

TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

FEBRUARY — MAY 2024



The theme of this issue is:
'Together in Christ'

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From the Senior Chaplain

**Christ has abolished the law...so that he might create in himself one new humanity.
(Ephesians 2.15)**

Together in Christ is our theme for this issue of our Chaplaincy's *Together* magazine. For the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway, this comes with many dimensions. As a Chaplaincy we are made up of people living in many parts of Norway who come from a great variety of backgrounds, culture, ethnicity, heritage and nationality. For many Norway has become or was already home while for others it is home for a season or simply a visit. All are welcome within our church community founded on our belonging together to Christ, and in the celebration of and growth in that belonging through our worship using Anglican patterns of prayer. These set great value in both the proclamation of God's Word and the sacramental life of the Church, particularly expressed in Holy Communion in which we discover and express the true nature of the church community, together within the body of Christ. We seek to live out this belonging through our Lord's two great commandments – to love God and to love our neighbour.

Since love finds its public expression in justice, every kind of justice is of concern to us. It has been exciting for our Chaplaincy to be involved in the growing priority of racial justice within the Diocese in Europe to which we belong. As racially diverse congregations, we have something special to offer in seeking to model the kind of communities in which everyone finds they belong and have a voice and a part to play, and in seeking to overcome discrimination in both the church and in the wider world. The Gospel imperative to ensure everyone may experience their dignity as children of God was both celebrated and highlighted in the Diocese's Racial Justice Conference held in Freiburg, Germany in November. This international and ecumenical conference brought together memorably diverse participation from across the diocese and beyond and built both confidence and commitment to set a new path which takes full account of racial justice. This is something we can take forward in every aspect of our lives and which takes on urgency as racial discrimination increases across Europe. Bystander intervention is key, summarised as, "Wake up, stand up, speak up." We're reminded in our current world that defending rights cannot be selective but involves defend-

ing all human rights for all peoples. Our hearts go out to all victims of aggression and oppression around the world. Our prayers for these situations matter. So does the vision we seek to offer to the world of reconciled humanity in Christ. Engagement with those of other faiths and life stances challenges us to consider and express the nature of this vision. In his letter to the Ephesians, St Paul describes Christ creating in himself one new humanity, where divisions have been overcome, reconciled to God in one body through the cross.

Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has highlighted within inter-religious engagement the responsibility religious traditions have both in defining what human community looks like when in accord with God's character and purpose, and in challenging what holds back communities from living in such a way. The Gospel, he proposes, is concerned with how the community of God's people "is being re-created in relation to Jesus himself." Jesus is consistently concerned with those who have no voice or standing among the people and his healing sets people "free to take their full place among God's chosen, free to worship ...and to be confident that they have an indestructible value in the eyes of God." The contributions in this issue of *Together* explore some of the dimensions in which community is being re-created within the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway. They also inspire us to go further and to be open to the call and work of Christ, the One in whom a new humanity is created.

Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Bergen notes

Very warm greetings from all of us here in Bergen. It was a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. A real highlight this year is that we had one of the largest Christmas choirs ever for our services of Nine Lessons and Carols. Due to Korskirken being closed for renovations, our Saturday carol service was moved to St Jakobs Kirke, also known as the student church in Bergen. It has a beautiful and cozy sanctuary that worked very well for our carol service. However, we look forward to being back inside newly renovated Korskirken next year. Our Mariakirken carol service was, as always, a wonderful and beautiful occasion. In fact, we had excellent turnouts at both services. We are deeply grateful to the Christmas Choir, to David Weaver for his organ accompaniment, and not least our choir master, Roger Martin, for all the time and

effort they put into making the carol services such a tremendous gift to the entire Bergen community.



The Bergen choir

Our Christmas raffle was also a great success. Mariastuen was literally packed out with by far the largest turnout we have ever had. I was joking with our church committee that we might need to hire a bouncer next year! Mostly, we are so pleased to have raised some 15,000 NOK for the church renovation project at St Luke's Anglican Church Muni, Uganda. This too was record giving!



