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WW100 Reflection, By Rev Fiona Bennett

11th Nov 2018 is 100 years since the end of World War One. Remembrance Day & Sunday this year are an opportunity to mark the end of this conflict. The panel who have been thinking about national commemorations in Scotland (titled WW100) have wrestled with the question throughout their planning, “**What have We learned?**”.

I cannot speak for us all, but these are a few of my own reflections.

Power must be managed carefully with great self discipline. The roots of WW1 are multi layered but certainly involve Empire building and people in power seeking more power and control. We all hold some power as individuals, in the way we behave and the choices we make. Many people hold power over others through wealth, education or jobs and roles they hold. Can we be honest in seeing the power we have and use it responsibly to care

for ourselves, others and the earth, rather than using it to feed our egos in fear or greed? Jesus used his power with great responsibility.

Bravery & Self Sacrifice are words which sometimes get bandied about to make wars sound like movies. WW1 holds many stories of bravery and self sacrifice, but not by airbrushed victors. WW1 was very messy and wasteful of precious life. Yet in the midst of it ordinary people did extraordinary things to help and care for each other, at cost to themselves. From the nurses who cared for the injured and dying with few resources, to the trench soldiers who companioned each other through hell, to many others on the battle field and at home who drew on wells of compassion and courage so far beyond the ordinary in order to care for and protect those around them. Most of these people thought of themselves as frightened and desperate not brave, and yet they found and drew

Getting Involved

Within AUC there are Ministry Teams which are responsible for different areas of Church Life. If you would like to know more or get involved with one of these please e-mail the contact person.

Centre, Property & Finance

Tom Murray

treasurer@augustine.org.uk

Children & Young People

Kirsty Murray

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Our Tribe (LGBTI Ministry)

Rev Maxwell Reay

associateminister@augustine.org.uk

Peace & Justice

Harriet Davidson

harriet.davidson@augustine.org.uk

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Anne MacKenzie

anne.mackenzie@augustine.org.uk

Worship

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minister@augustine.org.uk

If you would like to get involved volunteering within AUC or the local community:

AUC Volunteering

Fiona Somerville

rota@augustine.org.uk

Local Community

Volunteering

Della Morris

della.morris@augustine.org.uk

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on depths of humanity we cannot imagine exists. As Jesus himself revealed to us, the resource of compassion within human beings is far greater than we imagine.

Peace is costly. The effects of WW1 in bereavement, disability, trauma and change of perception did not pass away in a few years. My own grandfather went off to serve in WW1 underaged. He left a boy and came home a very hardened man, the effects of which still hold distant ripples within our family. Building a nation and world of peace where those who carry the scars of war are supported is very costly both practically and emotionally. How is this happening in the UK or Rwanda or Serbia or Croatia or Palestine or Israel?

When the war effort was on, people went to great lengths. Can we find the same urgency for the peace effort? Can we invest all we have in building a world where the vulnerable are supported, the earth is cared for and where we value the true treasure of life?

When Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God or the Realm of God, he meant this earth run, ruled and shaped as God desired for it to be. It would indeed be a world of peace, not peace meaning apathy or simply a void of violence, but the sort of peace Jesus showed us as he turned his society upside down.

What have we learned? As nations in a global society and as individuals, it seems frequently that we have learned very little, and yet it is easy to focus on the darkness and miss the brilliant stars of transforming light.

One of the guiding lights which WW100 and each Remembrance Day offers us to is: Not to Forget. For when we forget where we have come from, we do not understand who we are or where we are going.

Fresh Start collection

Throughout November, AUC is collecting new or good condition second-hand household items. Particularly needed items including side and large plates, cutlery, dishcloths, dusters, bath towels and toiletries.

Transgender Remembrance Sunday

We will have an offering for Global Justice Institute on 18th November, which is Transgender Remembrance Sunday.

AUC Elders Elections 2018

It is time once again to consider who might be among our AUC Eldership for 2019. This November **Alex Peden** and **Della Morris** are both standing down, having completed two consecutive 3 year periods of service (and more!). **Nicola Robinson** also stood down in June before she went to begin her Ordinand training at Northern College.

So, we need **3 new Elders**. Please consider who you might wish to be an Elder for our church.

Nominations need to be with the Church Secretary (contact details on front page) 3 days before the Election at our Church Meeting on Sunday 25th November - i.e. **by Thursday 22nd November**.

These nominations should be in writing, with the name of the proposer and seconder, and with the nominee's permission. The nominees must also comply with OSCR regulations for charity trustees (as Elders appointed because of their personal spiritual and/or practical qualities are also the legal AUC Trustees). If you have any questions about this do ask.

