

## **AHPCC Scottish Branch Report May 2018**

The Scottish Branch of AHPCC meets three times a year, in March, June and September. Weather conditions usually preclude a December meeting. There are around a dozen members.

The format has remained unchanged over the past year. Each meeting is hosted in a different hospice and includes a presentation followed by discussion, a reflective time and resource sharing.

The June meeting was held at Robin House Children's Hospice in Balloch near Loch Lomond. An informative and inspiring verbal presentation was given of the work of the Hospice and the chaplaincy role within it. It was acknowledged that this role requires a particular skill set, as the use of case studies brought to life the complexity and uniqueness of the work undertaken. The difference between adult and children's Hospice engendered much discussion on the need for the flexibility of the chaplain within the close interaction of staff and families surrounding only eight patients.

A visit to Rachel House Children's Hospice in Kinross took place in September specifically to give those absent in June an opportunity to learn more of chaplaincy in this type of setting. The work of CHAS was highlighted as it moves to work as more of a Hospice at Home. This will aid care of children who now live longer with life-limiting illness.

The September meeting was held at the Ayrshire Hospice in Ayr where we engaged in a reflective exercise which may be used as an educational tool for staff. Entering into the patient's experience at a personal level and feeling the impact of a series of losses proved to be most powerful and this tool will certainly be most useful in education sessions.

A retreat day is planned for the summer.

Margery Collin  
Convener  
May 2018