards the women counter-

protesting to realise that. There are also sad reports from Falkirk of not only the Mosques being targeted with eggs but also innocent people walking in the street.

‘A great concern is how the peaceful counter-protesters were greatly outnumbered by 1,000 to 250. The lives of the people living and working in this hotel were under threat. But this brave, diverse group of 250 protestors helped to prevent violence taking place. [The counter-protestors] demonstrated what is possible when we come together.

‘We must come together across our different faith, cultural and political groups to make a loud and clear statement that Scotland takes a zero-tolerance approach to racism and hate.’

Meet the Elders

What do you know about our Elders?

Augustine United Church needs leadership. It needs voices that can speak for the whole community.

It needs decisions taken, sometimes hard ones. It needs love, commitment and enthusiasm to help guide us forward in our mission of sharing God's justice and joy.

Elders share responsibility, with the

minister(s) of Word and Sacraments (in our case, Fiona and Maxwell), for the spiritual oversight of the congregation. At the moment, AUC's Elders are: Denis Mallon, Jim Kerr, Jo Clifford, Linda Harrison (who is also Church Secretary), Moira Holmes, Sian Joyner, Thomas McPolin, and Tyler McNeil.

Importantly, they are no different from any other church members – we are all called to develop and grow in faith,

through prayer, worship, sacraments and learning, and, as the URC's own guidance notes, 'the call to eldership is a renewed call to these things as well'. The guidance also goes on to say that not everyone needs to know or do everything – 'eldership is definitely a team activity'.

Here, some of AUC's wonderful, diverse eldership team share something about themselves and their personal call to eldership.



Sian Joyner has been part of AUC for about six years. 'I feel really grateful to be part of such a kind and welcoming community. I am honoured to be an Elder, and enjoy spending time with, and planning for, Junior Church in that role.

'Outside of church, I like wild swimming, crocheting, and studying at university. I live with cerebral palsy,

which has shaped both my work and my faith. During the week, I teach student teachers about inclusive education and ways to recognise and challenge ableism. At the weekends, I sometimes write or lead workshops on disability liberation theology – though really, I just see it as a chance to keep sharing and learning alongside others.'

Linda Harrison says she was ordained as an Elder at Lion Walk URC in Colchester and elected to serve on their Elders Meeting. 'Like many, several approaches were made over a few years before family and work gave space to listen to the call.

'Ordination is for life, so this was recognised by AUC when I was elected to serve on Church Council. A close understanding of all the elements that help our church to work best for all has been where I have felt called over the last five and a half years.

'As Church Secretary*, I have a wider view, and liaise closely with the two ministers and the Church

Treasurer. In this role, I hope I bring encouragement, and challenge, as the wonderful team that is Church Council works to achieve a sense of direction that meets the steer from Church Meeting. For me, the model of representation across the Church Life Ministry Teams, and our openness as a congregation, make the work of Church Council fulfilling and worthwhile in my developing journey of faith.'

*Linda's second term as Church Secretary is drawing to a close but she says she will hope to support a new Secretary as they wish.



"As Church Secretary, I hope I bring encouragement, and challenge"



For **Tyler McNeil**, 'being an elder is, for me, about listening well, offering encouragement, and helping to hold our church family together in faith and friendship. I bring skills in organisation and communication, along with a love of creating spaces where people of all ages feel welcome. I especially enjoy supporting our children's ministry, helping to nurture curiosity and joy in

"I love creating spaces where people of all ages feel welcome"

their growing faith. My hope is always to serve quietly but faithfully, so that together we can be the church God calls us to be.'

It was while **Jo Clifford** was touring her play *The Gospel According To Jesus Queen Of Heaven* around America in 2024 that she began 'to understand the connections between my theatre work and the work of AUC.

'And, hugely to my surprise, I found myself called to be an Elder in order to formalise this connection.

'Figuring out how best to communicate the spiritual dimension of life is a really important part of our work in the church and matters profoundly in the current global crisis. So I want to continue reading Scripture aloud in church and over the Internet, and also learn how to lead worship.'



Being received into eldership was 'an unexpected turn of events' for **Jim Kerr**.

'I had become a member of the church because I wanted to commit to Christian discipleship and to support the mission of AUC. I was happily attending worship and doing my bit on the volunteer rota when two friends raised the idea of eldership with me. So, now I'm an elder. I enjoy working

with the other members of the Church Council and I am privileged to have been assigned as liaison to the Peace and Justice team, which coordinates the congregation's efforts on a range of social issues. Eldership can be quite a demanding job, but very rewarding. Skills? I've been told I make a mean cup of coffee.'

