

Seeds

June / July 2026

encourage - inspire - challenge

Augustine
United Church

The North Star of Promise

Rev'd Fiona
Bennett



I am writing this article on my first week back from Sabbatical. I have treasured the time away, and the study, but I am also filled with joy to meet AUC people again!

My Sabbatical included quite a lot of great walking, study about Transitional Ministry, and study around the stories of Abraham.

The stories around Abraham (along with much of the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament) were drawn into the collection of books which make up the Hebrew Bible during the time when some of the children of Jacob were being held in exile in Babylon and in the period following, when they were able to return to (what was then) the Persian Province of Yehud.

It was a time of defeat, occupation, loss, dislocation and huge uncertainty for the nation and community. So, in those fearful and uncertain times, these stories of faith were drawn together to nourish and steer a dislocated people.

All of the stories of Abraham (and some of them are very strange and uncomfortable in our 21st century Scottish context) are about him

learning to trust in God's promise at every twist and turn of life. Abraham is described as 'righteous', and his righteousness is not due to anything he does or doesn't do; it is simply about being a person who learned to trust God's promise and allow it to be the North Star which guided his life in every way.

It was a significant message for those ancient, dislocated people and it is a significant message for us today amid the uncertainty, conflict and change in which we live. God's Promise can be the North Star which guides us and steers us through very uncertain and unpredictable times and experiences.

“what is the core promise which God makes to you and to us all?”

So, I invite you to consider: As a follower of Jesus, what is the core promise which God makes to you and to us all? Take time to reflect on it, perhaps write it down somewhere to remind yourself, and maybe talk with a fellow faith walker about it.

As it was to Abraham and the exiled people many years ago, so God's Promise can be to us a North Star, to steer and nourish us through each of the twists and turns of the uncertainty, conflict and change we experience in life today.

This Month

PRIDE 2026 PREVIEW

Everything you need to know about Edinburgh Pride weekend



30 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Snapshots of Fiona Bennett's leadership and care



NEW CREATION IN BERGEN

Lewis, Maxwell and Carol at the European LGBTI Christian Forum



PIONEER AVIATOR

AUC member uncovers a remarkable family story





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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.

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



DARIUSZ CERTIFIED AS CHAPLAIN

Congratulations to Dariusz Wedge who has recently been registered with the UK Board for Healthcare Chaplaincy. Dariusz has undertaken studies at Birmingham Newman University and volunteers with the spiritual care team at Marie Curie Hospice. He says, "Chaplaincy, for me, is becoming less about having answers and more about learning how to be present, to listen well, and to accompany people through uncertainty."



SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIAN AID

The annual Edinburgh New Town Church Book Sale for Christian Aid raised £67,000 this year. Organisers say the event has now raised more than £3 million for the charity over its 50-year history.

At its sister booksale hosted by Morningside United Church, a further £10,445 was raised, and among many personal achievements, Lindsey Sanderson, Moderator of the URC's National Synod of Scotland, raised £1,600 by taking part in the Glasgow Kiltwalk.

Among this year's notable finds at the New Town Church sale was a ballet pointe shoe signed by Alicia Markova, who co-founded the London Festival Ballet in 1950. Organisers also uncovered a 400-year-old book of speeches by King Charles I and

several signed novels by Ian Rankin containing handwritten puzzles.

PHYSIO SUCCESS FOR SAMH

Katrina Tweedie successfully completed half an hour of physio three times a day, six days a week for 50 days, following an accident. And into the bargain, she has raised £2,699 on behalf of SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health). Congratulations on both counts, Katrina – it's lovely to see you back at church.

LIVINGSTON TURNS 60

Livingston United Parish Church has celebrated its 60th anniversary. The 'ecumenical experiment' is only four years younger than Livingston itself, which was designated a 'new town' in 1962. In its original form, the family of congregations ensured there was a church presence in each new district.



MIGRANT-POSITIVE POLICY

Edinburgh council is planning a campaign to highlight the 'positive contributions' of migrants to the city, after 'racist language' and 'political rhetoric' led to some residents feeling unsafe.

