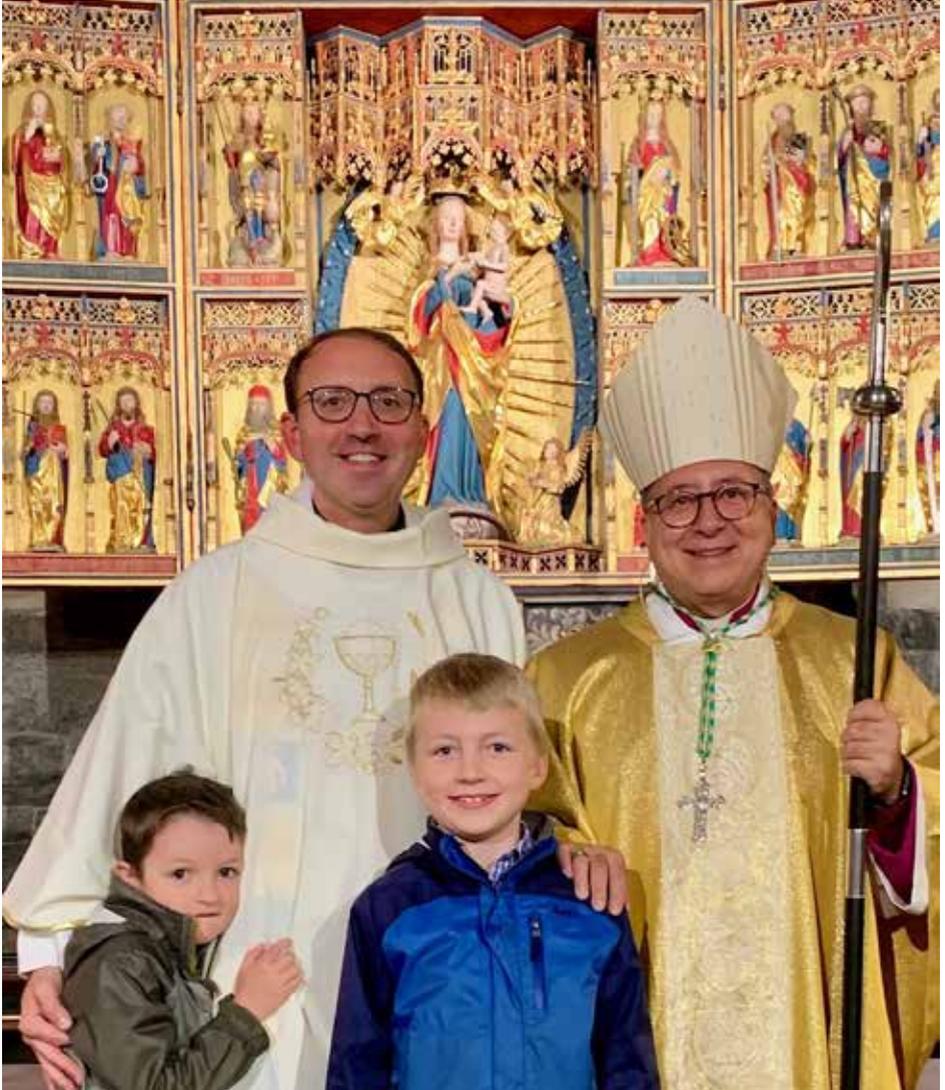


TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

OCTOBER 2021–JANUARY 2022



Bishop David Hamid with newly-ordained priest Kirk Weisz and his two sons, David and Jacob

The theme of this issue is

Celebrating 25 years of the Porvoo Agreement between our Anglican and Lutheran Churches

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From the Senior Chaplain

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2.6-7

We have much reason to abound in thanksgiving as we enter autumn, with Kirk Weisz newly ordained priest at Mariakirken in Bergen, with eleven of our young people and adults from around Norway newly confirmed at St Edmund's Church in Oslo, and with the national Coronavirus restrictions newly lifted. We are invited to continue being rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith. Our lives of faith journey forwards and we are invited into a deepened relationship of Communion together. *Communion* is a word very rich in meaning. We could describe it as being united in Christ. We are invited into a deepened Communion as congregations and as the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway.

We are very specially invited at this time also to explore more deeply the Communion which we are privileged to share with the Lutheran Churches of the Nordic and Baltic countries under the Porvoo Agreement which was signed 25 years ago this autumn. The agreement is considered one of the most important ecumenical achievements of recent times and it has very real implications for us in our daily relations with the Church of Norway as well as with neighbours from those other churches.

On 12 September, it was a blessing to take part in a special service in the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim making the 25th anniversary of the agreement being signed there (see Sheila Rosenthal's article later in this issue) and on 9 October members of our Deanery Synod will share Holy Communion in the Cathedral in Porvoo, Finland, where the agreement was finalised and after which it is named.

