

Seeds

Dec 25/Jan 26

encourage - inspire - challenge



*Augustine
United Church*

Advent's invitation

**Revd Fiona
Bennett**



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness were people who had been driven from their homes and their country of Judah to live in the land of their oppressor, the superpower Babylon. From what we can tell, the captive people taken to a foreign land were not treated as slaves there but the status, quality and opportunities of many of their lives diminished.

Their homes lay open for others to take, and their homeland was a province of Babylon. They were forced to build new lives in an unfamiliar and unwelcome place. Where would they find the energy? How could they sing the Lord's song in this strange and unwelcome land? (to quote the psalmist). The prophet Isaiah described the experience as 'walking in darkness'.

But while in the darkness they found light; hope was born. Hope that, despite their circumstance and history, God had not abandoned them. Hope that their situation would not always

be or feel so bleak. The future was still uncertain, like a newborn child full of potential, but that potential, held in God's promise, gave people a reason to keep on living in faith.

Sadly, in our world today there are many people who know what it feels like to be driven from their homes, lives and land, and even among those who have not experienced this horror there are many other experiences in our world today of bleakness and the sense that we are walking in darkness.

**"The future was like
a newborn child
full of potential"**

Advent is the season which invites us, while in darkness, to see the light. Advent invites us to discover the Hope that God has not abandoned us and even now is working to create new life from the ashes of the old. Advent invites us to keep living in faith; trusting that the one who comes to us in Jesus is with us walking in the darkness, loves us infinitely; and, even when unseen, is always steering us towards the potential of goodness for all. Hope in the darkness.

This Month

WHOLENESS & HOLINESS

Sian Joyner on our work towards disability justice at AUC



WELCOMING ALL

Could you volunteer? Sunday volunteering is ministry too



PAINTING CREATION

The community art project filling our windows



THE TIK TOK PASTOR?

Revd Brandon Robertson on queer faith narratives





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Getting Involved

Within AUC there are Ministry Teams which are responsible for different areas of Church Life (CLMTs).
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 March and April 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



SCOTLAND DEMANDED BETTER

Jim Kerr (Peace & Justice coordinator) attended the Scotland Demands Better March in Edinburgh on 25 October. He described the event as 'vibrant'.



Jim says the block of marchers representing Church denominations was probably the largest. They sang as they marched, led by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Most Revd Mark Strange, in full episcopal regalia and a beanie.

The demonstration was organised by the Scottish Trades Union Congress and The Poverty Alliance following research by the Alliance that found one in four children in Scotland is living in poverty. They called for increases in free childcare and the scrapping the two-child benefit cap.

CHURCH LIFE FUND AGREED

The National Synod of Scotland has committed an annual contribution, expected to be over £66.5k, for three years to a newly established URC Church Life Fund. Each of the URC's 13 synods made commitments to the Fund, totalling £3 million annually. Its focus will be on supporting the establishment of new Christian communities, the funding of lay workers, and creating shared national resources designed to remove administrative burdens from local churches.

The size and structure of the Church Life Fund was agreed, together with

a raft of other significant initiatives, at an Extraordinary General Assembly, held in November. More information at bit.ly/ExGA25.

END MIGRANT SCAPEGOATING

The United Reformed Church joined over 100 of the UK's biggest charities and organisations in writing to the Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood to express deep concern at the UK government's direction on immigration.

The open letter, published in *The Guardian*, was coordinated by Refugee Action.

It urged Ms Mahmood to 'turn the tide, and to end the scapegoating of migrants and performative policies that only cause harm', adding: 'If the government wants to deliver growth and renew Britain, this requires tackling issues such as growing extreme inequality, underfunded councils, lack of investment in quality housing, a crumbling NHS, the climate emergency and polluted waters. Targeting refugees will do nothing to tackle these structural issues or improve people's lives.'



ISLAND POLITICS

The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) has partnered with the Iona Community to offer six days on Iona, living in community, exploring the island and reflecting on faith and politics.

From 17 to 23 October 2026, JPIT's Simeon Mitchell and Steve Tinning will lead a programme entitled 'Politics, power and protest'. Find out more at bit.ly/PPPlona.

