

# Investing in what is valuable

### Revd Fiona Bennett



#### ent is a time in the Church year when we are invited to strip back and re-discover what is truly important.

Many years ago, as part of a course learning about Ignatian Spirituality, I undertook an exercise to write my own eulogy. The exercise was to identify what was truly important and valuable to me, by considering how I would like to be remembered. Having considered what was truly important or valuable, I was then invited to consider how much of my time and energy in the present I invested in these important and valuable aspects of my life.

It was quite a challenging, and very Lenten, exercise.

Throughout my ministry I have written and delivered many eulogies and have often pondered on what it is that makes a life 'well lived'? Each life is very different but I think there is a general admiration for people who have adapted to whatever life has brought them, and thrived in doing so; a deep appreciation for people who care for, encourage, and support others; and a sense of inspiration from people who fearlessly savour life and grasp the opportunities it brings, whether ordinary or unusual.

I wonder for people in our world today, who have lost homes, jobs, basic security and even their legal identities, what they perceive to be truly important and valuable. If Jesus was right that the poor are blessed, then there is wisdom to be learnt from all who are stripped down today, about what is truly important and valuable in God's eyes.

### "I undertook to write my own eulogy"

Listening to, and being shaped by, voices from stripped down experiences is another significant exercise for Lent, as we seek through the season to realign our present living to invest in that which is truly valuable and important as disciples of Jesus in the world today.

*From the editors* | How we are remembered has become a thread through this issue of *Seeds*. We remember a life well-lived as Ian Rathjen's family offer memories of him; and Jo Clifford responds to a portrait made of her. Moira writes about 'a space to remember' and Lewis reflects on 15 years of Our Tribe. Thank you for reading – Denis and Laurence

### **This Month**

#### 15 YEARS OF OUR TRIBE

Lewis Reay offers a personal reflection on our LGBTQ+ ministry



#### WALKING IN TRUST

Laurence Wareing considers the many shapes of pilgrimage



#### OPEN TO THE NEW

Mandy Rathjen on loving father, and positive pragmatist, lan



#### PAINTING JO

Reflections on being captured in an award-winning portrait







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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 May and June 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** 



Seeds

## EASTER PLAY FOR PALM SUNDAY

*The Passion* is being performed by LAMPS collective at Morningside United Church, Sunday 13 April (Palm Sunday) at 7.30 pm.

The play (approx. 75 minutes) is performed by a cast of three and retells the events of Easter from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus. *The Passion* leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, the cross and beyond. It has been written with people that don't normally go to church in mind.



LAMPS Collective (lampscollective. com) is a group of professional artists whose Christian faith underpins their work and lives.

#### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

AUC shares its Holy Week services with its ecumenical partners at Greyfriars and St Columba's by the Castle.

This worship includes daily morning services at St Columba's and a Good Friday vigil at AUC (12-3 pm). An Easter celebration will be held at AUC on Easter Day at 11am. Check the Friday notices for further details.



#### DISABILITY RESOURCE

*Disability Awareness for All* is one of the URC's Conversation Starter resources. They are designed 'to get you talking, acting and praying about some of the important issues in the Church today'.

*Disability Awareness for All* was written by members of the URC's Youth Assembly, including TLCYouth member Michael Smith.

Available at <u>bit.ly/disAw25</u>

Other resources in the series are: Vocation and Call and Where are the Young People?

#### BREAKING BIG OIL'S GRIP

The Canadian founder of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, Tzeporah Berman, is speaking at a Global Justice Now event at AUC on Saturday 5 April, 2.30 – 4.30 pm.

The treaty is a global plan to halt the expansion of fossil fuels, manage



an equitable phase-out, and lay the foundations for a true just energy transition across the world in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

Remaining tickets at <u>www.tickettailor.</u> <u>com/events/globaljusticenow</u>

#### CHRISTIAN AID CATCH-UP

Missed this year's Christian Aid Gathering? Watch the recording online.

The 90-minute video flags up Christian Aid's current work and priorities and is an opportunity to hear directly from Christian Aid partners in Latin America.

