

SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITES GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

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 six office bearers and circa 10 ordinary/co-opted 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 - David Nicholson
Vice – Chair(s) -: Denis Shovlin and Paul Goode
Secretary - Scott Gillies
Treasurer - William Walker
Website Editor - Ian Boe

Members - Rosie Addis, Alexander Baird, John Ballantine, Marion Blake, Barbara Graham, Ashleigh Milroy and Barbara Walker.

Co-opted Members - Action on Churches Together in Scotland – no current representative

Church of Scotland Committee on Church Art and Architecture –
Judith Roebuck

Edinburgh & Lothians Roofbreakers Network – Tom Sutcliffe

President - Jeremy Balfour MSP

Membership

In addition to the Executive/Ordinary Committee there are presently circa 30 individuals on our membership roll who regularly receive copies of our newsletter either by email or through the 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 introduced legislation.

Review of the Year

Executive Committee meetings in the last year have been limited due to a number of factors outwith our control, but arrangements are in hand to remedy this with meetings planned for January, April, July of 2020 and our AGM scheduled for our usual slot in September/October.

Our website is now well advanced and great credit is due to the ongoing commitment of Ian Boe. The website is now extremely well presented, informative and mirrors the efforts of SCDG, as a group, to enhance our awareness in the greater community and achieve our stated aims. Development work continues to enhance the website.

The AGM last year was held in St John’s Episcopal Church in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, due to ill health our Chairman, Dan Harper had to retire a year early from his role and our President, Angus Morrison, stood down at the end of his three-year term in office. Our new office bearers are detailed earlier in this report.

Two guest speakers, Tom Sutcliffe from Roof Breakers and Ian White from the Inspiration Orchestra gave informative and enlightening contributions to the event.

Our treasurer William Walker presented the financial report to our financial year end at the 30th April 2019 and this was wholeheartedly accepted by the meeting.

The SCDG participated in the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens in May.

The annual return to OSCR was submitted and accepted.

Aims for the Coming Year

- a) Participate in the Heart and Soul event in Edinburgh.
- b) Formalise preparations for our AGM later in the year.
- c) Make a concerted effort to increase the frequency of meetings of the Executive Committee throughout the year.
- d) Carry out further development work to enhance our burgeoning website.
- e) Address any other relevant issues that may arise.
- f) To take the Executive Committee meetings to different locations across the central belt of Scotland ensuring that members located in the west don’t have to continually come to Edinburgh.

- g) Formalise the three changes to our Constitution, raised at the AGM, and present them for adoption at the 2021 AGM.

Scott Gillies
Secretary