This issue of *Together* has its focus on the impact of the Porvoo Agreement on our life and ministry in Norway and I hope will encourage us to reflect further on its ongoing potential as we seek a deepened communion as part of the local church. How can our diversity lead to a mutual enrichment? How can we encourage one another in a life of faithfulness to the Gospel and to God's mission in the world? Can our shared life of Communion model unity in diversity and witness to God reconciling the world in Christ?

Like the New Testament, the Porvoo agreement speaks of the reconciliation of humankind and of all creation. So it is fitting that following up the focus of our last issue of *Together* on Caring for Creation, and shortly before the COP 26 international conference on climate change, we can publish in this issue the newly agreed Chaplaincy Environment Policy. This is the fruit of engaged discussion in our congregations and at Chaplaincy Council, with the valued support of an Environment Working Group formed for this purpose. But the intention of our Environment Policy, like that of the Porvoo Agreement, is to encourage us in practical ways to faithful Christian discipleship in our particular time and place.

As ever, we are grateful to all the contributors to *Together*, including those sharing first-hand memories of when the Porvoo Agreement was originally signed. May we in our turn endeavour today to be rooted and built up together in Christ, and discover there a life of Communion ever deepening and abounding in thanksgiving.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal
Senior Chaplain*

Bergen notes

It's been a wonderful summer in Bergen with hybrid services, litter pickup days and wonderful weather to boot. However, our summer culminated with the much-anticipated ordination of Kirk to the priesthood, which has been the highlight of the autumn thus far.

It was with great joy and thankfulness we all arrived at Mariakirken on Sunday 26 September to celebrate at last the Ordination of our priest Kirk Weisz. The weather was kind to us and as Norway had opened up completely the day before, we found things so much easier than when we had to wear masks, keep a safe distance from one another and only converse outside the building. Although it took place in the church there still were cameras and microphones to transmit the service to anyone who for whatever reason could not attend in person. What a blessing Zoom has been to our congregation during the pandemic! In the Sacristy before the service, the registrar administered the Declaration of Assent, a legal requirement for the ordination of priests, deacons and bishops as required by the Church of England.

While the whole group of clergy, who had arrived from England, Europe and Norway, were preparing to join the procession, Roger Martin explained to the congregation what was going to happen. The procession, led by Eirik Duerr carrying the cross, slowly moved up the aisle to the altar while everyone sang a hymn, led by the organist of St Mary's Church, Karstein Askeland. Bishop David introduced the service, explaining that there are a variety of ministries in the church, and that Kirk had come to this special gathering to be ordained a priest in the Church of England.

Kirk was presented by Senior Chaplain Reverend Canon Joanna Udal to be ordained as an assistant curate serving in the Anglican Church in Norway. The New Testament reading was read by Lay Reader Iris Evans Bjørnø, the Gospel by Deacon Frances Hiller, and the sermon was preached by the Venerable Doctor Leslie Nathaniel, Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe. The declarations concerning all the promises expected of an ordinand were put to Kirk one by one, to which each answer was, 'By the help of God I will'. The congregation was then asked if they will continually pray for him, to which they all replied 'We will'. Then Kirk prostrated himself in front of the altar before the clergy sang *Veni Creator*, led by Bishop David. The Litany prayers were sung by the Deacon and the congregation responded to each with 'Lord have mercy'. During the Ordination Prayer, Kirk knelt in front of the Bishop and all the clergy laid their hands on his head while the Bishop prayed. Kirk was presented with a Bible and his palms were anointed with oil by Bishop David. Having received a very special welcome Kirk was then vested in the manner of a priest, having a special new robe placed on him.

Holy Communion then followed, in which the whole congregation was invited to participate. During this sharing of bread and wine, the choir sang. Finally the whole church assembly were sent out to proclaim God's Word and the organist played a postlude before everyone began to leave the church.

There was a reception at Meyermarken Bydelshus to which the congregation and clergy were all invited, celebrating Kirk's long-awaited ordination after numerous postponements because of the pandemic. There were lots of speeches and many presents, including a sou'wester, flowers, a gift voucher, three stoles and a stole hanger designed, made and embroidered by

Hilda Sefton. It was a most wonderful and meaningful evening, one for which we all thank God. It all seemed to come together – the weather, the relaxing of the restrictions (which we had never expected) and our love for this most unique man, who joined us as a member of our congregation years ago and now has become our spiritual leader and guide. May God bless him and his family.

*Iris Evans-Bjørnø
Bergen Lay Reader*

Trondheim notes

We have now pretty much settled into a service rota which seems to work tolerably well. We have a zoom service still once a month, for those further afield as well as local. We have a morning service in *Var Frue* once a month and every Sunday we have a service at six in the Cathedral, either in the Chapter House or the Cathedral itself. In the coming few months we will have a Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service and A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which will broaden our outreach a little as these services always attract those from the edges of church.