KNIT AGAINST ROSEBANK

The ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team is inviting us to get creative: knit, sew, crochet, paint – and send our creations to our MPs, encouraging

them to sign the #StopRosebank pledge. Stop Rosebank campaigners believe allowing the UK's largest undeveloped oil and gas field to be exploited will 'lock us into climate-damaging systems and push us further beyond the 1.5°C limit'. See bit.ly/JPITRosebank



HOPE FROM CLIMATE TALKS

A 'historic breakthrough' was claimed at climate talks in Colombia in April. Nearly 60 countries backed voluntary roadmaps 'to wean the world off coal, oil and gas'. The conference was organised in frustration with failures at successive UN climate summits. Most of the world's biggest emitters were absent at Columbia.

LGBTI+ EQUALITY MAKING 'NO PROGRESS'

In the most recent Rainbow Index, compiled annually by the European LGBTI network ILGA-Europe, the UK has remained in 22nd place out of 49 countries for the second year running.

Equality Network, a national LGBTQIA+ equality and human rights charity for Scotland, has called on both Scottish and UK governments to recommit to improving the lives of LGBTQIA+ people following the finding. The ranking represents a drop from first place in 2015 and has been largely the result of the UK Supreme Court ruling on trans equality in April 2025.

Life on the Bridge

News from Augustine United Church

JUNIOR CHURCH PRAYER MAKES NEW PRAYER HANDBOOK

Junior Church has written a prayer that will be published in the next edition of the United Reformed Church's Prayer Handbook. We were delighted to use the prayer as part of our worship on Easter Day.

Holy One, God, Mother of All

Please let people stop fighting and let people live in peace.
Please help people who don't have homes or windows or roofs.
Help us to share with people who don't have as much as us.
Help us to love each other as equals and to see everyone as important as each other.
Help us to listen to each others' voices.

WEDDING JOY

Good wishes and congratulations were shared from the congregation at AUC with Mike Holroyd and Ryan Shoemake, who were married on 30 April. At a service in Fort William, the couple were married by Paul Foster, the priest from St Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Fiona Bennett was the preacher.

Paul Foster has also joined some of the disability justice Bible studies led by Mike and Sian Joyner during May.

STEVEN ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Steven Smillie has been appointed as the Scotland Synod representative on the United Reformed Church's 'Church Life Fund Committee'. The committee will advise on distributing money for shared URC services, lay worker grants, and the development of new communities for ministry and worship across the UK. One member per synod has been appointed to the committee.

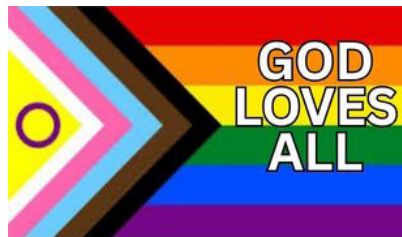
AUC PICNIC

On Sunday 14 June, we will hold our annual summer picnic after the

service. Picnic bags will be available to collect and we will gather at The Meadows to share food and companionship if the weather permits. (And in the sanctuary if not!) Register and order your preferred lunch by Wednesday 10 June using the form in the Friday email. (Or contact centre.manager@augustine.org.uk.)

PRIDE SERVICE

Join Augustine United Church, Our Tribe, in partnership with Metropolitan Community Church on Sunday, 21 June at 11:00am for our Annual Pride Service. Celebrate our queer community and find connection. All welcome. For more about the service and arrangements for Edinburgh Pride, see p.6.



FUTUREPROOFING UNDER DISCUSSION

Augustine United Church's Annual General Meeting was held in hybrid form (in church and via Zoom) on Sunday, 10 May 2026.

Among items discussed was the ongoing conversations with other United Reformed Church congregations in Edinburgh about future mission opportunities and ministry needs. Thanks were given to Eilidh Carmichael and Lewis Reay as well as to Linda Harrison, who have been representing AUC at a series of meetings.

Moira Holmes was elected to serve as Church Secretary for a three-year term and Linda Harrison was elected to serve as Assistant Church Secretary, also for three years, and as a trustee until the 2027 AGM.

It was noted that our current Church Treasurer (Ewen Harley)'s term will come to an end in December 2026. A nomination to fill this role is being sought by November 2026.

