

## SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

December 2018



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. As we journey through Advent, let us travel hopefully as we celebrate the good news of Christ's coming to be the Saviour of **all people**. Let's make a special effort to remember and include people who often feel forgotten amidst the noise and bustle of the crowded streets and the jingle of TV adverts for things that we don't really need. In Advent let us find a quiet place to give thanks for God's gracious gift of Jesus, whose love extends to each one of us.



All over Scotland there are carol services taking place in Advent. There is sure to be one near you.

### Carols and Christingles

The **Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches** enjoyed an inclusive worship Carols and Christingles service on the first Sunday in Advent. On arrival everyone was offered a tambourine or other jingling instrument so that each person could be a music maker. Puppets told the age old Christmas message before the story of Christingles was told. Oranges were used to represent the round earth, with candles in the fruit to show the light of Christ coming into the world. In the soft glow of candlelight, carols were sung, before the afternoon ended with refreshments and friendly chatter.



## Carols for Peace 2018

On 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3 p.m. **Glasgow Churches Together** will gather for Carols for Peace at the City Chambers. All are welcome to attend this service, which will be supported by The St Mungo Singers, Rutherglen Salvation Army Band, South Side Fiddlers, a piper, a harpist and schools.

Enjoy refreshments afterwards in the Satinwood Suite overlooking George Square in all its Christmas Splendour where the Crib has a prominent place.

### Christmas resources



**Churches for All** has produced a video on how to make carol services accessible to everyone. This can be downloaded at [www.churchesforall.org.uk/carols](http://www.churchesforall.org.uk/carols).



**Torch Trust** has partnered with Lifewords to produce large print, braille and audio versions of their free **Christmas booklet 'OUTSIDE/IN'**. Lifewords says,

'This year let the Christmas story turn your church, your community, even your world, OUTSIDE/IN. This booklet tells the story from the perspective of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men: outsiders who find themselves included at the heart of the story. The Christmas story is full of unlikely characters. Those on the edges are drawn to the heart of the action. Everyone is invited in. We hope you'll join us in finding ways to share that invitation this year – to welcome people in to the good news of the Christmas story.'

To receive a copy in your choice of accessible media, contact Client Services on 01858 438260 or <http://www.torchtrust.org/smartweb/news>.



**Kairos Forum** produces Christmas resources designed to help people with learning disabilities to engage with the meaning of Christmas. Contact Kairos Forum for details of how to make and use Advent wreaths, Nativity scenes and Christmas gifts.

<http://www.kairosforum.org/> or [enabledchurch@gmail.com](mailto:enabledchurch@gmail.com).



## Prospects Across Scotland

A new Scottish charity, Prospects Across Scotland, is now fully up and running. Previously named Prospects Scotland, the charity will continue to focus on supporting churches throughout Scotland to welcome people with learning disabilities and share the good news about Jesus in a way they can understand. Prospects Across Scotland also highlights the gifts of people with learning disabilities and all they can contribute to the church.

For more information about Prospects Across Scotland please contact Ivy Blair.  
[ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk) Tel. 07827 939 520



Prospects Across Scotland

Web-site coming soon!!

## Roofbreakers



A Roofbreakers' group is planning an **Enabling Church Course**, which will run on eight Thursday evenings (7 -9pm) from 21 February, through Lent 2019. The course explores how to enrich church life through sharing mission and ministry with disabled people. The first four meetings will be hosted by Community Church Edinburgh and the last four will be at Life Church.

More details will be announced by Roofbreakers after Christmas. For further information, contact: Claire Wilson at [the@wislons.fastmail.co.uk](mailto:the@wislons.fastmail.co.uk).

## Travels with a Trachy

Hilary Rae and Claire Wilson warmly recommend Suselle Boffey's book: 'Suselle's Story: Travels with a Trachy.' This is available for £3.50 plus postage from: Moorley's Print and Publishing Ltd, 23 Park Road, Ilkeston, DE7 5DA.

Email: [info@moorleys.co.uk](mailto:info@moorleys.co.uk) Tel: 0115 932 0643 (Also available on Amazon)

Suselle was an active and longstanding member of SCDG's Committee, who died in 2016. She had a great spirit of adventure. Suselle's personal assistant recalls:

“Prior to one trip, a travel guidebook told us that ‘St Petersburg was not advisable for even the hardest of disabled travellers.’ Well, we drove 4,000 miles around the Baltic states, including St Petersburg, in 27 days. As Suselle said, ‘Not advisable? Definitely advisable in my book.’ ”

Suselle’s view of life in summed up in an excerpt from a letter which she wrote to be read at her funeral: “If you want a summary of life in my view, it would include the following: • A passion for justice and equality • A commitment to openness of communication and relationship building • Kindness with a light touch.”

