

Scottish Churches Disability Group



Annual Report for the Year 2018

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 a registered charity with OSCR – number SC039567.

The charity is governed by an Executive Committee which currently consists of five office bearers and 40 ordinary members. The charity's President also attends Committee meetings when available. The AGM of the charity is held in September/October each year.

The charity has two objectives –

- A - 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.
- B - to work with Christian churches in Scotland to promote the inclusion of all disabled people.

Executive Committee

Chair :	Dan Harper
Vice – Chair :	Denis Shovelin
Secretary :	Scott Gillies
Treasurer :	William Walker
Website Editor :	Ian Boe

Members : Rosie Addis, Alexander Baird, Marion Blake, Helena Cant, Paul Goode, Barbara Graham, David Nicholson and Barbara Walker.

Co-opted Members:

Action on Churches Together in Scotland – Joan Pennycook
Church of Scotland Committee on Church Art and Architecture – Judith Roebuck
Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreakers Network – Tom Sutcliffe

President : Angus Morrison

Membership

In addition to the Executive Committee there are presently there are 27 individuals on the Membership roll who regularly receive copies of our newsletter either through email or post.

To comply with the legislation introduced in May 2018 to enact changes in Data Protection Law everyone who receives our newsletter has completed the necessary “opt-in” documentation thereby making the SCDG fully compliant with the new legislation.

Review of the Year

Executive Committee meetings in the last year have been limited due to consideration being given to where the SCDG will reside within the structure of the Church of Scotland. TheWorld Council of Churches accepted the accessibility concept in 1983 and this key change was accepted by the Church of Scotland in 1987. Initially SCDG came under the banner CARTA but this changed some years ago and SCDG became an autonomous group. Discussions are on-going.

The creation of our new website is now well advanced and great credit is due to the commitment of Ian Boe. The website is now well presented, informative and mirrors the efforts of SCDG to enhance our awareness and achieve our stated aims. Development work continues to enhance the site.

The AGM last year was held in Pilrig St Pauls Parish Church in Edinburgh. The keynote was Jeremy Balfour MSP, Convenor of the Cross Party on Disability at the ScottishParliament and his comments were acclaimed by the those present. ExecutiveCommittee members Ivy Blair and Lindsay Cant decided not to stand again for another term and resigned. Helena Cant agreed to retain the post of Events Organiser for another year. Angus Morrison retained his position as President of the SCDG.

The SCDG participated in the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens in May. Ten new members enrolled at the event.

The annual return to OSCR was submitted and accepted.

Aims for the Coming Year

- a) Continue discussions with the Church of Scotland to finalise the place where SCDG resides in its structure.
- b) Participate in the Heart and Soul event in Edinburgh again in May.
- c) Finalise preparations for our AGM in September.
- d) Increase the frequency of meetings of the Executive Committee throughout the year.
- e) Carry out further development work to enhance our burgeoning website.
- f) Address any other relevant issues that may arise.

Scott Gillies
Secretary