The Bergen carol service (left) and after (right)



The student gathering in Bergen

Another neat Advent gathering took place this year for the young adults in our congregation. We were truly blessed with four amazing Erasmus scholars who worshiped and supported our ministry throughout the autumn. Three of them from the Czech Republic — David, Pavel and Martin each gave readings at both of the carol services. The gathering was bitter sweet however, as it was an occasion to both welcome newcomers but also

to say goodbye to the Erasmus students who would be retuning to their homelands just before Christmas.

It never ceases to be amaze me how many people come to our Christmas Day service in Mariakirken! Most of those who come to the service are visitors from all of the world. It is always a neat opportunity for us to fill a spiritual need for those who are traveling during the Christmas season. As we moved into the new year, we were very grateful to be invited by the Cathedral Dean Gudmund Waaler up to the Bergen Domkirke (Cathedral) for a joint ecumenical service of Holy Communion on Sunday 21 January. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate and highlight our faithful partnership in ministry throughout the year in Mariakirken during of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Both Word and Sacrament, and not least the wonderful cathedral choir, were all inspiring. We look forward to holding it again next year and making it into an annual tradition.

As we turn our hearts and minds toward Lent, our congregation is looking forward to our Shrove (Sunday) pancake lunch in Mariastuen on Sunday 11th February after morning worship. It will include our third annual pancake flipping contest and pancake race! Then on Ash Wednesday 14th February we will hold a joint ecumenical service with the Norwegian congregation in Mariakirken. Each year we begin the season of Lent with the Mariakirken congregation, and conclude the season joyfully with them on Easter morning. During Holy Week we will join St. Edmund's for Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday Tenebrae service in Mariakirken, and Easter morning together with the Norwegian congregation of Mariakirken. Lots to look forward to as we move into the season of Lent and beyond. And do remember that we continue to offer an online Zoom option every Sunday for those who need it. Come online and worship with us! Blessings to all.

Rev. Dr Kirk Weisz, Bergen Assistant Chaplain

Stavanger notes

Our journey started in November 2022 with an application, an interview and an offer, and it was eventually realized in October 2023. This whole period was a period of preparation and/or learning:

1. *Learning a new language*
2. *Learning the dos and don'ts*
3. *Researching on the weather patterns*

4. Researching about the Church in Norway

Revd Canon Joanna introduced me to an online language learning platform (Duolingo “the teacher”) who subsequently became my committed and faithful teacher. I managed to recognize a couple of words and their meanings though I couldn’t pronounce them. I thought I was okay language-wise only to discover that, (a) Norwegians speak very fast and from the throat. (b) There are many dialects in Norway.

Life in Stavanger takes a little getting used to. It is a bit expensive at first until you learn one or two tricks, such as where and where not to buy your groceries, when a warm coat may be on sale at a discounted price, how to navigate Finn.no... The custom of leaving shoes and coats at the door was unknown to us. Candles are amongst the invited guests at tables. During the three months I have been here I haven’t seen a police officer. Save for the time I visited the UDI when I first arrived.

Weather was a menace when we arrived! Now, thanks to God, and to our fellow brothers and sisters who helped us to know how to dress, we are more used to it. We can now differentiate between very cold (+ degrees) and freezing cold (- degrees). We are yet to experience warm and hot!

On arrival in Stavanger we were welcomed by Sarah and Stephanie. They were good drivers but very fast, so no time to see around. The Stavanger congregation welcomed us well each according to their own ability which was nice. Thank you.



Happiness and Ingun in Stavanger

A week later Menighetshuset was full and it was all joy! Archdeacon Leslie led the well-planned licensing service along with the senior chaplain, Joanna. Guests and participants included the Bishop of Stavanger and Ingeborg (Oslo), Barbara

(Bergen), and Susan (Trondheim). During the moments of fellowship following the service, I realized something important: the Stavanger congregation knows how to bake!



Licensing of Revd Martin Chirume as Assistant Chaplain, Stavanger

After licensing these are some of the events: Remembrance Day and the services at Eiganes and Sola war memorials followed by tea/coffee at the NATO base; and the Hundvåg 9 Lessons and Carols service where I was invited to read. I also discovered the warmth of non-alcoholic “gløgg” with its fruit and nut layer at the bottom!

At the Kristiansand Carol service, there was no choir but the organist did a wonderful job, I enjoyed the singing. The last and final service was The Stavanger 9 Lessons and Carols service, led by Joanna, where both I and Happiness read a lesson. St Petri’s was full, and there was beautiful music from the organ, viola and trumpet players, dedicated scratch choir and conductor...