A-Z OF GLOBAL JUSTICE

Global Justice Now, which has its Scotland office at AUC, has published a primer that tackles some key questions for those who want to organise for a better world.



In alphabetical order, *An A-Z of Global Justice* presents 65 bite-sized entries, from agrarian reform to Zapatistas. The book asks how the global structures of power that sustain injustice work. And what are the alternatives to a world ruled by profit?

Cost, £15. More information at bit.ly/GJNA-Z.

SAVE THE DATE

The Big Plastic Count is back! 9-15 March 2026. Keep up to date with details at www.thebigplasticcount.com.



Life on the Bridge

News from Augustine United Church

CHRISTMAS AT AUC

All our services for Advent and Christmas are listed on page 12. Note that our service on 14 December will be interactive and include our Nativity and gift offerings.



It will be followed by a Christmas lunch. Check Friday notices for details of gift collections and booking for lunch. The service on Christmas Day starts at 10.30am.

Also during Advent:

Advent online with Greyfriars

The Revd Calum Macdougall is running an Advent Study each Sunday in Advent (began 30 November), 6-7pm, online. Focusing on *Waiting for the Light* by William Delia, available from Amazon on Kindle or as a paperback.

Use the Zoom link at bit.ly/greyfriarsAD25

Waiting for the light: advent online retreat

2 – 6 December

Three online sessions each day, offered by URC Spirituality:

7.30–8am: a portion of a psalm, leading into silence

12.00–1pm: a shared slow reading of one of the readings of the day (*lectio divina*) followed by a little sharing

7.30–9pm: sessions led by a variety of people, to include Neil Thorogood, Andrew Brown and Jacob Bali

Attend all the sessions or dip in as you are able. All the sessions will be on the same Zoom link and are free to attend. Please book at bit.ly/lightURC

Advent Retreat Morning – ‘And Mary said ‘YES’

13 December

10am – 1.00pm at St Columba’s by the Castle

‘Pause’ to consider what Advent means to us. A time of quiet, reflection, craft, fellowship and prayer led by Juliet, the Rector of St Columba’s-by-the-Castle.

For more information and to register, contact Juliet (rector@stcs.org.uk)

REMEMBERING SPACE

Remembering Space will gather again on Sunday 21 December, 2–3pm in the AUC sanctuary.

A sacred space to gather and share stories of those for whom we grieve. A time to pray, reflect and share together – on this occasion following our Service of the Longest Night.

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



AALP COMMISSIONING

Laurence Wareing, a member at AUC, was commissioned as an Assembly Accredited Lay Preacher (AALP) at the autumn meeting of the National Synod of Scotland. The Revd Fiona Bennett

preached at the commissioning service, and AUC members Lorna Bowry (via Zoom from the US) and Lewis Reay were readers.

The role of AALP is for those who feel called to wider service in the synod as ‘a more itinerant preaching resource’. Laurence was previously a local preacher within the Methodist Church.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE

Repairs and changes are a recurring theme of the work of the Church Finance and Property team (CF&P) as we try to move with the times and keep our Victorian building up to the demands we make of it. With the end of 2025 fast approaching, we thought we’d do a wee round-up of some of the more significant changes this year.

The old hearing loop system had stopped working and has finally been replaced by an Auracast assistive hearing system. So far, user feedback has been excellent, and it is good to have an assistive hearing system once again. Thanks to our caretaker Graham’s tech wizardry, we’ve been able to use it in the Studio as well so that a profoundly deaf woman was able to come and watch her niece perform in a play down there.

A new blind in the Tower Office has improved thermal regulation and glare issues to make it a more comfortable working environment for our tenants. The Studio wireless microphones have been replaced and are now much more reliable, effective and easier to use than the old ones. New LED lighting in the lower south stair (outside the lift on the lower level) has improved visibility and light levels hugely.