Moirá Holmes currently serves as the Elder representing the Pastoral Care Team.

'The aim of this Ministry Team is to facilitate a web of care throughout AUC through social events, pastoral support and education opportunities to promote good mental and emotional health. All my life, I've had a desire to serve, and feel that this ministry affords me the opportunity to put into practise my listening skills, with compassion, humility, and integrity.

'It's a privilege to work alongside the members of the team, and the wider eldership team, supporting the important mission and ministry of AUC.'

You can find out more about being an Elder in the United Reformed Church at bit.ly/urc-elders. Here you can also download the booklet, *They've asked me to be an Elder*.



Trans Joy celebrated in Switzerland

A recent gathering of trans and non-binary Christian activists was an inspiring and supportive occasion, says AUC and Our Tribe's Lewis Reay.

On the weekend of 11-13 July, 28 trans and non-binary Christian activists from all over Europe met in Zurich, Switzerland, to worship together and explore the theme of Trans Joy.

People came from all over Europe, including from Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland and Latvia, sharing stories of the lives of trans and non-binary in their respective countries.

There were four of us from the Metropolitan Christian Church (MCC): Kuisma Savisalo and Ipa Kivinen from Finland, Lewis Reay and the Revd Elder Maxwell Reay from Scotland. Sharing with others the inclusive and affirmative experiences that we have had as part of MCC was a moving experience.

“To meet people who face the same problems and share the same joy was precious”

We realised that there was much that we had in common. Both in relation to the struggles that trans and non-binary people face across Europe and the worsening human rights record of many countries. The withdrawal of gender-affirming care for young trans and non-binary people was a common experience.

There were workshops, space for creative activities, panel discussions to learn from one another's experiences, and worship. There was time for lament and time to express trans joy and gender euphoria.

Kuisma Savisalo from Elävä vesi MCC (Living Water MCC), Helsinki in Finland, said, 'To meet people who face the same problems in life and share the same joy as us was precious ... Getting to know young people from all over Europe was interesting.'

Maxwell Reay, from Our Tribe at Augustine United Church, reflected on the impact of MCC. He said, 'It is clear we have had great influence in encouraging other denominations to become more inclusive but there is still a place for us, with lots more to do.'

Creating hope in difficult times is so important to give trans and non-binary people the strength to carry on and live authentic lives. Coming home to our bodies and finding trans joy is a wonderful experience. Meeting other trans and non-binary Christian activists was a deeply spiritual experience and friendships were forged. We all hope that this will be the first of many such gatherings.

Trans Joy was organised by the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups in partnership with Reformierte Kirche Zürich, with the support of LGBTIQ Fachstelle of the Reformed Church of Zürich, Transblessing (Sweden) and Sybils (UK), and funding from the Dutch Government.

Read Lewis's prayer for Trans Joy on p.11



Let's Get CONNECTed

Want to know about MCC? Subscribe to MCC's newsletter, CONNECT.

To hear about what is happening across the globe in Metropolitan Community Churches, sign up to receive CONNECT twice a month in your inbox at bit.ly/connect-mcc.

Paracetamol with peace of mind

Seeds spotted what looked like some good news coming from our neighbours in Edinburgh University. We asked Alex Peden to explain.

Worrying about plastic pollution and climate change can give you a headache, and find you reaching for some paracetamol. But did you know that paracetamol is actually a petroleum-based product, requiring oil for its manufacture? Sair heid?

Don't worry though. Help is on the way from a local scientist, and the friends that live inside us all.

Professor Stephen Wallace's lab at the University of Edinburgh has discovered that bacteria can be genetically re-jigged to make our favourite analgesic. Also, they can be made to clean up plastic waste at the same time.

The bacteria in question, *E. coli*, are the ones that are found everywhere, including inside our guts, helping us digest food and generally stay healthy. Over the last four billion years or so they've been happily doing their usual thing of growing – dividing – dying – repeat, using a grab bag of chemicals available to them in the natural environment.

However, if you take them into the lab and block some of their genes, they become unable to use their usual building blocks.

“they now have a micro machine to clear up our plastic mess and make something useful from it. Hurrah.”

Unfazed by this insult, if you give them the breakdown products of waste plastic, they can use those instead.

This was the first breakthrough of Professor Wallace's lab. Their second was to hunt for certain genes in soil bacteria and fungi. If they put these into their plastic-busting *E. coli*, they could get them to make paracetamol. So, they now have a micro machine to clear up our plastic mess and make something useful from it. Hurrah.

It'll take quite a while for this to be scaled up to replace the traditional manufacturing process, but hopefully less than four billion years!