Kristiansand (left) and Stavanger (right) Carol Services

Upholding the Chaplaincy’s environment commitment, we went digital, projecting the order of service onto a large screen. The collection taken went to the Bishops Advent Appeal 2023 (focused on supporting women in Pakistan and South East Asia, addressing violence, discrimination, and pov-

erty). The Christmas Day service marks the end of 2023.

When we left Zimbabwe we brought greetings from Shirley Cripps Children's Home. As orphans they have needs but they are happy and grateful for the support you gave year in year out.

*Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain,
Stavanger*

A fond farewell from Trondheim

After four years of committed service as Assistant Chaplain in Trondheim, Revd Sheila Rosenthal retired at the end of December 2023. We wish Sheila and her husband Andrew every blessing for the future as they move to Germany. On her departure, Sheila shared the following message for others in the Chaplaincy:

Dear folk in Oslo, Stavanger and Bergen,

So off I go into a different world of retirement – which some of you are already in. There are many things I look forward to, like not having to choose 4 hymns every week or wearing those medieval clothes that priests are required to put on. I am not looking forward to snow-less winters or sunless summer nights as these are things about Norway I have loved for many years before coming here as priest. I will wave my flag on May 17th and think of people in their bunads as brass bands freeze around village flag poles as they do here in the little village where I have lived these last 4 years.

I will miss the fun of fellowship and preaching the humour I see in the Gospels but also the faces that have filled my pc screen during meetings or services. I shall miss hearing news of those whose lives have joined with others to make church in the corners of Norway we come from.

It would be easy and pleasant now to reminisce and look back at services shared or prayers earnestly made for souls in need. All of us are bound together not only by faith but by memories and hopes and fears. The great thing about age is there is so much to play with in the memory-box of

treasures. It has been good to know you and add to the box!

However, the theology that sustains the concept of the communion of saints forbids just looking back and leads us to trust in eternal life as well as grace and salvation. So I commend to you the fellowship of the saved, not the holy and just but sinners saved by grace in which we are equals not subject to any authority other than that of the merciful and joyous Christ. The price of our ransom is paid, let us celebrate the feast of the resurrection.

Germany awaits, a different world of natural beauty and culture – and another language to learn. It's meant to be good for the brain in old age to learn new things...

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you be gracious to you, the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Revd Sheila Rosenthal, Trondheim Assistant Chaplain

We're very grateful for the support of clergy with the Bishop's Permission to Officiate to help maintain our regular pattern of Anglican services in Trondheim, together with our Reader Susan, Assistant Warden Logan, and Senior Chaplain Joanna.

Oslo notes

There's been no need to dream of a white Christmas – Oslo has enjoyed snow in abundance over Advent and Christmas. Thankfully neither the snow nor the cold seem to have deterred people participating in our special services for the festive season. Even on Christmas Eve in the snow-filled street (with extensive roadworks) outside St Edmund's, old friends and new gathered to sing

carols and celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem using the traditional carols which are so popular. On 21 st December, we held a joyful evening of Carols by Candlelight in St Edmund's with seasonal poetry as well as carols for both choir and congregation. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was as ever a great highlight, and this year was professionally recorded and shared as the Church of England's Sunday on-line service a week later. It's astonishing how many people this reached and expressed their appreciation. On Facebook alone the recorded version clocked some 268,000 views and over 2,800 likes!

We have no idea how many people heard the BBC R4 Sunday Worship in September partly recorded in St Edmund's, or the weekday BBC Daily Service, but it was a joy to have the choir and members of our congregation and of the Chaplaincy Council singing and sharing prayers and reflections in these, and offering our worship with unseen others far and wide.

For Remembrance Sunday at St Edmund's we had readings by both the British and Ghanaian Ambassadors as well as fine trumpet playing from Jonas Haltia of the Oslo Philharmonic. We welcomed new Ambassadors to Norway from Ireland and Canada and our longstanding friends from the Australia Association. The St Edmund's choir sang fitting anthems for the occasion by both Goss and Rutter. After the service, many people continued to Vestre Gravlund for the wreath-laying ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves.

With our shared concern for peace with justice in the world, we are glad to be able to cooperate with Trefoldighet Peace and Reconciliation Church and other local churches for such occasions as Global Week when we continued our united prayer and action against Modern Slavery. We also continue to value our long-established relationship with Bragernes Church in Drammen through the Drammen Ladies' Guild. The English Carol Service held there in early December was wonderfully well supported as ever, and on 26th December, after participating in their St Stephen's Day Mass in Norwegian, it was a further privilege to hold a Christmas celebration there for the South Sudanese Maban Community including four baptisms, as well as refreshments afterwards in the church hall. The youth choir performed with limitless

energy, while the Mothers Union were not to be outdone as they also led Christmas music composed in the Maban language.



Sudanese Maban Christmas celebration

We are grateful for all much-needed signs of reconciliation in the world and the Week of Prayer for Christian unity impels us onwards. The good turnout for our pilgrimage of prayer for Unity Week was a great encouragement as we prayed our way from St Olav's Catholic Cathedral, via the Greek Orthodox and Swedish Churches to St Edmund's and then the Oslo Domkirke. Was the previous day's heavy snowfall a deterrent? No sign of that at all! See cover photo and below.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain, Oslo



Unity Week Group at Oslo Domkirke

An Arctic Advent

It's bold to pray for "Christ to scatter the darkness" amid the polar night which encompasses the Arctic regions throughout the season of Advent. But we were delighted to celebrate the coming of Christ the light of the world in both Tromsø and Svalbard at the beginning of December with festive celebrations of carols, followed by fellowship and cakes! (*continued p.10*)

			Oslo		Bergen	
FEBRUARY						
Sun	04	2nd before Lent	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	11	Last before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion Shrove Pancake Lunch
Weds	14	Ash Wednesday	19:00	Sung Communion	18:00	Ecumencial Service
Sun	18	Lent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	25	Lent 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
MARCH						
Sun	03	Lent 3	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	10	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	17	Lent 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	24	Palm Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Thurs	28	Maundy Thursday	19:00	Sung Communion		
Fri	29	Good Friday	11:00	Joint Service with ALC, Fritzners gt	11:00	Tenebrae Service
Sat	30	Holy Saturday	20:00	Easter Vigil Service		
Sun	31	Easter	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Ecumencial Service HC
APRIL						
Sun	07	Easter 2	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	14	Easter 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	21	Easter 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	28	Easter 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
MAY						
Sun	05	Easter 6	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Thurs	09	Ascension Day	19:00	Sung Communion`		
Sun	12	Easter 7	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	19	Pentecost	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Mon	20				12:00	Ecumencial Pentecost Service
Sun	26	Trinity Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion

Readings	Stavanger		Trondheim	
FEBRUARY				
Proverbs 8.1,22-31 John 1.1-14	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
2 Kings 2.1-12 Mark 9.2-9	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Isaiah 58.1-12 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21	TBA	TBA	18:00	Join service at Vår Frue Kirke
Genesis 9.8-17 Mark 1.9-15	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Genesis 17.1-7,15-1 Mark 8.31-386		Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
MARCH				
Exodus 20.1-17 John 2.13-22	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Numbers 21.4-9 John 3.14-21	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Jeremiah 31.31-34 John 12.30-33	10:30	Family Service	18:00	HC Cathedral
Mark 11.1-11&15.1-47 Philippians 2.5-11	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Exodus 12.1-4[5-10]11-14 John 13.1-17,31b-35	TBA	TBA	18:00	Join HC in Cathedral
	TBA	TBA	11:00	Join Service in Cathedral
Romans 6.3-11 Mark 16. 1-8			23:00	Join Service in Cathedral
Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	HC/Vår Frue Kirke
APRIL				
Acts 4.32-35 John 20.19-end	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Acts 3.12-19 Luke 24.36b-48	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer/Chapter House
Acts 4.5-12 John 10.11-18	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Acts 8.26-end John 15.1-8	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
MAY				
Acts 10.44-end John 15.9-17	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end				
Acts 1.15-17,21-end John 17.6-19	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer/Chapter House
Acts 2.1-21 John 15.26-27,16.4b-15	10:30	Family Communion	amTBC 18:00	TBC HC Cathedral
Isaiah 6.1-8 John 3.1-17	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer/Chapter House



Polar night in Svalbard



Svalbard Kirke

Svalbard Afternoon Tea and Carols

Advent began particularly early on the islands of Svalbard at 78 degrees North in the High Arctic where the darkness of the previous few weeks made it hard to distinguish the precise start of the new liturgical season. But a courageous and youthful crowd were ready to trek across ice and snow to Svalbard church on the edge of Longyearbyen for our first *Afternoon Tea and Carols in English*



Peckish polar bear! (bottom left) and tea and carols (below).



held there by the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway, kindly made possible by the Church of Norway's resident priest.