Running repairs have included replacing the glass and graphics for the north stair foyer door after a pane breakage; repairing the wash hand basin fixings and tiles in the disabled toilet on the Sanctuary level, which has made that space much cleaner



Visitors enjoy Doors Open Day at AUC on the last weekend of September

and more hygienic; and fitting a new pressure sensor on the kitchen gas cooker, which removed a fault from the system and made it more reliable and much quieter for kitchen users.

We have also taken receipt of a replacement organ. Many thanks to Stephen, Ewen, Graham and others who have coordinated its installation as well as the removal of its predecessor.

Further changes are in the pipeline, including more secondary glazing/shutters; and improving the flooring in the sanctuary. Watch this space!

DOORS OPEN 2025

AUC again took part in Edinburgh Doors Open on the last weekend of September. Thomas McPolin coordinated the day, with invaluable input from our Centre Manager, Rachel Fitzgerald.

Once again, we invited building users to have stalls – giving visitors a flavour

of how AUC supports countless groups from throughout the city.

We welcomed over 180 visitors on Saturday and another 60 on Sunday, which Thomas described as ‘an incredible turnout that simply wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our volunteers’.

“It was wonderful to see so many people learning more about our community throughout the weekend.”

‘From managing the welcome desk, greeting visitors, serving refreshments and showcasing the important work of the church, each of them played a vital role in creating a warm, inviting atmosphere. It was wonderful to see so many people engaging with the

building users on the Saturday and learning more about our community throughout the weekend.’



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Our Remembrance Sunday worship this year was interactive, allowing discussion and creativity in our reflection on peace making.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, 2025

See page 11 for an account of this year’s TDoR.

Painting creation

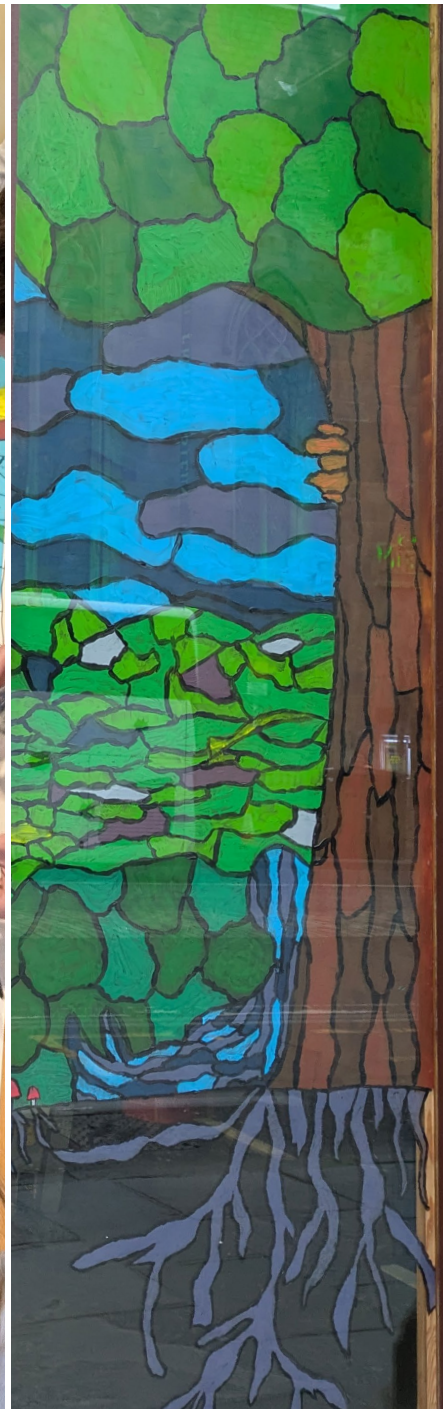
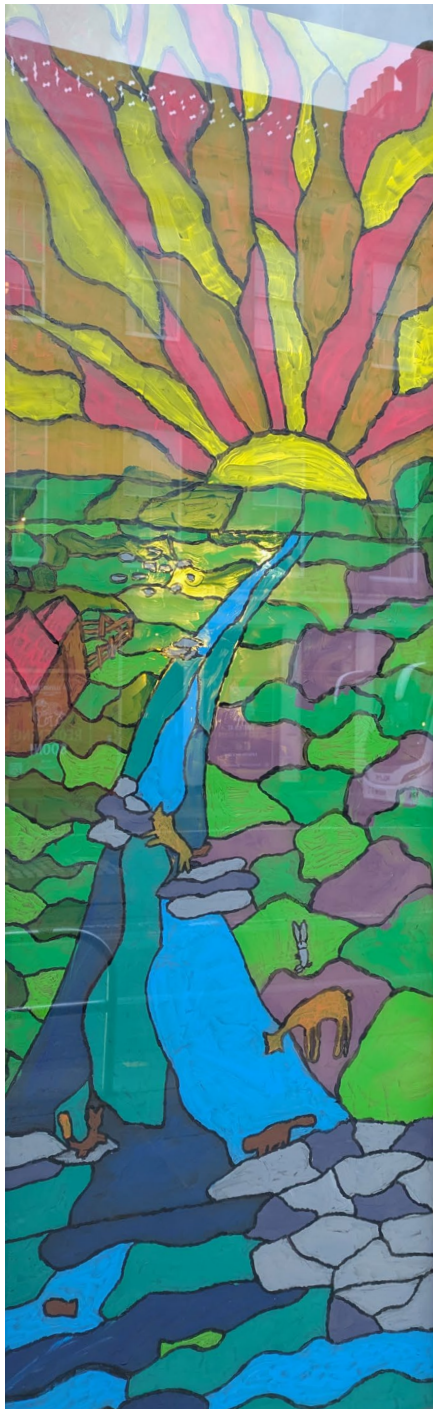
Anyone walking past Augustine at the moment will be struck by the 'stained glass' panels in our windows, each reflecting different aspects of creation.

