

Chinese Partner Visits 2019



We welcomed Chinese NGO **Amity Foundation** staff member **Xie Jie** for a visit to Scotland in May. She was in the UK as part of a longer visit, hosted by the Friends of the Church in China (FCC) and her main areas of interest are environmental protection projects, recycling and climate change. Ms Xie has been invited, by the FCC, to spend more than six weeks in Britain looking at environmental programmes and initiatives around climate change and recycling. During her stay in Scotland, we arranged visits with the John Muir Trust, Earthship Fife and Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Thanks to funding from the Dr AHF Barbour Trust, we're very happy to be able to confirm a visit from partners in Shenyang to see the role of spiritual care in a community setting. **Father Zhang** and **Li Zhaohui** will arrive on Saturday 28 Sept and leave again on Tuesday 8 October. The primary aim of the visit is for Li Zhaohui to see a range of Spiritual Care and support services for adults and children in the community. More details will be available closer to the time.

Scottish Churches China Group

苏格兰教会中国会



NEWSLETTER

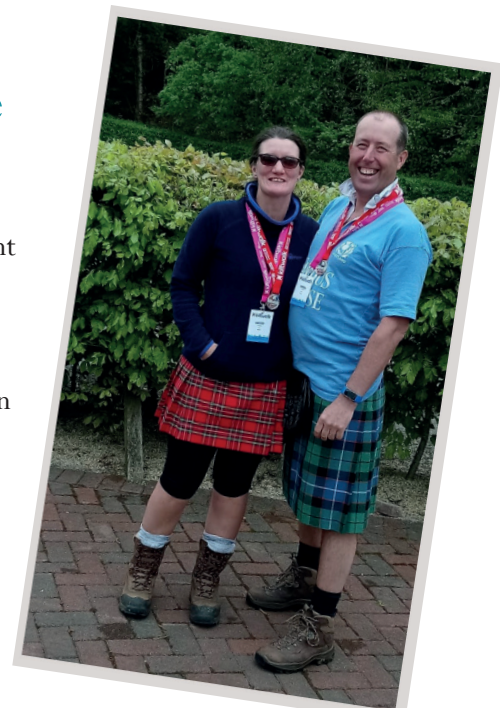
Kiltwalk raises funds for 'Little Sunflowers'

We're delighted that our involvement with this year's **Kilt Walk** has started so well, with 'Team SCCG' participants triumphantly completing the Glasgow Kiltwalk in April. Well done to Colin and Laura Mitchell and to Louise Brown and her friends! We are raising money for a rural children's project, run by Caritas Social Services Centre, Shenyang, Liaoning Diocese, called 'Little Sunflowers'. The project will help impoverished children who have leukaemia, and their families.

It's not too late to register for the other Kilt Walk events or sponsor our walkers! Get in touch or visit our website to find out how to support 'Team SCCG'.

The dates for the remaining walks are:

- Sunday 2 June in Aberdeen
- Sunday 18 August in Dundee
- Sunday 15 Sept in Edinburgh



 **kiltwalk**

Dementia Care: Training in Nanjing

by Mairi Houldsworth

I am currently the Coordinator for Carers in University Hospital Hairmyres (UHH) in East Kilbride, Scotland. My role is to provide support to the informal carers (family and friends) of patients with any and all conditions, but my real passion is dementia care.

This is largely because my Mother lived with combined Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia for the last 10 years of her life, thus making me an informal carer. Through the more recent years of my 37-year nursing career (which made me a professional carer), I have completed a number of dementia courses, most notably the 'Dementia Champions' Course at the University of the West of Scotland. This course was a career (and life) changer for me. I currently chair the Dementia Champions committee in UHH and I am also a 'John's Campaign' Ambassador for Scotland. (John's Campaign - named after Dr John Gerrard - is a movement to help NHS staff recognise the importance of working with family carers as equal partners in the care and support of people with dementia.)

In November 2018, at the invitation of the SCCG, I travelled to Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in China to spend a week working in the field of dementia there. My connection with the SCCG is the Rev Patricia Johnston, Advisor to SCCG and Chaplain to UHH, with whom I have had the pleasure of working over several years.

The purpose of my visit was two-fold: firstly, to assess their care of the elderly facilities for 'dementia friendliness' and, secondly, to devise and deliver a dementia training programme to a number of health and social care staff ranging from care assistants to social workers.

Whilst I was thrilled at the invitation and proud to be considered capable,



this was quite a daunting prospect. It was made much easier, however, by the support of friends, family and colleagues.

The week was split into two parts. The first two days were given over to reviewing the three facilities: one residential care home and two

day care centres, all of which are run by an NGO called The Amity Foundation.

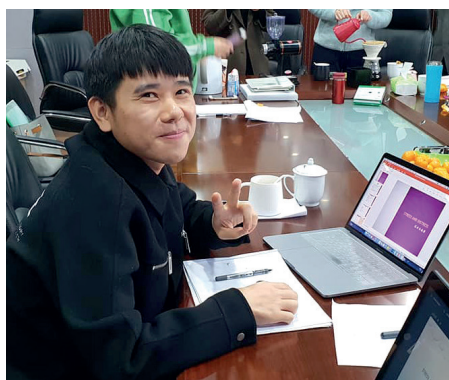
The next three days were spent in the classroom, delivering training and working through question and answer sessions. Having spent some time liaising with Chu Chayou



(Associate General Secretary of The Amity Foundation) beforehand, we agreed the content of the training programme. My presentations were emailed out for translation as soon as I completed them. My other main contact, and wonderful companion for the week was Li Xiaoxia, Director of the Amity Rengu Community Service Centre, a wonderful new day care centre.