#### Go to <u>bit.ly/CAgat25</u>

#### ANNIVERSARY DATE

A reminder that, in 2025, it will be 25 years since the formation of the United Reformed Church's National Synod of Scotland. The Synod will hold a gathering to mark the occasion at St. Matthew's Church, Perth, on Saturday 14 June 2025. (See poster in church vestibule.)

#### RETHINK OVERSEAS SUPPORT, SAY CHURCHES

In a letter to the UK Government, leaders from the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches and Church of Scotland have criticised proposed cuts to the international development budget, saying it 'would break a manifesto promise made to people in the world's poorest communities, and have a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods across the globe'. More at jpit.uk.

Header globe icon by Vectors Market via Noun Project

# Life on the Bridge

**News from Augustine United Church** 

#### SPACE TO REMEMBER

Sunday 2 March saw our inaugural Space to Remember. This is a safe sacred space to gather and share stories of those for whom we grieve.

On this first occasion, people were invited to bring along a photograph or object which evoked memories of someone who had died. Eleven people attended and stories were shared not only of loss but of love too.

'Grief, I've learned, is really just love. It's all the love you want to give but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go.' (Jamie Anderson)

In Romans 12: 15, St Paul highlights the role of the community in sharing and alleviating individual grief ('Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn'). The next Space to Remember will be on **Sunday 15 June** and everyone is welcome, whether your loss is longstanding or more recent. Bring all of yourself and let us companion each other on this undulating journey of grief, for to witness another there is indeed a blessing.

- Moira Holmes

Remembering Space meets quarterly in AUC on a Sunday afternoon in the Sanctuary. With coffee etc. available from 1.45, it starts at 2pm and offers time to pray, reflect and share together. Open to all.

#### MONEY MATTERS – HOW ARE WE DOING?

Below is the Centre, Property & Finance CLMT's 2024 full-year update. It shows a comparison of the six key performance indicators for 2023\* versus 2024.

The segmented arc illustrates the percentage change for better (green) or worse (yellow/red). Each segment represents 10%. \*Indexation: for comparison purposes, the 2023 financial figures have been adjusted by CPI.

#### NEURODIVERGENT AFFIRMING SPACE

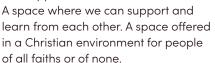
Sunday 2 February saw the launch of AUC's new neurodivergent affirming space (NDAS). The group has emerged for 16-year-olds and over and meets on the first Sunday of each month

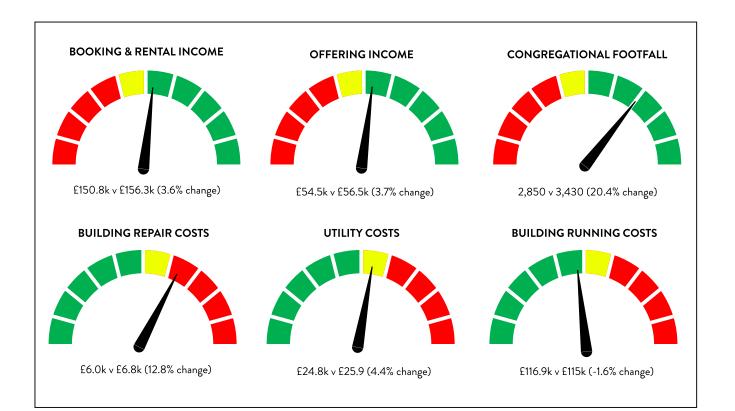
#### What is the neurodivergent affirming space?

A space to be ourselves. A space to meet other neurodivergent people. A space where you can be heard and feel supported.



n d a s







#### What will happen there?

We will start with an hour of food and relaxation. There will be a variety of pizzas, tabletop games, art supplies, and fidget tools. There will be an opportunity to chat with others or do your own thing. We will then have a focused discussion and finish with a mindful moment and prayer.

#### Who is it for?

Anyone over the age of 16 years with a neurodivergent condition, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, learning disabilities, OCD, Tourettes, and more.

NDAS will gather again on Sunday 6 April, 12.30–3pm. For more information or to let us know your dietary requirements, please contact Matt at matt.baines@ augustine.org.uk.

Image description: A rainbow-coloured fingerprint representing the diversity of human life and the many different kinds of minds. The colour of the letter 'd' in 'ndas' is different to the other letters, as if it's doing its own thing.