During the Season of Creationtide (1 September to 4 October), members of AUC painted the designs. They were guided ('painting by number') by AUC member Aubrey Bader, who created the panels. The idea, said Fiona, was to help us 'speak to the whole world about what we feel about creation as Christians'.

The panel themes illustrate different aspects of creation. One offers an overall creation scene; Aubrey called one 'The Elder Tree' – a large tree with a person resting in its shade – and

one reflects the church's dandelion logo – seeds dispersed and growing around Edinburgh's Arthur's Seat.

Aubrey, who is a landscape architect, said she wanted to look at creation from different scales – of Augustine itself, the wider community, and creation in general. She felt it was important to include detail and depth in each panel, for example a ladybird on a leaf, within 'the big views'.



Where to find help in Edinburgh

Where to find help in Edinburgh' is the name of a booklet of information published by Augustine United Church, with copies available in the church foyer.

It notes that assistance is always available to those visiting AUC, but that the church itself may not be the most immediate place to find it.

The booklet contains phone numbers and contact details for a very wide

range of support organisations across Edinburgh, from help lines to information about fuel poverty and keeping warm.

Alongside an extensive section on 'Help if Homeless' and another on organisations that will respond to financial difficulties, other topics include 'Medical Help', 'Help for Young People', 'Help for Women', and 'Asylum Seekers'.

Welcoming all: Sunday volunteering is ministry too

Lewis Reay reminds us of the heroic efforts of our volunteers at AUC, working together every week to make worship happen.

There is a team of folk who work away providing a ministry of hospitality on a Sunday.

Their roles are a central part of our welcome as an inclusive and affirming congregation that truly welcomes everyone, no matter who you are. Many of our volunteers take on multiple roles and are happy to fill in when needed. But it is not just about getting essential tasks done.

Helping to welcome and take care of people coming to AUC, whether they are newcomers or whether they have been around for many years, embodies one of our values. All the various roles make up our ministry of hospitality, which benefits everyone, including the volunteers themselves.

When I asked the volunteers what is important to them in carrying out this ministry, they said that 'ministry at AUC is so much more than Sunday morning worship!'.

That is so true. Our tasks are part of our calling to serve and build up the body of Christ. This is worship. One of the volunteers talked about what they receive from their role: 'One of the gifts I've received from being part of the volunteering ministry in the past is the opportunity to get know people better.'