## Scottish Deaf Choirs Festival



A highlight of the year for Deaf Christians in Scotland is the Annual Deaf Choirs Festival. Organised by the Trustees of the Stewart Lochrie Memorial Fund, the Festival attracts choirs from across Scotland to come together to sign and sing God’s praise.

This year’s Festival was held in Dalziel St Andrew’s Parish Church in Motherwell from where, each week, the Sunday morning church service is live streamed, including a dedicated deaf section with both BSL and Electronic Notetaking added to the screen to assist the deaf and hard of hearing to share in worship.

On Sunday 16 September, 7 choirs arrived at the Festival and took turns to Sign their chosen piece to accompanying music. The large, appreciative audience, many themselves deaf, rejoiced in the skill and enthusiasm of all who took part, including the Children of Elderbank Signing Choir (shown in the photograph).

Church of Scotland Minister for the Deaf in Northern Scotland, Rev Mary Whittaker, compered the afternoon, ably assisted by her Hearing Dog! Following the service the afternoon was completed with refreshments supplied by the Trustees and served by volunteers from Dalziel St Andrew’s.

In addition to those in the church, many at home were able, for the first time, to join in worship thanks to online streaming of the event via the Dalziel St Andrew’s Parish Church website. ([www.dalzielstandrews.org.uk](http://www.dalzielstandrews.org.uk)) Thanks to uploading the service to You Tube, over 1000 people have now shared in this year’s event.

The Festival remains available on You Tube. Check it out at **You Tube Dalziel St Andrews**, with the Festival recorded on 16 September. Each week’s church service is online, with the dedicated stream for the deaf for those who need this assistance. Further details from Alex Baird. [a.baird00912@btinternet.com](mailto:a.baird00912@btinternet.com)  
Tel. 01698 262915 or 07903051970

## Churches Together Groups around Scotland



If your church belongs to an ecumenical Churches Together Group, please suggest inviting a member of SCDG to come and speak at a meeting. If we do not have a speaker in your area, we can provide a brief Powerpoint presentation and notes. To arrange a visit, contact the Secretary or the Newsletter Editor.

We are compiling a list of Churches Together Groups. If you have such a local group, please send contact details for it to the newsletter editor, Barbara Graham, at [newslettereditor@scdg.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@scdg.org.uk).

### Keeping in touch with you!

Please note that the SCDG Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster now have new e-mail addresses which will be used in 2019. These are:

[newslettereditor@scdg.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@scdg.org.uk)

[secretary@scdg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scdg.org.uk)

[websiteeditor@scdg.org.uk](mailto:websiteeditor@scdg.org.uk)

**If you receive this newsletter, but do not wish to receive newsletters and invitations from SCDG, please reply to the Secretary and Newsletter Editor to ask us to remove you from our mailing lists.**

New data protection laws state that we cannot keep e-mail addresses unless members give their consent. If you have not already done so, please complete the form on the next page and send it to our Secretary, **Scott Gillies**, at the address or e-mail address on the form.



<http://scdg.org.uk/>

Please encourage your friends to visit our website, which is useful not only for people with disabilities, but also for churches which want to be more inclusive. We welcome feedback so that we can improve it.



## SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP

### Keeping your information safe

When you give your contact details to the Scottish Churches Disability Group, we shall use this information to send you newsletters and details of our events and those of related organisations. We shall not give your contact details to other individuals or organisations without your specific consent.

To allow us to contact you, please complete this form and return it to Scott Gillies:

- by e-mail at [secretary@scdg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@scdg.org.uk);
- or
- by post to 35 Moira Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 6TD.

Please tick the boxes below to give your consent.

I agree that the Scottish Churches Disability Group may record my contact details in order to send me SCDG newsletters and information about relevant events.

I understand that my contact details will not be passed on to other individuals or organisations without my specific consent.

You may contact me as follows. Please tick all the methods to which you agree:

e-mail     post     phone

**Name:**

**Address:**

**E-mail address:**

**Telephone:**

**Scottish Churches Disability Group**  
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