



## SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

**Autumn 2017**

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. We hope that you had a good summer and are looking forward to autumn activities – including our Annual General Meeting.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday 2nd October – 10.45 a.m.**  
**Church of Scotland Offices**  
**121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN**

**Followed by a presentation on**  
**HELEN KELLER**  
**Overcoming sight and hearing loss**  
**to transform the world's view of disabled people**



“Alone we can do  
so little; together we  
can do so much.”

Helen Keller

Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge, but **to book a place**, contact Barbara Graham at [barbara.graham74@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.graham74@btinternet.com) or **01563-522108**. Please state access needs so that a lift at the entrance can be ready for you. A BSL interpreter will be available.

### **Breaking Through Barriers!**

Our September conference was postponed due to a small number of bookings, but we shall re-arrange it for spring 2018. Watch for further announcements.



Have you seen our new website - [scdg.org.uk](http://scdg.org.uk)? We are eager to hear your feedback so that we can continue to improve it. Please encourage your friends to visit the website, which is being developed not only for people with disabilities, but for churches which want to be more inclusive.

### SCDG Priorities

Following the AGM, the new Committee will concentrate on three main themes:

- Providing worship materials which everyone can use.
- Preparing a guide to the theology of disability in plain language.
- Looking for good practice on meeting special needs in all church denominations.

We depend on your input on all of these areas. What works for you? What can you share through the SCDG newsletter and website?

### Learning Disabilities resources

The Church of Scotland Learning Disabilities Group has produced a new publication for congregations who want to enable people with learning disabilities to belong fully to their church community. [Learning Disabilities: a discussion starter](#) contains an article by John Swinton entitled Creating Communities of Belonging, plus discussion questions, action points and further reading.



The Learning Disability Group has commissioned a film to open discussion on how we can reach out to the community and open churches to those with learning disabilities. If you would like a DVD of the film, please ring 0131-225-5722 or email [learn@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:learn@churchofscotland.org.uk).

## Events around Scotland



### Annual Celebration at Brightons, Falkirk

**Where?** Brightons Church, Main Street, Brightons, Falkirk FK2 0JT

**When?** **Saturday 28th October. 1.00 - 4.00pm**

**What?** Please arrive around 1 o'clock for a sandwich and fruit lunch followed by the celebration at 2 o'clock in the church. Afterwards there will be afternoon tea before heading home by 4 o'clock.

Please tell Ivy Blair if you wish to attend and if you have dietary needs.

[ivyb@prospects.org.uk](mailto:ivyb@prospects.org.uk) Tel. 07827 939 520

### 11th November 10.30 - 2.30 Training Day at Monkton, Prestwick

A day of friendship, sharing ideas and learning from each other. Find out about ministry with people with learning disabilities, especially if you are at the early stages of setting up a group or making changes in your church.

Contact Ivy Blair to book a place. [ivyb@prospects.org.uk](mailto:ivyb@prospects.org.uk) Tel. 07827 939 520

### Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreaker Network

The next Roofbreaker event will be a coffee morning at Barclay Viewforth Church of Scotland, 1 Wright's Houses Edinburgh EH10 4HR, on **Saturday 11 November**, from 10.30 a.m. Come and share a time of worship and friendship.



### Belonging and Identity

**Tuesday 17 October 2017 - Burgh Halls, Linlithgow**

A collaborative conference by Faith in Older People, Interfaith Scotland, Stonewall, Marie Curie and Edinburgh University Chaplaincy. Cost £40.

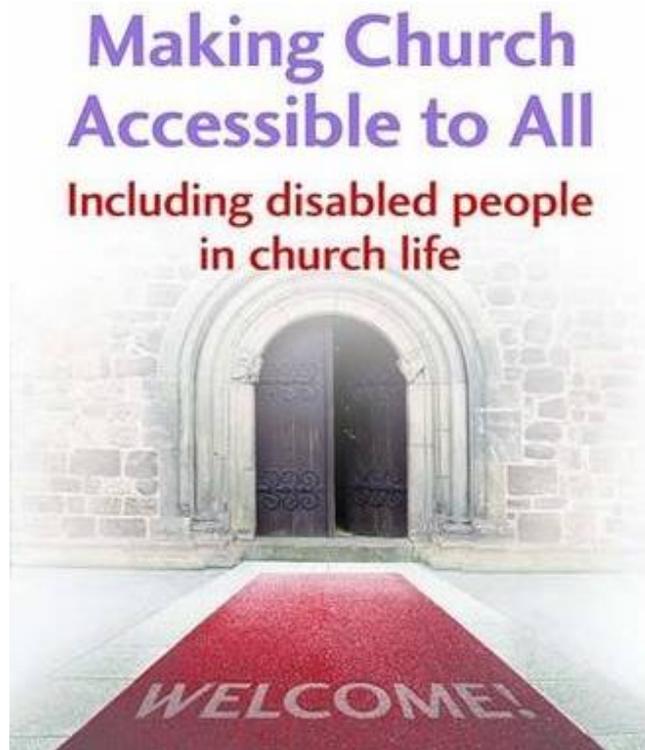
How do we form our sense of identify and belonging? How do religion, culture and our unique circumstances influence our self-image and our attitudes to our society? How can we develop a stronger sense of belonging as members of communities?

To book a place contact Mary Wilkinson at [info@fiop.org.uk](mailto:info@fiop.org.uk) or 0131-346-7981.



## 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](mailto:barbara.graham74@btinternet.com) or 42, Annanhill Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 2LQ. Tel. 01563-522108



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