We seek to offer a warm welcome to all those who come to Sunday worship and one of the volunteers said this: 'In one way or another all the volunteering roles are expressions of welcome, and so a really important part of the Sunday worship experience.'

If you are new to AUC, you might find that volunteering is a good way to get to know people and we are always looking for new volunteers. One person said they were 'so glad that as a volunteer I seem to meet new people nearly every week'.

"ministry at AUC is so much more than Sunday morning worship"

One person commented that 'volunteering helps me to stay connected to the community and offers me a way to contribute my skills and fulfil my calling to support others'.

This helps us to build a worshipping community following the way of Jesus. If you feel called to get involved in volunteering on a Sunday, email me on rota@augustine.org.uk or speak to me on a Sunday.

Wholeness and Holiness

working towards disability justice at AUC

At AUC's October Church Meeting, Siân Joyner and Mike Holroyd spoke about disability in a faith context. They hope it will be the start of a journey towards disability justice at AUC. Here, Siân identifies some of the issues.

Would you like prayer for your leg?" someone asks.

As I stand in a bus shelter, waiting for a friend for a coffee date, he wakes me from a daydream. I think about lecturing him and his two accomplices on the figurative nature of the healing stories; I think about telling them to 'do one'. But I'm tired, and nodding seems like the path of least resistance. These three students are on a mission. They have no banner, no identity; they have randomly approached me on their way to church. They are young. They pray for healing. I thank them. They walk away. They saw the ankle-foot-orthosis. And, having seen it, I guess they assumed my leg was broken, in need of healing.

Recent books, such as Amy Kenny's *My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church*, assure me that I am not alone in this

experience. Amy, a disabled academic herself, writes about 'prayerful perpetrators' who want to pray for bodily change in her, when in fact a cure is not wanted. She discusses the distinction between 'cure' and 'healing'.

Such anecdotes speak volumes to deeply ingrained prejudices and attitudes toward disability. In sacred

"I didn't always view disability as positive. My parents took me to make me better"

spaces, they point to an ableism that 'others' disabled people, and casts them as a metaphor for weakness, or even as a reflection of sinfulness.

So, how can we embrace a theology that celebrates disabled people as an equally valuable part of the diversity of God's realm?

I didn't always view disability as positive. As a small child, my father told me about how the 'whole church' prayed when I was born, and in hospital. My parents took me to spiritual healers to 'maybe, make me better'. Where disabled people were to be found in the Bible stories that were read to me as I grew up, none of those people stayed disabled. They were cured, and I was not. That wasn't fair. Throughout my childhood, the narrative that being disabled meant that there was something 'wrong with me' loomed loud from a pulpit that readily associated disability with sin and punishment. I was angry with a world made for two-handed, mobile people, and with a God who would render me disabled from before I was born.

But what if there was a different understanding of wholeness to be found?

It was my academic reading that first suggested that the wider Church's





Photo by Elevate via Pexels

teaching I had heard as a child, that disability and healing are about deficit in a person's body or mind, was wrong – or, at least, ill-informed. The social model of disability tells us that disability isn't about a person, so much as the place in which they find themselves. A woman may need to use a wheelchair to get around, because her legs are weaker in some way, but it is when the lift is broken, or the ramps absent, that she becomes disabled. A child may not be able to hear the spoken word. But it is when their signed language is not understood by those around them that their communication may be disabled.

Affirmative models of disability go further still, challenging the non-disabled person's gaze on a disabled person as a lesser being, and holding out a positive collective identity for disabled people. In this frame, disabled people are to be celebrated. In this frame, disabled joy, refusing to be aligned with a narrative of pity or pain, is resistance.

With this in mind, upon returning to the Gospel stories, I sought out and heard more contemporary exegeses of the stories of disabled people in the Bible, as well as the 'healing' miracles. When we read the story of Zacchaeus, for example, who climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, we are told that because he was short in stature, he

could not see through the crowd (the Gospel of Luke, 19:3). It is the crowd that disables him, not his height.