#### FIVE YEARS ON SCREEN

#### AUC's first online service took place on the 15 March 2020. Here's how it happened.

23 March 2020. In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Scottish Government announces measures that will close businesses and other premises. It passes health protection legislation that results in the closure of places of worship three days later.

But AUC was ahead of the game, streaming its first online worship two Sundays prior to the legislation coming into force. A hybrid service was streamed to Facebook using a mobile phone, with members of the congregation in the building. Worship was led by Fiona Bennett, Susan Henderson (with us as a minister in training), and Karl Macrae playing the piano. The following week, we preempted restrictions and only Fiona, Susan and Karl were in the building, with Peter Moir recording. From the 29th we began streaming worship to both Facebook and the new kid on the



#### block, Zoom.

Peter and Fiona pioneered the dos and don'ts of streaming worship – where to stand, how to get the best sound... Over time, others began to contribute pre-recorded music, readings, prayers and reflections. We learnt quickly that short was sweet!

Building on our learnings, and with great support from our caretaker Graham Rule and Centre Manager Rachel, additional kit was acquired, and a tech team began to grow – initially, Eilidh, Denis, Thomas and Peter.

Post-service social time started on 5 April 2020, supported by the first Friday Notices emails, sent out by Rachel from 13 March. Two hosts were needed, one for each platform. But

when we stopped livestreaming to Facebook in December 2021 and moved over to YouTube, it was decided to not to enable the chat facility. Only one host was now required but they remained responsible for hosting the postservice social time.

And all the while, something very special was taking place – the growth of our online community. We have welcomed visitors from across the UK (including AUC members who have moved away from Edinburgh) and from other parts of the world. One example: through our online worship we established contact with David Kays, his family, and Becca Kays, all in America, and David has since preached in our building.

So, when eventually possibilities for congregational in-building worship opened up once more (singing was permitted again on 19 July, 2021), we didn't stop streaming our services or meeting online. It has become too important to our life as a worldwide Christian community. In fact, it has been, as current Communication Ministry team leader Denis says, 'a rare positive that we can take from the pandemic!'

Thank you to everyone who has, in countless ways, helped us get to where we are today.

You can watch our first online service at <u>www.facebook.com/share/</u> <u>r/16ErCPgvLg/</u>.

Many thanks to Thomas McPolin and Rachel Fitzgerald for pulling up the facts and figures.

# Happy birthday, Our Tribe!

Lewis Reay offers a personal reflection on 15 years of AUC's LGBTQ+ ministry

t is 15 years since Metropolitan Community Church, Edinburgh, joined with AUC, so it is time to celebrate!

I came into MCC in Bath in 1995. There I found a safe and welcoming place to heal from the trauma I had experienced at the hands of evangelical Christians.

A few years later, I transitioned, and it was the affirming relationship with God that I found in MCC that made this a possibility.

MCC Edinburgh was founded at the first Pride Scotland event, also in 1995. Maxwell and I were at that first Pride event and helped staff an MCC Outreach Ministries stall to meet people and see what the possibilities were for establishing a new MCC. When we left London, in 2002, we moved to Edinburgh to be part of the MCC here. We were both active in ministry in different aspects of church life and heavily involved in supporting other trans men and working on transgender issues in the wider denomination of MCC.

In the summer of 2009, members of MCC Edinburgh and members of AUC went to a church growth retreat at Northern Lights Metropolitan Community Church in Newcastle. It was there that we realised that we had more in common than we realised. It was from this weekend that discussions began about working together, eventually closing MCC Edinburgh, and our members who wanted to transferring their membership to AUC

### "It is a profound and intimate moment of connection with God and with one another"

It seemed like we could do much more together than apart. This has proven to be true over the last 15 years.

God was at the heart of this process, and becoming part of AUC was an answer to the challenges we had been facing. We were welcomed with an openness which was truly wonderful.

And that is where Our Tribe started. By April 2010, we were ready to launch a Saturday night gathering for LGBT folk, allies, friends and family. An open space to meet with one another and to experience all that God's inclusive love can mean. Communion is an important aspect of demonstrating this affirming and welcoming reality. It is a profound and intimate moment of connection with God and with one another. We share communion at our online meetings as we did at the in-person gatherings before Covid.



For many, communion is something that queer people have been excluded from when they come out. We hope to heal the trauma of exclusion and demonstrate the inclusive love of Jesus in this meal.

Over the years, we have seen greater acceptance of LGBT+ people of faith in the wider LGBT+ community. Having a faith is not treated with the suspicion it once was. However, there is still considerable trauma for people in LGBTQ+ communities about faith, and conversion practices are real and damaging.

We have seen many people come and go, find the acceptance they need, deepen their relationship with God and move on to many places across the world and in other faith communities.

I continue to feel passionate about our ministry to the LGBTQ+ community. A safe, affirming and welcoming space is needed even more in these challenging social and political times.

# Walking in trust

Laurence Wareing reports on a day that considered the many shapes of pilgrimage.

ilgrimage pastors and the tradition of 'gyrovagues' were among my take-away learnings from a study day on pilgrimage last autumn.

I'd attended the day, organised by the Church Service Society, in order to reflect on our own attempts to establish urban pilgrimages out of AUC. I'm grateful to AUC for the support it gave to help my trip happen.

We gathered at the parish church of St Drostan in Markinch. It is well worth a visit if you like a quiet Fife town and an impressive 12th century church tower.



The church is also a stopping off point on the Fife Pilgrim Way, one of 11 pilgrim routes nowadays recognised by the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF).

SPRF is a national network of people and organisations committed to developing pilgrimage walking routes 'as part of Scotland's spiritual and cultural heritage'. It promotes routes right across the country, from the Borders Abbeys Way, walked in part on a TLC pilgrimage a few years ago, to the most northerly route, the St Magnus Way in Orkney.

On a day designed to consider pilgrimage past and present, we began with a presentation by Dr Beth Rhodes of St Andrews University on the way in which the ancient discipline of pilgrimage survived as an idea into the age of Presbyterianism.

### "But what makes a walk 'a pilgrimage'? ... It is the intention that makes it different"

I was surprised to learn that pilgrims in medieval times regularly travelled to Tain, Crail, and St Katherine's Well in Liberton – none of these are destinations I'd have picked out – as well as the more likely pilgrim centres of Whithorn, Glasgow and St Andrews.

But what makes a walk 'a pilgrimage'? For Wendy Lloyd, communications manager for the Iona Community, it is the intention that makes it different. 'Walking with and walking to God', as suggested by the prophet Micah (Micah 6: 8).

In its most intense manifestation, pilgrimage morphed into perpetual exile, practiced by wandering monks called 'gyrovagues'. What a great word! (The early Church fathers and mothers weren't at all impressed – Augustine dismissed them as 'those who prowl around the barns'.)

Nowadays, pilgrimage takes many forms. Many church dioceses across Scandinavia have a dedicated 'pilgrimage pastor' – a cross between a guide, chaplain and storyteller. The Fife Pilgrim Way is the first route in the UK to have adopted that idea. And judges in Norway have the power to sentence criminals to undertake a pilgrimage along the Olaf Way (its nine trails cover around 3,000 km). Which, if pilgrimage is about personal transformation, as St Drostan's then minister Conor Fegan suggested, has a thoughtful logic to it.

For Conor, pilgrimage today has a double intention: to engage with society around us, and to engage with a world still searching for some kind of spiritual fulfilment.

I was struck, though, by this final thought from Wendy Lloyd. The prophet Micah, she said, urges us to 'walk humbly'. As Wendy interprets that phrase, the troubles of the world are not all ours to solve – 'we need to get rid of our Messiah complex'. In other words, as I understand her, pilgrimage is something about walking in trust.

# Open to the new

#### remembering lan Rathjen

#### Dear Augustine friends,

I wanted to say a heartfelt thankyou for all the love, understanding and good company over all the years since Mum and Dad (Ian and Elizbeth Rathjen) first joined the Augustine community.

Augustine was central to their social and spiritual lives in Edinburgh and has been a constant through all the years when Dad was a carer for Mum and managing his own various health conditions with characteristic positive pragmatism.