For more info...

'Scientists use bacteria to turn plastic waste into paracetamol' bit.ly/Edpara

Alex is an armchair, hand-waving scientist and former Edinburgh University Researcher, now happily working in tax, and looking back in from the outside.



Tanvi Sharma via Unsplash

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT IS BACK

In August, the latest round of UN Global Plastics Treaty talks ended without a treaty.

World leaders failed to reach an agreement, so limits on plastic production – a vital step to ending the plastic pollution crisis – were blocked. (Again.) According to the Center for International Environmental Law, over 234 fossil fuel and plastic industry lobbyists crowded the negotiations, outnumbering scientists by nearly four to one.

However, in past years, The Big Plastic Count has helped get plastic pollution and the necessity for a treaty higher up the UK government's agenda. And next year, 2026, it's back.

In partnership with Everyday Plastic, the opportunity to record our plastic use and contribute to a national count will take place **9-15 March** next year. You can sign up for information at www.thebigplasticcount.com.

Becoming a climate activist

Anna Barrett is one of the United Reformed Church's network of 'Green Apostles'. She is based in the Thames North Synod. Here she reflects on how becoming 'carbon literate' has helped her grow in confidence as a 'climate activist'.

This year I went to Greenbelt [the Christian arts and faith festival] for the first time ... I spent the weekend listening to talks, enjoying craft activities and taking part in worship and reflecting on the weekend theme of 'Hope in the Making'. It was a noisy place to take a retreat – but that's what it felt like for me.

On my return from Greenbelt, I re-read the guide for this year's Season of Creation, with its theme 'Peace with Creation'. I noted the organisers' hope that 'Creation will find Peace', based on words from the prophet Isaiah: 'Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field' (Isaiah 32:16).

The organisers go on to state:

'There is hope for a peaceful Earth. Biblically, hope is active – it involves prayer, action, and reconciling with Creation and the Creator through repentance and solidarity. Isaiah 32:14–18 envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved.'

I am, to be honest, a relatively new recruit to climate activism and, to begin with, the situation the world faces seemed overwhelmingly immense. In the face of such widespread injustice what could I possibly do to make any difference? But now I feel differently; I see any little action, from me or anyone else, as a seed of hope. To quote Rob Hopkins, one of the Greenbelt speakers and author of *Falling in Love with the Future*, 'I've been to the future, and we won't!'

In my own life and my role as a Green Apostle and local Eco church champion I have been helped by becoming carbon literate.

Put simply, 'carbon literacy' is the ability to understand, communicate about, and act on climate change in our daily lives. It's about being motivated and empowered to deliver the best possible climate action, wherever you are.

I took the course in 2023, and it was a real eyeopener. In the first instance it raised my awareness of the true extent of the problem and the reasons for it. With this knowledge and understanding I have now been

able to make much better-informed judgements about my own lifestyle choices and to suggest lifestyle changes for my church with much greater confidence and assurance. Ever since, I have been trying to encourage others across the Synod to take up Carbon Literacy training...

"there is a pressing need for us all to act on climate change, and that is just what carbon literacy can enable us to do"

My belief is that for us to achieve the justice needed to make peace with creation there is a pressing need for us all to act on climate change, and that is just what carbon literacy can enable us to do; even the smallest of actions counts.

Reproduced from Thames North Synod newsletter with permission. See p.4 for details of the upcoming Carbon Literacy Course at AUC.



Messages from Europe

A prayer written in Switzerland and a visit made to northern Italy

A Prayer for Trans Joy

BY LEWIS REAY

(see Lewis's article on p.8)

Loving Creator, Holy One, we celebrate your Love and the joy that this brings.

We are beautiful, made in Your marvellous image.

Brothers, sisters and siblings – all our chosen family, a family made by You.

A place to share love and comfort, to laugh and to cry out.

A place to celebrate our joy and a place to mourn as well.

Safety is in Your unchangeable Love, more and deeper than we can know.

Acceptance is a glorious place where hatred falls away, replaced by wholeness.

Risen One, You bring us the joy of new life – renewed and remade.

This is our trans joy in You.

Thank You, for Your boundless Love.

Thank You, for our trans siblings.

We live in the name of the Creating One, the Life-giver and the breath of Spirit.

Would you know a Waldensian if you met one?

Linda Harrison (our Church Secretary) would, and so would So Young Jung, a new student at the URC/Congregational Scottish College, where Linda works as the part-time College Manager.