Our Tribe

Sunday 11th Nov at 3pm
WW100

100 years to the day since WW1 ceased, Our Tribe will offer space to learn and reflect on the story of WW1 and LGBTQI folk who served, with prayers for peace and communion.

Led by Fiona Bennett.

AUC Family Christmas Concert **Sunday 25th Nov 3-5pm**

Can you sing? Play an instrument? Read a poem? Tell a joke?

Then please take a turn in the AUC Family Christmas Concert. We are looking for new and 'established' performers who can add to our fun and diverse concert program. Please contact Fiona and let her know (Minister@augustine.org.uk) if you would like to perform.

And even if you do not want to perform, please do come along bringing friends, family and anyone you can drag with you (safely!) to share in the fun and to raise funds (by donation) towards the ongoing maintenance of the AUC building.

Pastoral Care

"...bearing with one another in love..."
(Ephesians 4:2)

At AUC, we aim to provide a web of care which promotes growth in relationships and good spiritual/mental health, through both informal and formal contacts. If you are looking for individual support please contact a minister: **Rev Fiona Bennett** (minister@augustine.org.uk) or **Rev Maxwell Reay** (associateminister@augustine.org.uk). As well as offering 1:1 support in the setting which is most appropriate for you, they can link you with the pastoral visiting team which offers regular support to the housebound.

Prayer requests are welcomed. They can be shared with the ministers directly or via the Church Office. If you would like support due to a mental health issue, you would be welcome at the Mental Health Drop-in, held weekly on Tuesdays 10.30am-12pm in the Sanctuary. This is hosted by AUC and run by the NHS Lothian Spiritual Care team. Further details available on through Maxwell.

The Augustine Memorials: WW1

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

On Sunday 11th November we will be marking the end of the First World War in our Remembrance Service. I am honoured to have been asked to lead a meditation and the prayers of the people on both this Sunday and the Sunday in 2014 where we marked the outbreak of war.

In preparing for this November I am reminded that four years ago I said, *"I would suggest that our thoughts and sympathies should begin with the individual human beings directly affected by this war and think behind the anonymous, mind numbing numbers"*.

Unfortunately we seem close to the point when it will be next to impossible to think of the individuals and their families, of my grandparents' Great War generation and increasingly difficult to think of my parents' Second War generation.

Before that happens you might like to visit the memorials in the gallery. We have recreated their names here. The only person I have knowledge of is F. A. Martin and only that he was the son of the then Minister.

If you have knowledge of any of these young men or their families which you would like to share, please let me know so that I can include a personal mention in our prayers on 11 November.

Tom Murray



Augustine

John Duncan
William Duncan
W.G. Ewart
E.S. Fry
R.D McArthur
A. Macdonald
M. Mcdonald
J.H. McPherson
F.A. Martin
James B. Mein
Robert McD. Murray
Harold Rose
George Ross
William Scott
Douglas M. Stewart
T.G. Gordon Sturrock
Harrold Matthews

Bristo Place

Andrew F. Brown
David H. Carmichael
Alexander Farrer
James T. Johnston
Leslie K. Macfarlane
James McLean
William Robertson
John Stuart
James Watson
Andrew C. Wilson

Dalry

James S.M. Burnett
James Dobson
Arthur F. Harvey
Daniel McBride
John B. Reid
William B. Reid

Dalkeith Road

William Ballingall
James Barron
Robert J. Black
William B. Blackie
J.B. Blackie
E. Cuthbertson
Robert Duncan
James Grandison
John Hay
J. Headspeath
James Heathcote
George Ledingham
Richard McKay
J.B. McIntosh
J. McWilliam
W.S. Milne
Donald R. Neil
James Nicol
E.G. Nicholson
Frank Pattullo
William Proudfoot
Francis Scott
James Urquhart
T. Williams

Church Meeting Reports

October Church Meeting was a review of how far AUC has gone along the road to being inclusive and the things we might be able to improve or do differently.

People recognised that inclusivity is embedded in the life of the church and not just a set of issues. They appreciated: the welcome and assistance when arriving at the building and getting into it; inclusive language in worship; efforts to allow all to participate with suitable font size, induction loop, microphones; instruments for youngsters; the invitation to stand or sit during hymns and to be able to move about; catering at Communion for those with gluten intolerance and the absence of alcohol; Communion being open to all; upstairs toilets being gender neutral (though not yet downstairs).

Consistency of sanctuary layout is important particularly to those with sight impairment and the use of chairs with arms to help folk "stand" or "rise".

Encouraging individuals to share inclusion needs could be achieved simply by asking for information dropped into the Donations box or by a single point of contact, identified on the notice sheet.

Suggestions for the future included some redesign of the dias area to allow access for all – or even a consideration of whether we need a raised platform at the front at all? Practicalities of being seen are ones which theatre groups do require; what about church services? Redesign of the front of the sanctuary and renewal of furniture would be very costly and we'd need to get it right! (It is probably not the most immediate consideration as there are presently more urgent uses for money in AUC. But inclusion of all is important too!)

There were no decisions made at this discussion, but we need to take forward ideas at a future date. Thanks to Steven Smillie for compiling folks' thoughts and ideas.

Kathleen Ziffo



A message from Chris, one of our tenants in the building, offering a free tour of Edinburgh:

Hi, we are Local Eyes Tours, a small tour company who rent office space here in Augustine United Church.

In January and February

next year, we'd like to offer the congregation and groups who use Augustine United Church the chance to try our Old Town Walking Tour for free. It's a 1-2 hour walk around the Old Town, with a focus on the turbulent history of Edinburgh.

If you'd like to learn a wee bit more about Edinburgh, then feel free to contact us on chris@localeyestours.co.uk.

Every November solicitors across the country take part in Will Aid month.



They will draw up a will for you and, in place of a fee, ask for a suggested voluntary donation to one of nine charities including Christian Aid.

Over the years, Will Aid has raised an amazing £18 million for the vital work of the nine Will Aid charities, changing lives in the UK and around the world.

You can find out more at willaid.org.uk

Harriet Davidson

What is happening to Syrian Refugees in Arsal, Lebanon?

Arsal in Lebanon, a town of about 30 - 40,000 local Lebanese inhabitants high in the mountains, has had an additional 70,000+ refugees - from Syria - staying in and around the town in camps for several years.

This is where we have sent warm winter adults' and children's clothing and educational materials via Edinburgh Direct Aid in the last 2 Decembers.

There is virtually no employment for refugees in or near Arsal, and refugees have to pay rent - even to stay in tents! Any refugees' savings have now been spent, furniture and belongings mostly sold for cash to live on.

Over several years, EDA has managed to build a couple of schools for different ages of children. The courses run include IT/computer graphics; machine sewing, weaving and tailoring; plumbing; electrical skills; motor cycle maintenance; hair & beauty; first aid; health & hygiene and (camp) administration skills.

Children's school uniforms are made by the refugee women using material sent from Edinburgh and unpaid or minimally-paid Syrian refugee teachers now teach the youngsters. Lebanese and Syrian children cannot be taught together as different languages/curricula are used.

I would like to share some more uncomfortable information, which I read in an English language copy of the LA Times in Japan, while Stephen and I were there in August. See our AUC Notice Boards for these articles.

Among the Syrian Refugees fleeing into Lebanon several years ago were a number of IS terrorists. These terrorists have mainly been rounded up and removed, but this has caused understandable trouble within the Lebanese community, often resulting in innocent Syrians "being tarred with same brush", often not being allowed to look after their flocks outside the towns, or travel out of town for possible work elsewhere.

Now genuine refugees are facing the prospect of returning to Syria, where conditions are even worse, after these years of living in extremely poor conditions in Lebanon. For many returning people, going back to Syria is totally unsafe. President Al Bashad's, and Russian backed, factions control the areas in Syria from which the refugees came. It would appear that these refugees are being "encouraged" to return now to their homeland - though the extent of compulsion (denied by most Lebanese officials) is uncertain.

Certainly some Syrian families do feel that it would be better to return and try to survive and rebuild in their own devastated country rather than stay in the conditions prevalent for them in Lebanon; but there appears to be considerable pressure from Lebanese officials (under Russian influence) and discrimination too from some of the local population to get the Syrian refugees out of Lebanon!

Please read these reports on our blue notice boards, if you are able, and give the situation your prayerful concern.

Kathleen Ziffo



Helplines:

Stand Alone: www.standalone.org.uk (for those experiencing family estrangement)

LGBT Support: 0300 123 2523

Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

Rape Crisis: 8088 010 302

Breathing Space: 0800 838587

Edinburgh Crisis Centre: 0808 8010414

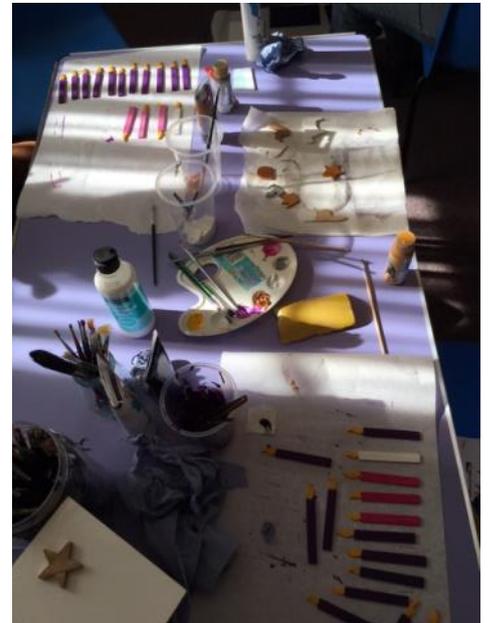
This month our module is 'The Wise King'. We will be exploring the story of Solomon through storytelling, science, and games.

At the end of the month, we will begin some secret making....

Our Godly Play storyteller was busy recently making some materials for our Advent story later in the year. It had some challenging moments!

There is also a Godly Play Scotland conference in Inverness this month titled 'Story', with workshops, a book stall and a labyrinth.

Finally, did anyone see the article in BBC news about our church symbol, the dandelion? We celebrate the amazing qualities of this plant here at Augustine but we didn't know just how brilliant those little seedlings actually are!



"The flying ability of dandelion seeds is possible due to a form of flight never before seen in nature, researchers have found.

The Edinburgh University study found a ring-shaped air bubble forms as air moves through the bristles.

This enhances the drag that slows each seed's descent to the ground. The plant can travel over a kilometre and is among the natural world's best fliers...."

(Quoted from BBC News 17th September 2018)

Junior Church welcomes families in all their wonderful diversity. We do our best to offer a safe and nurturing space for families and their friends. We have varied activities each week, from storytelling, to crafts, games and video making. We have a crèche for little ones and baby changing facilities are available. We use materials to appeal to children's different learning styles using the PowerXpress curriculum, and also use Godly Play (www.godlyplay.org.uk).

Children at Augustine are welcome to receive communion and to fully participate in the life of the church. Children regularly help during services, and sometimes serve communion to the wider church community.

Please feel free to contact us using the details on p.2 of Seeds if you have any questions.

Calendar

Worship Services at 11am on Sundays at AUC, George IV Bridge. All events at AUC, unless otherwise stated. Later updates on website/notice sheet

November		Season of Remembrance
Friday 9 th	10am-12pm	Walk and Talk: a guided stroll led by Simon Bendle
Sunday 11 th	9.15-10.15am	Study Session: the Parables of Christmas
	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship, led by Rev Fiona Bennett and Tom Murray
	1-3pm	Youth Group Bowling
	3-5pm	Our Tribe: WW100 (see p.3)
Monday 12 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Bring & Buy
Tuesday 13 th	7.30pm	Living the Questions Study Group: What is Resurrection?
Sunday 18 th	9.15-10.15am	Study Session: Thinking Theologically?
	11am	Morning Worship with Communion on Transgender Remembrance Day, led by Rev Fiona Bennett and Alex Clare-Young (see p.2)
Monday 19 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Lauriston Castle
Thursday 22 nd		Deadline for Nomination of Elders (see p.3)
Sunday 25 th	9.15-10.15am	Study Session: the Usefulness of Advent?
	11am	Morning Worship with Fiona Bennett
	12.15-1.15pm	Church Business Meeting, with the election of elders
	1-3pm	Youth Group: We Could Be Heroes
	3-5pm	Church Concert (see p.3)
Monday 26 th	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Age Scotland
Tuesday 27 th	7.30-9pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
Thursday 29 th	1.30-3pm	Coffee, Cake & Conversation
Friday 30 th	7-10pm	Ceilidh at St Columba's by the Castle – bring a light dish to share, no alcohol
December		Season of Advent
Sunday 2 nd	10-10.30am	Advent Choir Practice, open to all
	11am	Advent Sunday Morning Worship with Communion, led by Fiona Bennett and Mike Holroyd
	12.30-2pm	Advent Church Lunch, Tree Decoration Making and Amnesty International Letter Writing/Signing
Monday 3 rd	2pm	Women's Union at Saughtonhall URC: Christmas Cards
Tuesday 4 th	7.30pm	Contextual Bible Study: Luke 1:1-24 'Beginnings'

Please note the deadline for material for the December/January issue is **Sunday 25th November.**

DISCLAIMER: Although we check all information, as ever we can give no warranties as to accuracy or relevance and encourage active checking. The views expressed in our newsletter are those of the individual contributor, they are not necessarily those of AUC or the editor.