"each of us needs to take responsibility"

In a later discussion, it was emphasised that there is a need to involve people from across the congregation in these roles in order to share the load. More broadly, in her report the Revd Fiona Bennett asked: Do we have a strategy for succession planning that is intentional and includes transparent processes?

Each of us needs to take responsibility for encouraging visitors back, to encourage new members, and to encourage folk to sign up for the rotas. We need a culture of encouragement and challenge. Life cycles are important to embed, she said, adding: Can we find the courage to cease some activities and start up new ones?

(More from the meeting in our next issue.)

MINISTRY IN MANY FORMS

This year marks 30 years since the ordination of our minister, the Revd Fiona Bennett. She was ordained on 4 June 1996. On p.8, we share a few thoughts about her ministry at AUC.

REMARKABLE LIFE REVEALED BY LABOUR OF LOVE

Alan Campbell Orde survived a career as a pilot in the Royal Naval Air Service during World War One, and then used his experience to begin a second, pioneering, career in the fledgling world of British civil aviation, becoming operations manager of the original British Airways in 1937.

Why is *Seeds* interested in Alan Campbell Orde? Because he was the step-grandfather of AUC member Fiona Somerville.



Christian Aid marked at AUC - This year's Christian Aid service, on 17 May, was held jointly with our ecumenical partners, Greyfriars Parish Church and St Columba's by the Castle. The service was led by the Revds Fiona Bennett (AUC) and Juliet Stephenson (St Columba's).

We also welcomed the current Moderator of the URC's General Assembly, Catriona Wheeler, who was interviewed by Fiona. Catriona is a church elder in Lincoln. She has a background in law and has served as a solicitor and Notary Public.

Fiona helped her step-grandfather to produce a version of his memoirs while he was in his 80s. He died in 1992, leaving her his source materials 'in case anyone wanted to write his biography in future. Those fascinating log-books, photographs and documents sat in a wardrobe, tugging at my conscience from time to time.'

That biography, which became one of Fiona's 'lockdown projects', has now become reality.

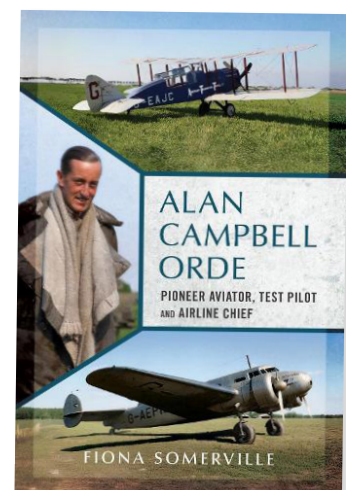
Campbell Orde's career included becoming one of the first commercial airline pilots after the war, working as an instructor in China, and organising Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's famous Munich flights. During the Second World War, he was key to

organising assistance to the RAF, helping to supply British troops in North Africa and opening links to Russia.

Perhaps the most remarkable story about Campbell Orde is of his rescue from no-man's land after being shot down during World War One. He owed his life to two British nurses, Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Knocker, who had set up a first aid station a few hundred metres behind the trenches of the Western Front and became known as 'the Madonnas of Pervyse'.

Their own story can be heard in 'WW1: The Two Women of Pervyse', an episode of the BBC's *Witness History* series, available on BBC Sounds.

Alan Campbell Orde: Pioneer Aviator, Test Pilot and Airline Chief by Fiona Somerville (pub. Fonthill Media Ltd) is available from uk.bookshop.org and other well-known online retailers.



Celebrating Pride 2026

Edinburgh Pride is a big weekend each year in AUC's calendar. This year it takes place 20-21 June. Lewis Reay tells us all we need to know about when, where and how.

The time has come around again to celebrate the queer community. Every year, we mark LGBTQ+ Pride by taking part in the march and community fair, and our regular Sunday service has a Pride focus.

Read on for details of our plans for this year:

SATURDAY 20TH

Pride Breakfast at 9.30am onwards

Join us for pastries, muffins and a selection of teas and coffee from 9.30am in the sanctuary at Augustine United Church. All welcome.

Blessing Out at 11.00am

Share a moment of prayer and connection before we leave the church to join the march.

Joining the March at 11.15am

We will leave the church together at 11.15am to travel together to assemble outside the Scottish Parliament for the start of the march.