So Young has been making an attachment with AUC since she started at the college. She and Linda joined other students and staff (including Fiona Bennett) on a recent trip to the Alpine valleys of northern Italy, where they marked the start of the academic year by getting to know the story of the Waldensian Church. They were guided by the Revd John Bremnar.

Torre Pellice, close to Turin, is the centre of the Waldensian Church, and here students and staff explored its origins, its persecution, its resilience and the faith of what is now a worldwide Church.

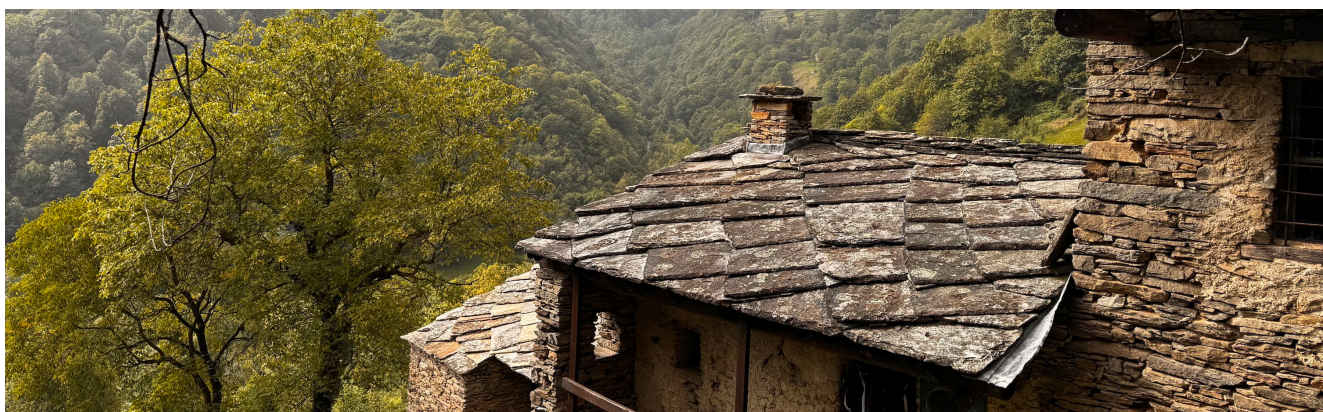
The Waldensian Church is the oldest Protestant Church in Europe, originating in the conversion of Peter Waldo of Lyon

around the year 1175. His followers lived a life of simple poverty, travelling two by two, preaching and bringing the Scriptures to the people. Their insistence on the right to preach the Gospel – for women as well as men – soon led to their excommunication by the Church in Rome, but despite this the movement spread widely through Europe.

Condemned as heretics in 1215, the Waldensians suffered endless persecutions over the coming centuries. Waldensian 'Barbas' ('uncles'), disguised as merchants or pilgrims, would travel to remote locations such as the Coulege dei Barba (pictured), risking their lives to share the Gospel in Italian.

The Waldensians, who celebrated their 850th anniversary in 2024, exist as part of the Union of Methodist and Waldensian Churches, a worldwide denomination nowadays known for its support of social action projects, including the refugee relief charity Mediterranean Hope.

Linda said, 'We experienced first-hand the steepness of the valleys they lived in and came to understand what they were willing to give up for their faith: politics, religion, and education – a recurring theme many can understand today.'



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

Oct / Nov 2025

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

Contextual Bible Study takes place online twice-weekly, on Wednesday at 7.30pm and on Thursday at 12 noon.

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

October		
Thu 2	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sun 5	12:30pm	NDAS
	1.45pm	Remembering Space
Mon 6		Good Money Week (goodmoneyweek.com)
Fri 10		World Homeless Day
Sun 12	~12pm	Soup & bread lunch (after church)
	12.30pm	Church Meeting (hybrid)
Sun 19	1 – 3pm	Rota volunteer get together
Sun 26	1:30pm	Come Out with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St
Thu 30	7:30pm	AUC Church Council
November		
Sun 2	12:30pm	NDAS
	12:45 – 3:15pm	Carbon Literacy Course
Thu 6	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sun 9	~12pm	Soup & bread lunch (after church)
	12.30pm	Church Meeting (hybrid)
Sat 15	2pm – 3:30pm	AUC Winter Tea
Sun 16	12:45pm – 3:15pm	Carbon Literacy Course
Sun 23	12:45pm – 3:15pm	Carbon Literacy Course
Thu 27	7:30pm	AUC Church Council
Sun 30	1:30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St

Seeds deadline

The next issue of **Seeds** will be a double issue for December 2025 – January 2026. The copy deadline for the December/January edition is **Wednesday 19 November**.

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 and stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk.