

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



As we travel through Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter, may you once again be amazed at the depth of love which Christ showed for us in his death and the miracle of the Resurrection.

Breaking Through Barriers!



Save the date!

Our Autumn Conference will be on 30th September 2017

at Dalziel St Andrew's Church, Motherwell

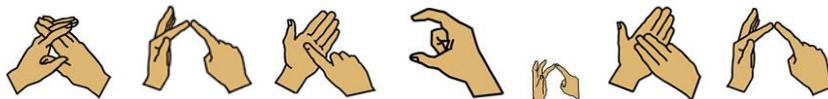
**Guest Speaker-Jeremy Balfour M.S.P.
(Chair of Cross-party Group on Disability)**

**Representatives of the following organisations will tell
how people break barriers in their churches.**

- **Do You Hear What I Hear?**
 - **Prospects**
 - **Torch Trust**
 - **Disability and Jesus**

The full programme and booking form will appear in the summer.

News for the Deaf community



The project at Dalziel St Andrew's Church, Motherwell, to improve access to worship for deaf people is nearing the end of the first year. Alex Baird reports:

“We have a dedicated camera in the sanctuary to focus on the BSL Signer, plus the support of both a Signer and an Electronic Notetaker. Live streaming of worship, which has been in place for over 4 years, has been adapted to allow a link to a separate screen with BSL and Notetaking options for sharing in worship.

We are joined online by regular deaf worshippers. We don't know how many, but feedback tells us that there is a significant number. Services are uploaded to You Tube immediately after the service and we monitor the number of “hits” each week. This shows 30 to 60 regular hits, with some representing more than one person.

You Tube analysis shows that we are joined in worship via this “Deaf Stream” by people from the U.K., Australia, USA, Canada, India, Morocco, Spain, Kenya, Israel, Ireland, and the Netherlands. **A marvellous harvest of worshippers!**”

For information, contact **Alex Baird - 01698 262915; a.baird00912@btinternet.com**

L'Arche in Perth

L'Arche builds community networks for people with and without learning disabilities. Its core values are shared lives and mutual relationships. There are ten UK communities, including Inverness and Edinburgh, and 148 world-wide.

L'Arche is exploring the prospect of launching a community in Perth. The key criteria are whether this is desired by local people with learning disabilities, their families, friends and advocates - and whether there would be support from Social Work, Health, Housing and regulatory bodies. There is also a need for local volunteers to build momentum and offer skills for project development and governance.

Would **you** consider becoming part of a “Seed Group” to begin this adventure? Meetings to discuss this initiative will be held in St Matthew's Church Hall, Perth, on Sundays 30 April (3 – 4.30 p.m.) and 6th August.

For information, contact Anthony Kramers, Leader for L'Arche Scotland, at 07979-810870 or anthony.kramers@larche.org.uk

Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche, and friends



Ann McIntyre from Perth recommends a biography of Jean Vanier's sister, who died in 2014, aged 91: "**Therese Vanier - Pioneer of L'Arche, palliative care and spiritual unity**" by Ann Shearer, published by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd, 2016.

- "A kaleidoscopic memoir of a life infused with the light of Christ - Justin Welby
- "Truly inspiring... the story of Teese Vanier offers real hope for the renewal of humanity." | Vincent Nichols



Lots of events in store for people with learning disabilities and their families!

- 5-7th May Our annual holiday weekend at Tulliallan Police College, Kincardine, on the theme One Big Family.
- 21st May Prospects in Scotland stall at Heart and Soul in Edinburgh
If you plan to be at this event, please come and say hello.
- 28th October Prospects annual celebration in Brightons, Falkirk

For details, contact Ivy Blair ivyb@prospects.org.uk or 07827 939 520.



Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreaker Network

Edinburgh and Lothians Roofbreaker Network connects people with disabilities to inclusive Christian activities and helps churches to become more welcoming to people with disabilities. Members experiment with inclusive worship, tell stories, exchange ideas and resources, pray for one another and eat together. You are invited to come to the next gathering.

When? Thursday afternoon, 29th June
Where? Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes, Edinburgh

Details of the programme will be available in the summer.

Contact: Claire Wilson the@wislons.fastmail.co.uk

CARTA

Church of Scotland Committee on Art and Architecture

CARTA's website contains many resources to help churches to be more accessible in various ways. These include guides on:

- [Access for all](#)
- [Audio visual](#)
- [Church lighting](#)
- [Dementia Friendly Church Buildings](#)
- [Reordering Church Interiors](#)

These can be downloaded or ordered at:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/art_and_architecture_resources

New opportunities

At our AGM in September there will be opportunities for new members to come on board the SCDG Committee. We are now seeking nominations for the roles of Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and the new role of Newsletter Editor.

Could you see yourself in one of these roles – or can you think of an ideal, willing person to nominate? For more information on what the roles entail, please contact:

David Nicholson, Chairman	deacdave@btinternet.com
Marion Blake, Treasurer	marion@equestra.net
Barbara Graham, Secretary	barbara.graham74@btinternet.com

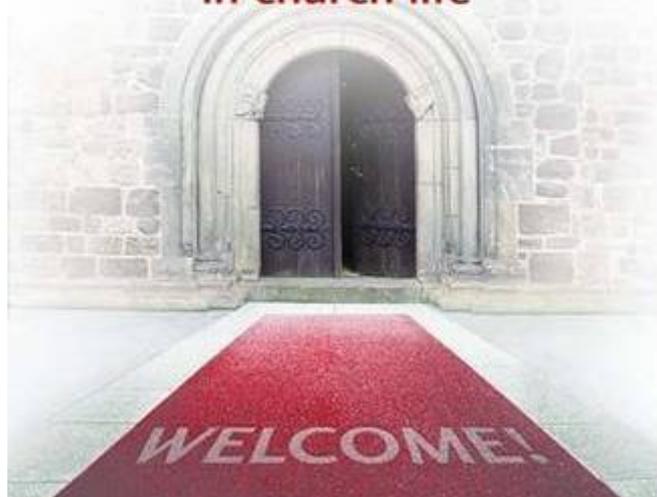
Share your news

If you would like to advertise events or invite people to join you for a chat, please send your news to the Secretary for the newsletter or by announcement in an e-mail.

Contact details: Barbara Graham at barbara.graham74@btinternet.com or 42, Annanhill Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 2LQ. Tel. 01563-522108

Making Church Accessible to All

Including disabled people
in church life



Scottish Churches Disability Group
A registered Scottish charity, No. SCO39567