At the Church

If you prefer, you can stay at the church, gathering in front of the building to cheer and wave on the marchers as they pass. Placards and banners will be provided!

Community Fair

Help staff the stall at the Community Fair, which will be held at Teviot Row House following the renovations of the last couple of years. Or just stop by to say 'hello'.

If you would like to help staff the stall, please contact Carol on carol.joyner@augustine.org.uk

SUNDAY 21ST

Pride Worship at 11.00am

Join us on Sunday 21 June at our regular worship time for a service celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. Children welcome and children's church available. All welcome.

So, what is this Pride all about?

The first Pride in the UK was held in London on 1 July 1972 amidst a growing movement for the liberation of LGBTQ+ people. This was organised by the Gay Liberation Front and the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, early campaigning and human rights activist organisations. This event took some of its inspiration from the Stonewall Riots in New York City on 28 June 1969.



The first Pride Scotland took place on Saturday 17 June 1995. At this event, Metropolitan Community Church held a stall, and from that Holy Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, Edinburgh, was born. For many years Pride took place in Glasgow and Edinburgh in alternating years. Eventually, Pride Edinburgh became a separate organisation and has been holding Pride celebrations in the capital every year since then.

Pride is a great opportunity to welcome the LGBTQ+ community and our allies and show the inclusive love of Jesus. In the current political climate this is a message that is worth hearing, as a response to the tide of hatred against LGBTQ+ people.

So, will you join us to celebrate and to make your feelings known about the LGBTQ+ community in our city? Let's make this a year to remember!

Living ‘the new creation’ in Bergen

In May, Maxwell, Lewis and Carol travelled to Bergen, Norway, for the 45th Annual Conference of the European Forum of LGBTI Christian Groups. They joined with 150 people from all over Europe, some of whom had travelled at considerable risk to themselves. Not all queer Christians can be out and Christian in their country of origin. Many Eastern European countries are very difficult for LGBTQ+ people.



Image: The Revd Elder Maxwell Reay with the Bishop of Bergen, Ragnhild Jepsen

A REFLECTION FROM A NEWCOMER – LEWIS REAY

It was wonderful to meet so many queer Christians, and feel in the majority in the lovely Grand Hotel in Bergen. The European Forum made a positive step many years ago to ensure that people of all genders are represented, both on a governance level and at conferences.

This has certainly paid off as many lesbian, bisexual, and trans women were present, and quite a few trans people that Maxwell and I had met last summer at the Trans Joy gathering in Zurich.

At the pre-conference retreat, we explored the Bible verse from 2 Corinthians: ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!’ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We lit candles and created a layered artwork together as a group.

I attended several workshops, including an exploration of ritual and rites that are important to us as queer people. Another, on the intersection of queerness and chronic illness and disability, made me consider my own hidden disability and how this affects my identity as a queer trans man. And I attended ‘Wounded Healers: Re-imagining Activist Identity’. This looked at how we can be activists in an increasingly hostile world and how to show radical love to those we meet in our communities and society.

We were very well looked after by the hotel staff, and the food was great and plentiful – always important in a conference setting! This was a tremendous opportunity to share and celebrate with new-found friends and old ones. Next year, Slovakia!

A REFLECTION BY CAROL JOYNER

The European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups was founded in 1982 after activists and delegates from seven local gay Christian groups across five different countries met in Paris to share their experiences and discuss forming a unified European network. Over forty years later, it has grown into a major ecumenical network, with over 46 member groups spread across more than 20 countries.

This was my ninth European Forum, having initially been invited to deliver a workshop on bisexuality in Gothenburg in 2016. That was the first time since the Forum’s inception that such an offering had been made, and many present were challenged by the idea that a person could be romantically and/or sexually attracted to more than one gender.

As a staunch Europhile and linguist, I immediately fell in love with the Forum and it has become like one huge extended family to me. Many of my friends from there attended my wedding in 2022. It’s the combination of teaching, ecumenism, socialising and travel to a different destination every year that makes it so special. Next year we travel to Slovakia and the year after is Germany! I also had the privilege of serving on the board as Secretary to the Forum, which was demanding but looks fab on my CV!