Elsewhere, at the pool at Bethesda (John's Gospel, chapter 5), Jesus heals a disabled man, freeing him from the poverty that was associated with paralysis in biblical times. Such healings may be read as stories of social emancipation and condemnation of such roots of poverty.

“How can we challenge disability as a metaphor for weakness?”

What does that mean for a disability-affirming sacred space?

This theology offers me an actionable frame of reference today, to understand both my own relationship with God and with disability, and to think about ableism and disability justice more widely. From here, we can begin to think of ways of making our church community more welcoming and inclusive of disabled people. We can think about the language we sing in our spaces. What does it mean if we sing:

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken
Gather us in, the blind and the lame...*

How can we challenge (and if you're paying close attention, we have challenged, in our singing) disability as a metaphor for weakness? How do we make our spaces more accessible? Who are we remembering to include, and whose needs aren't being met in the way that we worship and meet together at AUC?

When we, as Christians, seek to make our communities more accessible and inclusive, by changing the places, rather than the people with which we find ourselves, we begin to re-imagine the world as one where everyone is welcome, and where we undo years of systemic injustice.

Mike Holroyd and I began to unpack this at a church meeting in October. Watch this space for how you can become involved in our work towards greater disability equality at AUC.

Siân Joyner (née Jones) is a queer, neurodivergent and disabled Elder at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh.

Our Evening with the Tik Tok Pastor

Lewis Reay describes an affirming evening with the Revd Brandon Robertson, known to some as the Tik Tok Pastor (@revbrandanrobertson).

Queer and Christian is a powerful and affirming perspective for those at the intersection of queer identity and Christian faith', said the Revd Fiona Bennett.

Fiona hosted AUC's evening with Brandon Robertson to discuss his new book, *Queer and Christian: reclaiming the Bible, our faith, and our place at the table*.

In the book, Brandon tells his personal story of his faith and sexuality, including his experiences of conversion practices.

At this fundraiser evening organised by Our Tribe, Brandon talked eloquently about his early experiences in church, where he was welcomed until it became clear that he didn't conform to expected narratives of sexuality and gender. While studying at Bible college he was told to undergo conversion therapy. This did not turn him straight! Instead, he found the queer community, progressive Christianity, and came out.

"His insights showed us that there are queer narratives to be found and unpacked in scripture"

His insights into biblical passages that are gender non-conforming or expose sexuality between equal consenting adults showed us that there are queer narratives to be found and unpacked in scripture. He talked about Joseph and his coat of many colours. This was a female garment, and Joseph delighted in it. Joseph's father Jacob recognised something in Joseph that was gender non-conforming, such that Joseph's brothers repeatedly tried to kill him. This story is one of a marginalised person becoming the hero of their own life.

In the book, Brandon also tells stories about Jonathan and David, Ruth and Naomi, and the Ethiopian Eunuch – all characters whose stories reveal a queer narrative. Finding ourselves in the pages of scripture felt like a revelation for many in the audience.

During a Q&A session, Brandon also paid tribute to the Jewish teaching and texts that laid the foundations for Jesus' life and ministry and the establishment of the early church. Asked about a bisexual reading of the story of David and Jonathan, he agreed that from a bisexual lens this would be interesting. Another person asked whether a queer identity was a 'thorn in the flesh' and Brandon told us that rather it is a gift – a blessing to be celebrated as we are made in the image of God. He also spoke of the impact of Metropolitan Community Churches upon the progress of affirming and inclusive churches throughout the world.



This event was supported by a partnership of city centre churches: St Columba's by the Castle, Greyfriars Kirk, St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh New Town Church, Metropolitan Community Church and Augustine United Church. With over 50 tickets sold, it was a busy and engaging evening. We raised £350 for the Equality Network and Scottish Trans.

In the next issue of Seeds, Carol Joyner reviews 'Everyday Normal' – the Sarah Jones tour

Our Tribe in December and January

HERALDING HIS COMING

December and January sessions of Our Tribe will be online, and further details are available from Maxwell Reay on ourtribe@augustine.org.uk. All welcome.

