

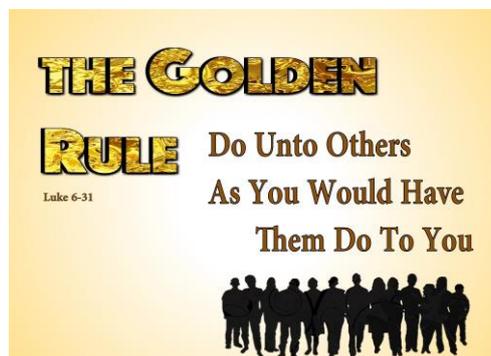
## SCOTTISH CHURCHES DISABILITY GROUP NEWSLETTER

July 2021



With Midsummer Day behind us, there is still plenty to enjoy in July. For most of us this is a time of relaxation – literally a time to “stop and smell the roses”. This year July also brings a realistic hope that pandemic restrictions will soon be eased without fear of catastrophic consequences.

With that in mind, let us give thanks for everyone who has lightened our burden during these strange times. This week there has been a national focus on thanking NHS workers, not only for exceptional dedication and courage during the pandemic, but for seventy-three years of devoted care. Let us also thank other key workers and all volunteers who have “gone the extra mile” to make life a little easier for those who have suffered most. Then let’s play our part by living daily by the Bible’s Golden Rule in Luke 6:31.



### **Leading SCDG into the future**

As we plan for a post-pandemic re-launch of SCDG, have you thought about joining SCDG’s Committee? Your ideas about how we can go forward will be very welcome. For further information, please contact our Vice-Chairman, Paul Goode, to find out how we might engage your talents.

[pgood@btinternet.com](mailto:pgood@btinternet.com) or Tel.: 0771-265-0610



Image credits: [Bonnington Symbol Set](#),  
[Inclusive Communication Hub](#).

### **Why do churches need to communicate inclusively?**

To be inclusive, churches need to use buildings or virtual spaces that people can access. For example, buildings that have ramps, or online services that people have the requisite technology for (which not everyone does).

It's the same for a church's communication: it needs to be accessible too. What if someone can't hear or take in what is said in a church activity, or can't read things, for example emails? Communication is two-way: what if someone can't speak or type?

### **What is inclusive communication?**

Inclusive communication is an approach to communication which enables as many people as possible to be included. It does this by allowing and enabling people to use whatever ways of understanding and expressing themselves they find easiest.

For example, as a dyslexic person, it really helps me take in what people say to me if they pause briefly every so often. Matthew Goode is non-verbal. But he gives people his news and co-leads prayers using a device called a BIG MAC. (See pages 1 to 4 of our [April newsletter](#)).

### **What forms of communication is inclusive communication relevant to?**

All of them:

- Printed information, such as hymn books and church magazines
- Online materials, such as websites and Facebook pages
- Phone calls and video calls
- Face-to-face interactions, such as pastoral visiting or group Bible study

### **Where can churches find advice on inclusive communication?**

There's a website called the [Inclusive Communication Hub](#). It provides tools and guidance on how to make your information accessible. It features case studies,

blog posts, details of training and the latest news on inclusive communication. The website is hosted by Disability Equality Scotland and Sense Scotland. (See pages 4 and 5 of our [June newsletter](#)).

### **Have your say on inclusive communication and help shape the hub**

Disability Equality Scotland are running a [survey](#) at the moment. It's to help them understand disabled people's awareness and experiences of inclusive communication. It's also to help them shape and grow the hub in the future.

You can take part in the survey [online](#) or in [Word](#), [PDF](#) or [Easy Read](#) formats. If you need an alternative format, please [contact Disability Equality Scotland](#):  
**email:** [admin@disabilityequality.scot](mailto:admin@disabilityequality.scot)  
**telephone:** 0141 370 0968

**BSL users:** BSL users can contact DES by using **contactSCOTLAND-BSL**, the online British Sign Language interpreting service.

## **Prospects Across Scotland Calendar of Events**

Prospects Across Scotland offers a busy diary of events in July.

7 July	11 a.m.	Coffee morning
8 July	2 p.m.	Precious Gems
12 July	10.30 a.m.	Prospects Forum
21 July	11 a.m.	Coffee morning
24 July	11 a.m.	Music with Graeme McDonald

For more details of Prospects Across Scotland activities, contact Ivy Blair at [ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk](mailto:ivy.blair@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk) or tel. **07827 939 520**.



Sense Scotland's latest letter explains how the charity has helped deaf-blind people who have been in hospital with Covid. Here is David's story.

"At the height of the coronavirus pandemic, David lay in a hospital bed in an induced coma after major surgery. No family sat around his bedside – only the sound of medical equipment clicking, beeping and clunking around him. But David was not alone because Sense Scotland was by his side.

"David lives in his own home with 24/7 support from Sense Scotland. He communicates with British Sign Language and Makaton. Understanding his complex health needs and communicating with him during his extensive recovery period was a

challenge for his hospital care team. Sense Scotland’s knowledge of David’s needs, fears and routines was a bridge between David, his family and the medical team.”

Fortunately, thanks to God’s grace and a great team effort David recovered. His relieved mother said, “His recovery was speeded up by his support workers – they knew what he needed and wanted. I don’t think that he would have survived as well without Sense Scotland sitting by his side. I can’t thank them enough.”

Sense Scotland’s Family Advisory Service provides advice, support and a listening ear for disabled people and their families. Advisers can be reached between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday at [advisory@sensescotland.org.uk](mailto:advisory@sensescotland.org.uk).

For information on Sense Scotland’s wide range of services and resources, see <https://www.sensescotland.org.uk/what-we-do/support/> or ring **0300 330 9292**.