Snapshots of a ministry

Fiona isn't going to be happy about this, but...

June 4th this year marks 30 years since Revd Fiona Bennett was ordained, and we want to mark this moment.

She's not just 'our' minister, and she will also say that she's not the only person who does the ministering at Augustine – she encourages us all to minister, each in our own way. Nevertheless, we want to recognise her joyful, deeply spiritual care that she shares in so many contexts.

Since her ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Scottish Congregational Church (SCC) in 1996 (the same year as she married her wonderful Pete), Fiona has journeyed to Augustine via the Methodist Church in Lanarkshire and the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. Even now, her ministry isn't just about Augustine. She is a trained mediator, in 2022-23 she served as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed

Church, and during Covid – by the powers invested in Zoom – she went global!

So, at the risk of embarrassing her, we asked a few folk (who speak for many) to say what they have valued about Fiona's ministry and friendship.

belong – it's a completely new experience for me. I was very shy at first, but there's something about the atmosphere she creates, her encouragement and openness.

"She's a good storyteller"

“ We all experience a level of crafted worship that leaves us refreshed and inspired to go into the coming week.

“ Her wisdom and the way she shares the history and biblical context in her sermons means that my own understanding has really grown.

“ I never enjoyed going to church before coming here, and this is the first church where I feel I absolutely

“ We first knew Fiona from our wedding and immediately felt warmed and welcomed by her – and that was a big part, I think, of why we stayed at the church.

“ Fiona was instrumental in the process of Metropolitan Community Church in Edinburgh becoming part of Augustine United Church in 2009. She gently guided





the congregation through the discernment process and along with the Church Council worked to ensure that everyone was included in the decision-making. This ensured that MCC members were fully welcomed and quickly became part of the day-to-day life of the church. Fiona's inclusive and affirming welcome of LGBTQI+ community has been a tremendous blessing to the queer community in Edinburgh and beyond.

“ Fiona genuinely engages in the dilemmas and uncertainties of being human, but does so with a professional integrity and warmth, which has always made me feel safe, supported and not judged. She finds a way to share her spiritual learning and curiosity which does not dictate or shout, but is nevertheless gently powerful, inviting reflection and inquiry. It feels like a valuable conversation, which always has some hope in there, and often her sense of humour just when needed.

“ I've always found Fiona to be kind, considerate and thoughtful. Now that I'm housebound, to have communion and a blether is really appreciated.

“ Fiona was really encouraging when I was in early motherhood – not just as a minister but as a mother.

“ She has been a treasured 'critical friend' for 30 years – supportive and generous with her time; encouraging me to think in ever more expansive ways; enabling me to get to the heart of an issue. I am truly grateful for her friendship and ministry.

“ It is all those things that go on almost behind the scenes ... the care and attention to detail in all Fiona brings to ministry; she goes the extra mile every time. Whether it be difficult situations to be resolved, consideration for safeguarding, preparation for meetings, or attending all manner of events on behalf of AUC or the URC, Fiona can always be relied on to support, commit and engage wholeheartedly.

“ ... it was her role in our wedding and the planning of that, it's more than what people see – it's building the start of that marriage. And Lewis's blessing when he was growing up – she helped us bring something together that was what both of us wanted for that.

“She always talks to us, she listens to us, and she always wears a black shirt.”

“ Fiona sees the potential in people and situations, is always ready to listen, and wears her role of minister lightly.

“ Her 'joie de vivre' resonates, but never at the exclusion of her deeply-felt faith, wider consideration of world events and creation, and real pastoral concern for each individual, which I have experienced when she has given our family support at times of life events and initiations.

“ She never assumes she is the expert, but shares her knowledge and wisdom with humility, allowing others to share theirs. In situations of distress, she is a wonderful person to turn to, with the right words to give hope and courage.

“ As a Tutor of The Scottish College, she brings and shares her wealth of experience and understanding to those training for ministry in the URC in Scotland.

“ <big smile>

“ She supported my play *Jesus, Queen of Heaven* at a time when I was so discouraged and was being told it was insulting to Christianity, and I was ready to give it up. But Fiona said, ‘This is a work of devotion’, and that gave me courage. And all that has happened

since is partly the fruit of her belief and her support, which is fantastic.