The afternoon tea and cakes also seemed enticing to the church's resident polar bear, who thankfully didn't make any closer advances! The warmth and light of the celebration indoors were in great contrast to the dark and cold outside. The hearty singing of traditional carols warmed us all. There was also a moment of intense concentration as letters were written to Santa to post at the dedicated Svalbard post-box, due to be collected the following day! New friendships were struck and new determination forged to put on the armour of light to be found in Christ's coming, whatever the darkness of the polar night.

Lessons and Carols in Tromsø Cathedral



Tromsø Cathedral

There was much excitement that a longstanding tradition could be rekindled in Tromsø with the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway holding a Service of

Lessons and Carols. For the first time it was held in the Tromsø Domkirke, Norway's northernmost cathedral, and arranged jointly with Tromsø International Church. It was wonderful that many faithful members of the Anglican Chaplaincy turned out for this first carol service since the pandemic and contributed cakes to the tea afterwards. Old friends more used to meeting at Elverhøy Church were reunited while we also received a boost from the recent arrival in Tromsø of Chaplaincy members from other parts of Norway as well as visitors to the city. In keeping with Tromsø's recent Day of action to save lives, the retiring collection was taken in support of Save the Children's Gaza Appeal. Thank you to everyone who has kept the English carol service going over the last 50 years, and we look forward to many more!

Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain



Revds Joanna and Sandy in Tromsø

(Extracts from this article first appeared on the Diocese in Europe's website in December)

God's Kaleidoscope: Racial Justice comes alive!

Reflections on the Racial Justice Conference, Freiburg November 2023



"We are all insiders!" "Wake up, stand up, speak up!" "Liberated belonging!" Some of the memorable phrases from the international and ecumenical

conference on racial justice held on 8th-11th November under the title God's Kaleidoscope.

A transformative experience

During the three-day conference organized by the Racial Justice working group of the Diocese in Europe of the Church of England, I had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and gain valuable insights into the issues surrounding racial justice. The event, held in Freiburg, Germany, brought together a diverse group of individuals committed to addressing and combating racial inequality.

Throughout the conference, various sessions and workshops covered a range of topics, including the historical context of racial injustice, current challenges, and potential solutions. Expert speakers shared their knowledge, and attendees participated in open dialogues, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

The conference not only deepened my understanding of racial justice but also provided a platform for networking and collaboration with like-minded individuals. It was a transformative experience that left a lasting impact on my perspectives and strengthened my commitment to actively contribute to the ongoing struggle for racial equality.

As I reflect on the trip, I am inspired by the collective dedication of the participants and the genuine efforts made by the Church of England to address issues of racial injustice. The conference served as a catalyst for personal growth, encouraging me to continue advocating for racial justice in my community and beyond.

Jane Todd, Stavanger / Tromsø

An all-round engagement from our Chaplaincy

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway was represented among the conference presenters by Dr Pia Lane who addressed the conference on Norway's Truth and Reconciliation Commission regarding injustices committed against the Sami people, Kven people and Forest Finns. In her video presentation she referred to the positive part churches

can play in addressing injustices and supporting culture and language.

From Bergen, Aurora Reyes participated and met delegates from many parts of the world including Bishop Antonio also from the Philippines and now ministering in Stuttgart, Germany. As an outspoken advocate for racial justice and rights amongst indigenous peoples, Bishop Antonio had to leave his country for his own safety.



Aurora and Bishop Antonio

With the Senior Chaplain, Revd Canon Joanna Udal, also a member of the Diocese's Racial Justice Group involved in planning the conference and co-ordinating the conference worship, Norway enjoyed a high level of participation in the conference overall. We look forward to this feeding into all aspects of our life in the Chaplaincy.

