

Scottish Churches Disability Group



Annual Report 2016 – 2017

Nature of charity

The Scottish Churches' Disability Group (SCDG) is a charity which campaigns for better ways to enable disabled people to become fully included in church communities. It is registered as a charity with OSCR, number SC039567.

The charity is governed by an Executive Committee which currently consists of five office-bearers and six ordinary members, plus three co-opted members. The charity's President also attends Committee meetings when available. SCDG's autumn conference incorporates the AGM.

The charity has two objectives:

1. To promote the inclusion of disabled people within all Christian churches in Scotland, enabling people with any kind of impairment to reach their fullest potential in participation at all levels of church life.
2. To work with Christian churches in Scotland to promote the inclusion of all disabled people.

Executive Committee

Chair: David Nicholson D.C.S.
Vice-Chair: Denis Shovlin
Secretary: Barbara Graham
Treasurer: Marion Blake
Webmaster: John Jeacocke
Members: Rosie Addis, Alexander Baird, Ivy Blair,
Helena Cant, Lindsay Cant, Barbara Walker

Co-opted members:

- Action of Churches Together in Scotland:
Miriam Weibye (in 2016); Shona Paterson (in 2017)
- Church of Scotland Committee on Church Art & Architecture:
Judith Roebuck
- Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreakers Network: Tom Sutcliffe

Review of last year

Between May 2016 and March 2017 six Executive Committee meetings were held in Edinburgh. One meeting included a demonstration of audio equipment by Action on Hearing Loss. There was also a facilitated strategic planning meeting to clarify future objectives and how to achieve them.

The AGM and conference were held in Edinburgh in October 2016. The conference, Faith and Worship Stories, was shared with Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreakers Network, whose members helped to organise the event, which was attended by 45 people.

In November 2016, the President and Secretary met the Convener of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Disability. This led to the SCDG Chairman being invited to join that Group, which he attended in January 2017.

Four newsletters were produced and circulated to a growing number of people on an e-mail list and by post to those without e-mail access. This has encouraged more active participation by members, several of whom have submitted news and articles.

Work on a website was on-going during the year and a decision was made to engage a professional web design company to complete this work, leading to a launch date in May 2017.

Objectives for next year

We shall:

- host a conference in Motherwell in September 2017;
- encourage informal meetings for members in Scottish regions;
- promote the charity at a Church of Scotland Heart & Soul event;
- raise awareness of SCDG at a Church of Scotland Conference for Readers, at which some Committee members will speak;
- seek ways to raise SCDG's profile in Christian denominations
- foster links with other organisations in Scotland and disseminate information which may be of value to our members;
- monitor and comment on any relevant legislation proposed by the Scottish Parliament;
- address other relevant issues which may arise.