We were held as a family in the weeks and months before Dad died and in the Thanksgiving Service, with all the usual Augustine behind-the-scenes thoughtfulness and action.

I first came to Augustine to help Mum and Dad on coffee duty about eight years ago, and with nice circularity I was 'retrained' this month to come back onto the coffee rota. I may now be almost trusted to operate the dish washer and the coffee machines, which were Dad's domain, but his legacy on the finance committee, new membership groups, Bible readings, and enthusiastically taking part in all the quizzes, concerts and tea parties is his alone.

Love and peace, Mandy

Mandy adds that Ian had been editor of his school magazine and was happy writing the occasional article for *Seeds*. So, it's fitting that we include here some of the memories of Ian gathered by his family for the Service of Thanksgiving, held at AUC on 7 January this year.



#### f starting not at Dad's birth but at his 90th birthday celebration in April of 2024 seems all a bit back to front, that may be true.

But that event was Dad in his element: smartly dressed, hosting a gathering, and addressing an audience with a well-prepared speech; that, and there being a big cake. There was, throughout his life, time for cake... biscuits... but, most importantly, pudding, without which no meal was truly complete and for which, to the consternation of the medical profession, he claimed to have an extra tummy. He was lucky in marrying Elizabeth, who didn't have a sweet tooth but diligently cooked a multitude of sweet treats for nearly 60 years.

Dad was born in 1934 and grew up in Tolworth at the south-west edge of London, the first baby to be baptised at Tolworth Congregational [later, URC] Church. His parents had been very much involved in getting it built. This is where he met Elizabeth, and they got engaged on a church holiday to Norway. His notable performance of 'King Rat' in the church pantomime (pictured right) had the dubious success of reducing the front row of small children to terrified tears, to the acute embarrassment of his teenage children. He had to 'tone it down' for the next performance.

### "Dad sailed across the Channel, which showed the adventurous spirit of the times"

Dad was not infrequently in trouble as a boy, a symptom of an active and enterprising mind. He bought doughnuts on the way to school and sold them at a premium at the school gate. Sadly, this entrepreneurial initiative was frowned upon by the headmaster. He set up a fully timetabled model railway in the attic and would often annoy his Mum, saying he couldn't come for tea until the 6.20pm had left the station.

London was a significant part of Dad's life, from childhood shopping trips to working in Whitehall, and then for so many years visits to the opera at the London Coliseum that he and mum enjoyed.

Rivers were also important to him. As a teenager he built a canoe and a punt in his garden. He and friends travelled up and down the Thames on many weekends, with Elizabeth cycling along the tow path with a bag of sandwiches. In his 20s, Dad sailed across the Channel with his brotherin-law Roger, which showed the adventurous spirit of the times.

He and Elizabeth began married life living in an old mill above the river Waveney, a basic home but a happy time. Having excelled at the London School of Economics, he was working as an accountant in rural Norfolk – a job he enjoyed, visiting many local businesses, exposing accountancy



irregularities, saving up, and looking ahead to being able to buy a house and start a family. Accountancy was to take him into the Civil Service and, from there, to become General Secretary of the Civil Service Benevolent fund, a post he enjoyed until retirement.

Service was important to Dad in his working life but also running the youth fellowship at church, and acting as a magistrate in Kingston upon Thames for about 20 years, ultimately chairing the bench, and the Probation service committee. He was very committed to developing probation services and

worked almost fulltime hours in this voluntary capacity for many years. This was really Dad's education and insight into the lives of many people less privileged that he had been. His attitudes and view of the world evolved, and this openness

to new ideas and willingness to rethink remained a positive quality throughout his life. He was a natural teacher, and latterly this was exemplified in the new

membership classes at Augustine, which he helped to lead with Fiona for over ten years. Even in his last year, he attended the carbon literacy course at AUC and thought carefully about the need to change habits.

But if service was important, the family was more so, and

while Mum very much

ran the house, Dad was a keen reader of bedtime stories, the homework champion, a keen player of French cricket in the garden, and never too easy to beat at card or board games.

He had a keen mind and memory, which he liked to keep busy and agile. He sent off *The Telegraph* newspaper's prize

crossword every Saturday, even into his 90th year.