“ Fiona’s support of the trans community’s pastoral and spiritual needs has been especially important in the current climate. I truly believe that her preaching of an inclusive Gospel will have saved many lives and will continue to do so.

“I really like everything about her.”

“ Fiona really sees people and invites them to the table even when they are a little bit scared, maybe, to come to the table. She sees the best in them and holds out the best for them, and encourages them in ways I’ve never seen a minister do before.

Her ministering in AUC and encouragement of all members to be part of ‘ministering’ to others is fun, as well as being deeply serious and rooted in God’s intentions for the inclusion of each person in his kin-dom.

With thanks to Cruz, Eilidh, Jo, Kathleen, Katrina, Lewis, Linda, Lindsey, Mandy, Maxwell, Reuben, Sian, Stephen, and Tyler, who speak and smile for many.



Reflections of heaven – lessons from the dandelion

Ann Mackenzie writes: 'I was looking through a book from my shelf, *Poems of the Seasons*, and I came across "To the Dandelion" by James Russell Lowell. It is long and interesting, far too long for *Seeds*, but perhaps a few lines from it might fill a wee empty space?'

The dandelion is Augustine's guiding image. We hope that the life and work of our community here will be like the dandelions' small, determined seeds – carried in the breath of God's Spirit to grow justice and joy in our lives and world.

Dear common flower, that grow'st beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold,
 First pledge of blithesome May,
Which children pluck, and full of pride, uphold,
 High-hearted buccaneers, o'erjoyed that they
 Eldorado in the grass have found,
 Which not the rich earth's ample round
 May match in wealth, thou art more dear to me
 Than all the prouder summer-blooms may be.

.....

'Tis the Spring's largess, which she scatters now
To rich and poor alike, with lavish hand,
 Though most heart never understand
 To take it at God's value, but pass by
 The offered wealth with unrewarded eye.

.....

James Russell Lowell was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1819. As well as a poet, he was an ardent abolitionist, and his articles were published widely in many anti-slavery newspapers. He taught (at Harvard), travelled and studied in Europe, and was an editor of the *Atlantic Monthly* and, later, the *North American Review*.

Here are some extracts from 'To the Dandelion'. The full poem can be found easily online.

My childhood's earliest thoughts are linked with thee;
The sight of thee calls back the robin's song,
 Who, from the dark old tree
Beside the door, sang clearly all day long,
 And I, secure in childish piety,
Listened as if I heard an angel sing
 With news from heaven, which he could bring
 Fresh every day to my untainted ears
 When birds and flowers and I were happy peers.

How like a prodigal doth nature seem,
When thou, for all thy gold, so common art!
 Thou teachest me to deem
 More sacredly of every human heart,
 Since each reflects in joy its scanty gleam
Of heaven, and could some wondrous secret show,
 Did we but pay the love we owe,
 And with a child's undoubting wisdom look
 On all these living pages of God's book.



Photo by Vinidi Green on Unsplash

What's On?

Many of our gatherings and resources are online. You can find out details on our website www.augustine.org.uk.

STAYING IN TOUCH

If you wish to receive weekly updates of AUC events please register to receive the Friday email by contacting our Centre Manager (centre.manager@augustine.org.uk).

Find us on 

Check our posts on the AUC Facebook page.



Giving made easier with AUC's QR code

June / July 2026

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

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

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

June		
Thurs 4	7.30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ gathering
Fri 5		World Environment Day (#NowForClimate)
Sun 7	1-2.30pm	Remembering Space (including lunch from 1pm)
Tues 9	7.30pm	Church Meeting (online)
Mon 15		Refugee Week (2026 theme: 'Courage')
Sat 20		Edinburgh Pride (see p.6 for full details)
Sun 21	11am	Pride Service
Sun 28	1.30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King Street
July		
Thurs 2	7.30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ gathering
Thurs 9	7.30pm	Church Council
Sun 12	12.30pm	Church Meeting (hybrid, from church sanctuary, following soup lunch)
Sun 26	1.30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+), Coffee Saints, Little King Street

Seeds deadline

The next issue of *Seeds* will be a double issue for August – September 2026. The copy deadline for the August/September edition is **Friday 17 July**.

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.