Throughout the visits to the three facilities, photographs were taken and observations made using an environmental audit tool devised by Alzheimer Scotland. At the end of the second day, feedback and recommendations were given to Chu Chayou and Li Xiaoxia. They acted very quickly and, since my visit, have instigated a programme of change based on the completed evaluation. This is expected to run over approximately one year.

The training covered topics including 'What is dementia?', 'End of life care' and 'Caring for the Carer'.



All were received with an eagerness and a level of attention and participation which was both gratifying and humbling.

The existing level of knowledge among the staff in attendance was very variable and therefore it was necessary to take it back to basics for all. My interpreter, Mike, was absolutely invaluable during these three days and kept things flowing with great ease.

Within a very short space of time following my visit, Li Xiaoxia and her colleagues had rolled out the training sessions to a further 200 care staff with the possible inclusion of informal carers in the future. This would enable the same principles of care to be applied by family members in a person's own home as well as in day care.

I'm looking forward to see how the situation progresses and look back with gratitude for having had a small part to play.



March AGM & Plenary



Our AGM and Spring Plenary session took place on Tuesday 12 March at Augustine United Church in Edinburgh. The Plenary afternoon session was a special Q+A with Dr Mark McLeister, Lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Mark has lectured and tutored on aspects of contemporary Chinese society, business and politics. Mark's teaching at the University of Edinburgh focuses on the ethnography of Chinese society and religion. Mark researches and publishes on local-level church-state interactions and religious policy in China, popular Chinese Christianity and disability and religious identity.

The title for our session was **'Faith and China: A Year in Review'** and Mark was in conversation with Rev Alan Miller, Convener of the SCCG. This was a lively and informative session and we're grateful to Mark for his time and insight.

Our AGM and Plenary sessions are open to anyone who is interested in our work or would like to learn more about China. Our next Plenary is on Tuesday 10 September in Edinburgh. More details nearer the time - it would be lovely to see you there!

Follow us

Keep up to date with all our news, and that of our partners' by following us on Facebook and Twitter.



www.facebook.com/ScotChurchChina



www.twitter.com/ScotCCG

Become a Member

The constitution of the SCCG states that we are a membership organisation, and we're delighted to have members from all the main church denominations and from partner organisations in Scotland. Individuals can also become members. There is no cost, but membership ensures you are kept up-to-date with our work and activities. Contact Patricia Johnston if you'd like to know more (details below).

Contact Us

SCCG Advisor:

Patricia Johnston

Email: patricia.johnston@sccg.org.uk

Tel no: 07903465138

The Scottish Churches China Group is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Address:

Turcan Connell, Princes Exchange,
1 Earl Grey St, Edinburgh, EH3 9EE
T: +44(0) 1259 725521

www.sccg.org.uk

Scottish Charity No. SCIO SC033740

'Scots in China' TV documentary



It was fascinating - if slightly daunting-to take part in the Scots in China television documentary, produced by Matchlight for BBC Scotland and presented by Neil Oliver, which was broadcast in January. The television documentary looked at historical and contemporary ties between Scotland and China. Neil Oliver spoke with our very own Patricia Johnston on location at Shengjing Hospital in Shenyang, a hospital founded in 1883 by a Scot. Today, the SCCG is involved in a number of projects with Chinese partners at the hospital, and the documentary was able to highlight these as well as present some background to our work in China.

With regard to our continuing projects at Shengjing Hospital, Dr Wang Yumei, Director of the Palliative Care Ward at the hospital was a keynote speaker at a recent national conference run by the Chinese Geriatric Society. In her address to the Conference Dr Wang 'emphasized the importance of training and support from SCCG.

New request for dementia care training

Within weeks of Mairi Houldsworth returning to Scotland from China last November (see article centre pages), Chu Chaoyu, Associate General Sec of Chinese NGO The Amity Foundation, requested a further visit in 2019 to build on the training Mairi had delivered concerning dementia care. Thanks to recent funding from the Dr AHF Barbour Trust, Mairi will make a return visit this year. Chu Chaoyu said, "Mairi is very good resource person on dementia friends program. Our team will plan her visit and make a busy schedule for her. I'm thinking if we could plan a short travel and a one day training for our partners from Sichuan, Gansu, Yunnan, Guizhou and Jiangsu."

Annual Report

Our Annual Report and Financial Review for 2018 was published in time for our AGM and Plenary in March. It shows a whirlwind year, with many new opportunities and ways to work with partners both in China and in Scotland. It is a privilege to be able to facilitate and fund vital education and medical projects; partner visits; participation at conferences; mutual learning and sharing of resources and information. We're grateful for all the hard work of trustees and partners, and for the continued support of grant-awarding trusts, denominations, churches and individuals. Copies of the Annual Review and Financial Report are available on request or from our website.