Dad was proud that his great, great, great grandfather, a young



disinherited German farmer's son, arrived in Leith and ended up married to the Customs officer's daughter, living in the grand Customs House still standing near Leith harbour. This German/Scottish family ended up in Liverpool and then Dad's parents moved to London. Dad returned to Edinburgh and

Seeds

enjoyed the last 18 years living in the same city his ancestor knew two centuries before.

Dad was a devoted husband and ultimately carer for Mum in her ten years of living with dementia. He came out of his comfort zone and began to take on much of the cooking and support for her. In his very last days, he continued to enjoy seeing family and friends, but when he lost the love of food, even pudding, it's how we knew his time was at an end.



# Painting Jo

I wrote this poem to go with Chris Ferric's portrait of me, for it to be exhibited in the No Vacancy gallery in Melbourne, Australia (no-vacancy.com.au). This is my face An old face In a world that fears death & tries to ignore it & so fears old age & tries to ignore it too But it won't go away Just as I won't go away This is my face A trans face In a world that wants men to be men & women to be women & tries to suppress Those of us who cross the line Those of us who defy the frontiers & wants us to disappear But I won't disappear I love my femaleness & I love my maleness too Because I am old enough To have known much hatred & old enough to have overcome it. So I love my aging & death is my sister & life my lover & friend

Chris Ferric wrote:

"Title/year of artwork: Saint Jo, Scribe of Our Souls / 2023-2024.

Medium: Oil and brass leaf on wood.

This painting is for Jo, my friends, my communities.

Jo is disabled, sexy, trans, old, and worthy of the care and attention required to paint an oil portrait made up of many caresses of her face and body.

Jo was ordained by The Order of Perpetual Indulgence. She is surrounded by a halo of golden nibs gifted by Brother Bimbo. This portrait bears scars from mishandling by a major state gallery. They aren't hidden, they are part of her story, in gold.

Jo is manifest fully: father and grandmother; Elder; playwright; performer; Queen Jesus; St Jo, Scribe of Our Souls."

#### love them for saying that. I love the picture.

Seeing it in the gallery recently was the first time I had actually seen it as a real artwork. It sent shivers up and down my spine. There is something utterly miraculous in the energy of this picture and the life that shines out of it.

Chris has taken the most traditional art form imaginable and, with astonishing

skill, subverted it on so many levels.

The portrait has just won a major art award. And I'm happy to see that Chris's wonderful artistry is beginning to get the respect and appreciation it so deserves.

And as for the painting itself: It is so queer and so glorious it takes my breath away.

Jo Clifford was ordained an Elder of AUC on 23 March.



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Most of our gatherings and resources are currently online. You can find out details on our website <u>www.augustine.org.uk.</u>

#### 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).



Check our posts on the AUC Facebook page.



Giving made easier with AUC's QR code

# April / May 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.

April		
Thurs 3	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sun 6	12:30 – 3pm	NDAS (see p.4)
Mon 7	7:30pm	Church Council
Sun 13	12:30pm	AUC Church Meeting
Mon 14	Holy Week	
Fri 18	12 – 3pm	Good Friday Service
Sun 20	11am	Easter Day celebration
Tues 22	World Earth Day	"Our Earth, Our Power" www.earthday.org
Sun 27	1:30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+) (Coffee Saints, Little King St)
May		
Thurs 1	7:30pm	Our Tribe LGBTQI+ Gathering
Sun 4	12:45 – 2pm	Rota Volunteer Training
Thurs 8	7:30pm	AUC Church Council
Sun 11	<b>Christian Aid Week</b>	
Mon 12	Mental Health Awareness Week	
Tues 13	7:30pm	AUC Church Meeting (online)
Sun 25	1:30pm	Come OUT with Our Tribe (LGBTQI+) (Coffee Saints, Little King St)
Thurs 29	Ascension Day	
	7:30pm	AUC Church Council

### Seeds deadline

The next issue of *Seeds* will be a double issue for June and July 2025. The copy deadline for the June/July edition is **Wednesday 14 May**.

#### 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 <u>greyfriarskirk.com</u> and <u>stcolumbasbythecastle.org.uk.</u>