Living Water

It was really neat for our congregation to be invited up to the Bergen Cathedral (Domkirke) for an ecumenical service on Sunday 21 January in connection with The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. You know, invitations are always special. An invitation says many things. It says I like you. I like being around you. I want to spend time with you. I appreciate what happens we you join in. Being invited is good for the soul! The Gospel text assigned for that Sunday in the Church of Norway lectionary which we followed, touched exactly upon this very kind of experience. If you have a moment, go get your Bible and read John 4:4-26.

It is a conversation between Jesus and a woman about water. Those of us living in Bergen know a thing or two about water...but we discover that Jesus knows even more about water! And this is

such a fascinating conversation between this woman and Jesus about water. Interestingly, some of the conversation about water is actually about the life and identity of this woman. And we could spend a lot of time speculating about what has gone on in her life. But whatever has taken place in her past, we can surely find aspects of our life there too. We are all people with a past. We are people who have made mistakes. We are people who have broken relationships. Truth be told, we know what it's like to be judged by others because of something that has occurred in our past. Furthermore, being that our Chaplaincy is so diverse, many of us have first-hand experience of what is like to be excluded because of some aspect of our identity.

We often look to what Jesus says for guidance, but we shouldn't overlook the keen observation the woman makes when she says to Jesus, "You have no bucket and the well is deep." This is quite insightful. She is saying, "Jesus, the task is very big and you do not have the means to accomplish it."

Have you ever heard this woman's voice in your life? I know I have! I hear this voice all the time, especially when I am faced with a situation in which I don't feel like I have the resources to overcome it or get through it. We have an expression in English for these moments, "When your bucket runs dry."

But we discover through this conversation about water, that Jesus doesn't need a bucket for the water he is talking about. And this water that He is ready to give at all times and in all places is not just water, but life-giving, living water. But what is this living water? It's God's love. God's welcome. God's acceptance. God's forgiveness. God's compassion. The very presence of Christ in our midst.

And how does Jesus give this particular woman this living water? She says to Jesus, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) This is a very serious question. It is also a very heartfelt question that gets to the core of what separates her from Jesus, her ethnic difference, and her gender. Her experience of this

life-giving water is quite simple, yet profound — this person spoke to me, this person saw me, this person let me speak, this person listened to me, this person respected me, this person isn't going to give up on me! The mutuality and respect that Jesus gives fills her bucket with the life-giving water of God, not just water.

Friends, scientists tell us that our bodies are 70% water. But there is another water moving through us and among us that does not need a bucket. The week of prayer for Christian Unity is all about this life-giving, living water. It's about coming together with others who are different than us yet we have so much in common. It is about showing mutuality and respect. Every single day of the year, however, we have the opportunity to have conversations with other people. Maybe it's at work. Maybe it's at school. Maybe it's a grocery store. Maybe it's on the bus, train, or plane. Maybe it's even at church. We have endless opportunities where we can share this living water, places where we can truly see and hear people, especially those who are often not invited to the party. Not invited because of their past or gender, or race, or nationality, or disability, or because of the person God has called them to love.

I think this story leaves us with a few important questions to consider. Do people feel the same way after an encounter with us as they did after an encounter with Jesus? Do people feel accepted, respected, and empowered after speaking with us? And what kind of water shall we give? Will we offer people just water or living water?

Rev'd Dr Kirk Weisz, Bergen Assistant Chaplain

Deanery Synod in Copenhagen



Some of our deanery synod representatives (bottom left)

After 12 years (I think) since I last attended a Synod as a representative from Bergen, it was exciting to catch up with the "old timers" and get to meet new representatives. The former Seafarers' Mission where we met was ideal for this meeting, I especially liked the access to the chapel within the hotel itself. Apart from the administrative issues, there were some items that caught my attention.



Deanery Synod in Copenhagen

The issue of being "Peacemakers". My question (to myself) was "How can we be peacemakers if we are so little and the troubles are so large? As usual, the answer resides within ourselves. We start with ourselves and bring peace to others around us. A phrase that I wrote down "Moments of personal peace are sporadic and brief because we cannot bear it for too long" got me to think that maybe we can train ourselves to bear it a little longer.