The Quaker Disability Equality Group aims to promote the full inclusion of disabled people within the Society of Friends. The Group’s website has helpful guidelines for inclusion of people with various disabilities:

[Guidelines for Inclusion – Dyslexia](#)

[Guidelines for Inclusion – Hard of Hearing](#)

[Guidelines for Inclusion – Visual Impairment](#)

[Guidelines for Inclusion – Planning Events](#)

The website’s section on resources contains useful articles, including:

[Accessible Text](#) Advice from Melanie Jameson, a dyslexia consultant

[Dyslexia Psychological issues-A Sense of Self](#)

[Ten dos and don’ts](#) by Hilary Davies

## **Reaching Out to Young People**

Sandra McCallum highlights the need for suitable resources for disabled children.

“My twelve-year-old great-niece is registered blind and uses Braille in her school work. She is also an expert with an ipad, using Siri to read out text messages sent to her and voice mail to respond. Siri also lets her search the web for information, both for school projects and her own interests. She is an avid reader of children’s books and has almost exhausted the children’s stories available on audio.

“When she had to isolate recently, I started to make audio/video recordings of a book I thought she might like, that is not available commercially. This has made me reflect on what provision we make in the church for younger people with disabilities. The simple answer is that I do not know. In our Messy Church we have been accompanying take-away craft bags with videos demonstrating how to make the items in the bags, and there has been one video of the Easter story, but that is all that I can think of.

“At the start of the lockdown someone compiled a list of hymns that could be accessed on-line. Would it be possible for us to do something similar for Bible stories, craft activities and so on with a particular stress on how accessible they are? There may even be folk out there happy to help make short audio/video recordings of Sunday School type stories. I’d be happy to help with the co-ordination.”

Sandra McCallum Email: [s.mccallum@lycos.com](mailto:s.mccallum@lycos.com)

## **Resources for young disabled people**

The Church of Scotland’s website has a section on [resources for young disabled people](#). This includes links to the following resources:

### **Belonging Resource Suite**

Belonging is a resource exploring 10 ways for churches to be inclusive and to promote belonging for all. This resource helps churches to become better at welcoming and supporting those with additional needs. Videos from the Belonging Conference can be watched on the [Methodist Church website](#).

### **Urban Saints**

[Urban Saints](#)’ Additional Needs Ministry offers support and advice on how to encourage, enable and equip children’s, youth and family workers to connect with children and young people with additional needs or disabilities.

### **Going to Church**

[Going to Church](#) is a book for adults or young people with learning disabilities. The book’s illustrations encourage readers to think about their participation in church life and worship.



### **Working with Young People with Additional Needs - Girls' Brigade Europe**

[Working with Young People with Additional Needs](#) includes information, tips and further links on working well with young people with: ADHD, Asperger Syndrome,

Asthma, Autism, Down Syndrome, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Hearing Impairment, Spina Bifida, and Tourette Syndrome.

This revised edition includes new topics like mental health, new sections on how to engage young people with faith and ideas of inclusive games and sports.

### **Disability Advice Network & Disability App - Boys' Brigade**

The Boys' Brigade have a [Disability Advice Network](#) with leaflets on different areas of disability.

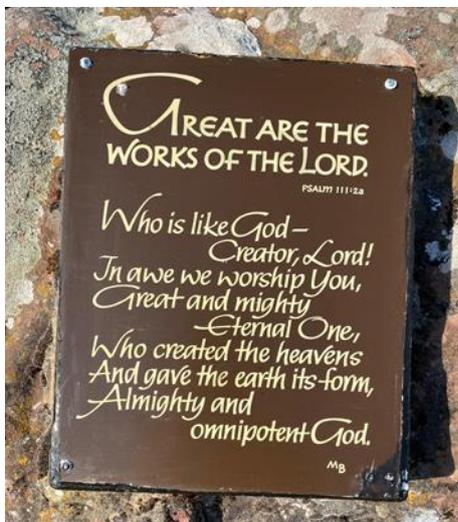
The Boys' Brigade in Northern Ireland have launched a [Disability App](#) to provide information for youth leaders on 25 disabilities that affect children and young people. The app is available on Apple and Android platforms. It is a helpful and informative tool for congregations and children's / youth leader volunteers to help include all young people in congregational life.

### **Top Tips on Welcoming Special Children**

[Top Tips on Welcoming Special Children](#) is a guide for anyone helping children with special needs to know God. Containing stories from group leaders and parents, the book examines what we mean by special needs and what the Bible says on the subject. With practical ideas for welcoming special children into churches and children's groups, this book also explores the implications of the Disability Discrimination Act for churches.

## **Photo Gallery**

Sandra McCallum shares two photos from a day on the Isle of Great Cumbrae in the Firth of Clyde. The Glaid Stone stands at the highest point on the island. Sandra says, "I like this reminder, placed where there is a spectacular 360 degree view."



The Glaid Stone by William Craig, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1901444>

The tranquil view from the Gladstone which inspired Sandra



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

SCDG's web pages have links to a wide range of charities which support people with disabilities. See <http://scdg.org.uk/finding-help/> for details of these groups:

Churches for All

Disability and Jesus

Faith and Light

Faith in Older People

Through the Roof

Torch Trust

Our Webmaster adds links to video clips, some with BSL and Makaton signing.

[List of hymns](#)

[List of hymns with signing or Makaton](#)

To contribute to our website, contact Ian Boe at [website.editor@scdg.org.uk](mailto:website.editor@scdg.org.uk).

Please tell others in your church and organisations about this website and our newsletters. Feel free to pass on our newsletter to anyone who may be interested. Extracts can be included in church magazines or other relevant organisations.

## How to contact SCDG

Please send your news to the Newsletter Editor, Barbara Graham:  
[barbara.graham74@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.graham74@btinternet.com) or Tel. 01563-522108.

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