

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

August 2019



Even we enjoy the height of summer, our thoughts begin to turn to all the activities which will begin again in September and the friends whom we shall meet once holidays are over. There will be an opportunity to share news with friends and to meet new people at the **SCDG Annual General Meeting**. Read on for details.....



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



...Have your say...

The AGM will be held at **2 p.m. on Saturday, 21 September**, at **St John's Scottish Episcopal Church, on the corner of Lothian Road and Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ.**

Guest speakers:

- Members of Edinburgh and Lothians Roofbreakers Network
- Ian White, Christian musician and founder of Inspiration Orchestra

Further information about these organisations can be found on page 2.

There will also be an opportunity to elect new Committee members. An important part of the occasion will be the chance to chat to people over refreshments.

There is no charge for this event, but so that we know how many will attend, please book a place by sending the form which accompanies this newsletter to **Scott Gillies, SCDG Secretary**, at secretary@scdg.org.uk.

Tel.0131-669-3301 or 07584-139587.

Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreakers Network

The aim of this group is “to ensure that disabled people can belong and contribute to their churches”. It is a local branch of a Christian charity called Through the Roof, a title which refers to the paralysed man who was lowered through a roof by his friends in order to meet Jesus.

After years of faithful service to Roofbreakers, Claire Wilson is moving on from the role of Co-ordinator for the Edinburgh and Lothians group. She has left a good foundation for the co-ordinating group which will arrange future meetings. The new contact for this group is Elaine Rumney, who has sent the following information:

“A small group of Roofbreakers have taken on the task of co-ordinating future meetings, since Claire Wilson stepped down at the June meeting. We are tremendously grateful to Claire for the sterling work she has put in to get Edinburgh Roofbreakers off the ground, and keep it going over the last six years. We hope together to build on what she has achieved. The co-ordinating team will meet regularly to share input from members and to plan future meetings and activities.

“My name is Elaine Rumney and I will be the main contact person for the group as we seek to make voices heard and to help local churches develop ways of becoming more accessible and inclusive in every way. You can reach me on elaine_rumney@blueyonder.co.uk. Other members of the team are Ashleigh Milroy, Tom Sutcliffe, Carlo Crolla and Jessie Fubara-Manuel.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 9 November, 1 p.m. at Barclay Viewforth Church, Tollcross. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Inspiration Orchestra

“The Inspiration Orchestra aims at enabling disabled people to play beautiful music.”
What a wonderful invitation!

Ian White, a Christian musician, explains his motivation for setting up his Perth based orchestra.

“There were a number of stages involved in developing the Inspiration Orchestra: stage one is being a performer and singing some songs. Stage two is where you try to teach people how to play. When I first was asked to share music with people with disabilities, it was just having everybody in a circle and giving them tambourines or shakers without much of a learning structure. Stage three was developing a programme consisting of individual lessons on customised instruments, group practices and public performances.

” The Orchestra now has over 20 members.... Some can play two notes at the same time - most of the folks are able to play a single note. We now have one Down Syndrome violinist who can follow proper music notation and play excellently. Where I've not felt restricted is in the challenge of arranging the individual parts so that we're making a sound together that can be performed to people and give real musical pleasure.”



The charity now offers individual weekly lessons, weekly orchestra practices and public performances once a month. People with any kind of disability can join and all lessons are free. For further information see <http://theinspirationorchestra.com> or tel. 01738-813673.

News from around Scotland

Access for all on church outings

Are you looking for an accessible venue for an outing for your church or youth organisation? The Castle Semple Visitor Centre at Clyde Muirshiel Country Park at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, has specialist staff, facilities and equipment for people of all abilities who want to try paracycling and parasailing. It partners with Scottish Cycling in the first Disability led Cycling Hub in Scotland with and is an Royal Yachting Association Centre of Excellence for Sailability.



If these activities sound too adventurous, you can try various walking routes, including some for people with limited mobility. Mobility scooters can be hired at the centre.