The other issue was, Climate Change. Again, my cynical self asked "what does this have to do with the Church"? But I have to say that I was really bowled over by the presentation from Bishop David "A theological perspective on climate change". It made so much sense! I wish we had a video or script of that presentation. It would be very inspirational to bring to our congregations. I was interested in the efforts of the Copenhagen group with concrete examples on how to make a

difference on climate change and amused to see how Olivia changed her e-mail from gmail.com to proton.ne within the one session. I think this group is very enthusiastic, we all have a lot to learn from them and it is great that Nick Howe in Stockholm will be the clergy adviser on environmental issues.

I think Susan should really be commended for the tremendous job she did organizing the Synod. She was working the whole time tirelessly. I hope this was not too much of a burden on her.

I am looking forward to the next Synod in Tallin and seeing you all.

Ana Duerr, Bergen

Christ is our digital cornerstone

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord"
Ephesians 2:19-21

When we think of Christ as the cornerstone of the Church, it is easy to see this as our physical places of worship. In September, however, a service from St Edmund's was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 both as Sunday Worship and as part of a special week highlighting the different churches across the diocese of Europe. In December, St Edmund's service of nine lessons and carols was also broadcast as the Church of England's online service for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

For those of us attending these services in person, it was perhaps a nerve wracking experience being recorded for a large audience! But for those listening to our services both in Norway and further afield, it was a chance to experience fellowship through Christ with our community in Oslo. As the comments came in on the YouTube live stream, it became clear that many of those watching were regular attendees of these online

broadcasts, and had formed their own community who talked together and shared in the experience of the carol service. For those of us with family members overseas, it was a window into our lives and worship here in Norway.

These online services were stand alone events, but they represent part of the way in which Christ has become a digital cornerstone in our communities. Ever since the pandemic, Zoom has become a key feature of how we worship together. Every week, Zoom services provides those unable to attend in person a chance to participate in fellowship and faith. As our prayer of spiritual communion reminds us, Christ enters spiritually into our hearts and our digital spaces hold no barrier to this connection. Regardless of whether we attend church in person or online, all are building on the cornerstone of Christ and become part of the fabric of the Church.

As we move through 2024, let us continue to enjoy and celebrate the joys of our community in Christ, both digital and physical.

Beth Winther-Noble, Oslo



True Freedom: Lent Study Online Group Mondays 1900-2000 on Zoom Starting 19th February

The Chaplaincy is offering an online Lent study group based on St Paul's letter to the Galatians using resources produced jointly by the World Council of Churches and the Clewer Initiative to support churches in engaging prayerfully with the challenges of modern slavery and human trafficking. See www.truefreedom24.com for details. Some lent groups may meet locally.





Upcoming events



Chaplaincy

1st March—World Day of Prayer

23rd April—Annual General Meeting, 18:30 on Zoom

11th—14th May—Episcopal visit, TBC

24th—26th May—Chaplaincy Retreat, Balestrand

26th May—Opening of the Summer Chaplaincy, Balestrand

26th—29th September Deanery Synod, Tallin

Oslo

30th April—Easter Vigil 8pm, remember the clocks go forward!

30th June—140th Anniversary of St Edmund's

Thank you!

A big thank you to our Christingle makers in Oslo this year (*pictured below*)—these were enjoyed by all!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Felix and Anita, members of our Stavanger congregation, on their graduation! We wish them all the best in their futures.



Felix and Anita's Masters Graduation in Malawi.

From the registers

HOLY BAPTISMS



St Edmund's, Oslo

Maya Raquel Gomes 29th October

Bragernes Church, Drammen

Lidia Sila Yaka 26th December

Charles Sila Yaka 26th December

Mary Sila Yaka 26th December

Shadia Got Dalkan 26th December

BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE, ST EDMUND'S, OSLO

ADELLE BASSON AND

JØRGEN BOGANES

4TH NOVEMBER

DEATHS

Norma June Johansen, Oslo

Allen Kingsley Tucker, Oslo

Daphne Tangen, Trondheim

Diepriye Okujagu, Trondheim

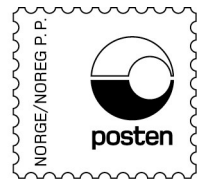
Steven Christopher Martin, Drammen



THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY IN NORWAY, SUSAN, IRIS & NORAH INVITE ALL CHILDREN TO
Choom, Children's Zoom

ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9.40—10.15

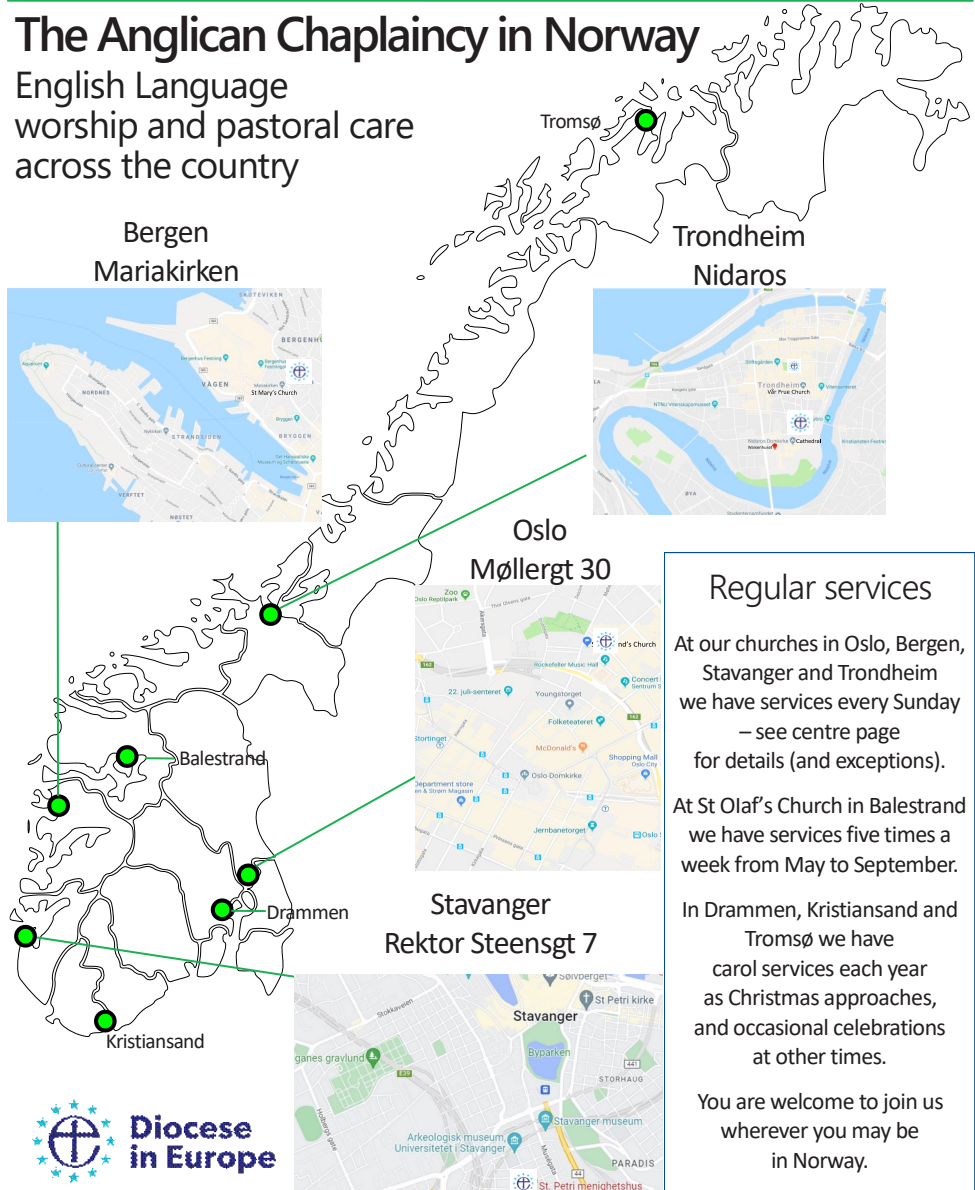




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0244 Oslo

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

English Language
worship and pastoral care
across the country



Regular services

At our churches in Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim we have services every Sunday – see centre page for details (and exceptions).

At St Olaf's Church in Balestrand we have services five times a week from May to September.

In Drammen, Kristiansand and Tromsø we have carol services each year as Christmas approaches, and occasional celebrations at other times.

You are welcome to join us wherever you may be in Norway.

