



EDINBURGH
STEINER
SCHOOL

Rev. Paul Newton

Short career overview:

I originally trained and practiced as a homoeopath; spent some years living and working with adults with special needs in a Camphill Community; and in 2003, together with my wife, established Christopherus Homeschool Resources (providing materials for Steiner-inspired home education). In 2012 I was ordained (in the US, where I lived) as a priest of the Christian Community and sent to work back in the UK.

What is your connection to Edinburgh Steiner School:

For me, the Edinburgh Steiner School is one of the practical expressions of Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophy in the Edinburgh area. Through my participation in the Anthroposophical Society (which meets at the School) and in my work as a priest I have got to know teachers, former teachers and pupils, and some current parents and pupils. I have been a Trustee since May 2015.

What do you feel makes ESS special/relevant in the 21st century:

I feel that a truly *human* education, based on a recognition of the incarnating child as a developing being of body, soul and spirit, is absolutely relevant in our time. A Steiner School can be an oasis for childhood in an increasingly technology-driven and soulless culture, strengthening children to grow up to engage with (and change!) the world as creative, well-rounded human beings.

When I came to Scotland five years ago there were four Steiner Schools. Seeing the loss of the schools in Glasgow and Aberdeen makes me determined to protect and develop the Edinburgh Steiner School.

How do you feel your skills/experience can contribute to/support the school:

I hope that I am a helpful participant in the work of the School Trustees through my knowledge of Steiner pedagogy and its anthroposophical foundations; through my interest in healthy social forms and processes; and through my interest in the economic aspect of the realisation of educational/spiritual ideals.