If you prefer, you can watch wildlife around the country park on screens in the Visitor Centre. Whichever you choose option you choose, you may certainly be attracted to the barbecue facilities or the cafes for light snacks and sweet treats.

For information contact tel. 01505-842882 or <http://clydemuirshiel.co.uk>

Hands of the World - music and Makaton project

A project created by the University of Dundee. It aims to break down all language barriers by using music and Makaton to connect children with their peers across the world. You can find out more about the project, including videos of the songs at <https://twinspace.etwinning.net/81594/pages/page/542110>

SCDG publicity in your area

SCDG leaflets featured in the display at the stand of the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches at a Celebrate Kilmarnock street fair in July. This showed that local churches are committed to being fully inclusive of people with disabilities.

If you know of opportunities for SCDG to have a stand at an exhibition in your area, you can obtain leaflets from Scott Gillies, at secretary@scdg.org.uk.

Tel. 0131-669-3301

Useful resources

Considering Inclusion

The Church of Scotland has published a leaflet which encourages all churches to undertake an audit of how they implement inclusive worship and community life in their congregation. The following questions are included:

- Can we identify barriers to inclusion and suggest positive changes?
- Do we encourage those who have been excluded to share their experiences?
- Who is included in decisions about how to arrange our worship and buildings?
- How can we make our church culture and worship more participative?

The Considering Inclusion leaflet includes links to several organisations which can assist in this process for integrating people with disabilities into the full life of congregations. You can see the leaflet at

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/carta/carta-information-leaflets>
or ring tel. 0131-225-5722 and ask for a copy.

More Than Welcome

A guide for churches on how to deepen relationships with disabled people and build a church where everyone belongs. Free to download at <https://livability.org.uk/landing/more-than-welcome>.

Belonging

A guide on how to include children, young people and young adults with additional needs in your church. Free to download at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/children-and-youth/belonging>.

'Enabling Church' training course

A flexible 8-session course to help churches share mission and ministry with disabled people. The course pack costs £25 and is available at <https://www.throughtheroof.org/shop/enabling-church-course>.



'Lifting the Lid' Bible study course

A study resource to help churches explore the topics of emotional and mental wellbeing, using the Bible as a guide. Free to download at <https://livability.org.uk/resources/lifting-the-lid>.

Conference

'Thinking Differently About God: Neurodiversity, Faith & Church'

Inclusive Church is a grassroots charity that works with churches to encourage them to become more inclusive. It organises a disability conference every year, in partnership with St Martin in the Fields Church.

Neurodiversity is the idea that there are natural variations in the way people think and process information. These include autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia and Tourette's – each a particular combination of needs and gifts.

Saturday 12 October, 10.30 - 16.30, St Martin's Hall, St Martin in the Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JH

Further details at <https://www.inclusive-church.org/disability-conference-2019>

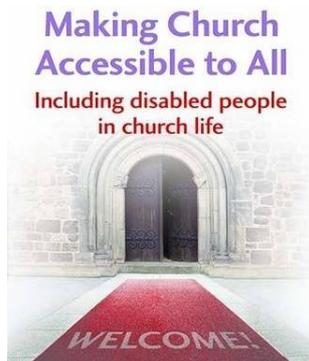
How to contact SCDG

If you want to bring something to the Committee's attention, please contact the Secretary, Scott Gillies, at secretary@scdq.org.uk.
Tel.0131-669-3301 or 07584-139587.

If you want to advertise events or invite people to join you for a chat, please send your news to the Newsletter Editor, Barbara Graham: newslettereditor@scdq.org.uk or 42, Annanhill Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 2LQ. Tel. 01563-522108



Have you seen our website - <http://scdq.org.uk/>? We welcome feedback so that we can improve it. Please encourage your friends to visit the website, which is being developed not only for people with disabilities, but also for churches which want to be more inclusive.



Scottish Churches Disability Group
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