On Thursday, 4 December, Our Tribe will be marking the start of Advent and reflecting on times of waiting. This meeting is a time for reflecting, discussion and sharing communion with one another.

REMEMBERING OUR ANCESTORS

On Thursday 8 January 2026 (note, a week later than usual) Our Tribe will be remembering Holocaust Memorial Day, which is on 27 January every year. Many LGBTQ+ people were

murdered at the hands of the Nazi regime, and we will be marking their passing. This meeting is a time for reflecting, discussion and sharing communion with one another.

‘COME OUT’ WITH OUR TRIBE

‘Come Out’ with Our Tribe will not be meeting in December as this falls in the Christmas period but will resume in January 2026 on the 25th at Coffee Saints, 2a, Little King Street, Edinburgh. This is an opportunity to meet people in a relaxed environment and share conversation. It is a great way to get to know other LGBTQ+ people at AUC. All welcome. Further details from Maxwell Reay on ourtribe@augustine.org.uk.

Special services for TDoR

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) was marked both on the day itself, Thursday 20 November, and in worship the following Sunday, when we heard a sermon specially recorded for us by the Revd Miller Hoffman of the Metropolitan Community Church.

On the Thursday afternoon, our sanctuary was open to anyone who wished to gather to remember and celebrate all those trans folk who are no longer with us. This was an opportunity to offer mutual support, reflect and remembrance, and share in both refreshments and a short service of communion.

The Revd Elder Maxwell Reay led the service. He said that in this past year, 281 trans people had lost their lives, often brutally; and of these, 14% of the cases had been murders of activists and movement leaders, a marked increase on previous years. Since monitoring began in 2009, 5,322 murders have been recorded. Many more go unrecorded. Almost 70% have taken place in South America.

Following the AUC event, there was the opportunity to join a vigil organised by

students at the University of Edinburgh in Bristo Square.

Maxwell notes that no TDoR vigil is perfect, still less desired. And as one speaker said, one minute of silence in the year isn't enough. Nevertheless, the expressions of anger, sadness, and a determination to embrace joy were powerful and moving. There was also a generous, painful acknowledgement of so many other groups and nations that are also suffering oppression.

An experience of having been abandoned by the state, not least by the current Labour government, was articulated by several speakers, including in a strong speech by Robin, who many at AUC know. Their anger was accompanied by pleas for allies of trans folk not to walk away.

Different phrases will have stood out for different listeners, but one that I took away with me was this: ‘Kindness and patience are strategies for safety.’ I want to say that kindness and patience shouldn't have to be utilised for self-protection; but part of me also wants to embrace this observation as a way of being.

Laurence Wareing

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

Dec '25 / Jan '26

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.

December

Mon 1		World Aids Day (See bit.ly/AIDS26 for 2026 conference: Rethink. Rebuild. Rise.)
Sun 7	11am	Advent 2 Waiting for Peace
	12:30-3pm	NDAS
Tues 9	7:30pm	Church Meeting (online)
Sat 13	10am-1pm	TLC Advent Retreat (St Columba's by the Castle)
Sun 14	11am	Advent 3 Waiting in Faith, interactive Gift Service & Junior Church
		Nativity. Followed by AUC Christmas Lunch (see Friday notices for booking details)
Sun 21	11am	Advent 4 Waiting in Love
	1-2pm	Service of the Longest Night
	2-3pm	Remembering Space
Thur 25	10:30am	Christmas Day Celebration of Joy!
Sun 28	11am	Christmas Season

January

Mon 5	7.30pm	Church Council (TBC)
Thurs 8	7pm	Our Tribe (online)
Sun 11	12:45-3pm	Worship Leaders training
Tues 13	7:30pm	Church Meeting (online)
Sun 18		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (TLC service)
	12:45-3pm	Worship Leaders training
Mon 19		Martin Luther King Day (Monday closest to his birthday: 15 Jan)
Sun 25	12:30pm	Burns Lunch
	1:30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King St.
Thur 29	7:30pm	Church Council
Sun 28	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 February – March 2026. The copy deadline for the February/March edition is **Wednesday 14 January**.

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.