Our 'congregational demographic profile' – i.e., where those who come from! – has consistently been over 30, professional, often but not exclusively academic (as one of the congregation pointed out, we have a high percentage of PhDs in our pews) and predominantly male, which is unusual for any church gathering I think.

We have been also blessed with new faces among us and one familiar – but not old – one too. Torhild, once an ordinand sent from here to train in the UK and now a curate there, came over to visit. It was good to see her meet old friends and to share her hopes for when her curacy ends. Pilgrims to Trondheim have joined us from all over the world and it is a rich privilege to share worship with them. One of our previous younger members got confirmed in the Norwegian church this year – how amazing to see a young girl transform into a graceful young woman. Some of our services have been led by Peter our assistant churchwarden and by Susan, both with help from others doing intercessions and readings.

The coming seasons hold much promise. We have started a series of lectures drawing on the talents of our members. The Anglican Academy

Lectures will run every month for the next year and will showcase the various high-quality expertise we are blessed with here. I have to confess the idea is not mine but comes from two members of the congregation and readily taken up by a stunning array of brainy folk! The lectures are open to the public and in English and, as ever, we are grateful to the Church of Norway for the buildings we'll be using. We will also have a couple of 'Goods and Goodies' sales with homemade foods and crafts for sale. Our cake making skills are now famous Trondheim wide!

Slowly life seems to be back to almost normal here. We do as bidden by the cathedral regulations but these are now second nature to us all so are not onerous. We have had some sadnesses of course and these will continue as some of our folk have to leave Norway to find research work elsewhere, but we thrive, not just survive, and I believe that over and above all, Christ is glorified in words and actions. 'I do not call you servants but friends' said Jesus; how grand to be a friend of Christ, pulling together and more often than not in the same direction!!

*Revd Sheila Rosenthal
Trondheim Assistant Chaplain*

Stavanger notes

In celebrating the Porvoo Agreement, it warms our hearts here in Stavanger to think about the importance of inter-church collaboration. Our congregation has a long history of partnership with Stavanger Domkirke and St. Petri kirke, the local cathedral congregation. This partnership has evolved throughout the years, but is centered around a shared history of ministering to those in the city. Today, not only do we partner with the Cathedral for our annual Lessons and Carols service each December, but we will be returning to in-person services in the Domkirke community prayer house. We are excited for this next step in our journey as a congregation and the extending of our partnership with our local Norwegian Church cathedral.

Our ecumenical relationships extend beyond our relationship with Stavanger Domkirke. We are very fortunate to have as a part of our congregation Revd Geir Barlaup, who has taken the bulk of our services, in-person and virtual, over this past year. Revd Barlaup is a retired chaplain from the Norwegian military, achieved his doctorate last year, and is an avid

kayaker. Additionally, our interdenominational collaborations also include our continued and growing relationships with the other English-language congregations in the city: North Sea Baptist Church and Stavanger International Church. This past summer, we renewed our contribution to Vacation Bible School, led by North Sea. This saw 41 kids from ages 5 to 13 from across the region spend a week learning how they are priceless treasures to God. It was so exciting to be a part of this experience! We also look forward to inviting our partner churches, Domkirken, North Sea Baptist, and Stavanger International, along with several other key partners from across the city for our annual Lessons and Carol Service, which will be on 10 December at St. Petri Kirke, led by our very own senior chaplain, Rev. Joanna Udal.

*André Durham
Stavanger Congregational Worship Leader*

Oslo notes

What joy to welcome to St Edmund's on 26 September both those being baptised and confirmed and our bishop, David Hamid, the Suffragan Bishop for the Diocese in Europe, and his wife Colleen. The delay due to the pandemic restrictions meant the day was all the more eagerly awaited, and in the event it coincided with the lifting of national restrictions so we could welcome not only the candidates' families and friends from around the Norway but also all who turned up to church in person as well as the many who joined on Zoom.

We have been enjoying since June the partial lifting of restrictions which finally allowed the Senior Chaplain's official licensing to go ahead on 6 June. With the Archdeacon not yet allowed to enter Norway, the bishop appointed Chaplaincy Warden Terry Bevan as his Commissary to conduct the legal part of the service while Archdeacon Leslie Nathaniel preached online from Germany. The choir sang in St Edmund's while Chaplaincy representatives participated on Zoom from around Norway.

In July members of the choir contributed to a festive weekend of services in Balestrand as the Senior Chaplain resumed Anglican worship in English in St Olaf's Church. These were attended by both local residents and visitors, mostly this year from inside Norway, who were delighted to find such a gem of a church in active use.

These were the first regular Anglican services possible for two years. Meanwhile the local Church of Norway parish has done much to keep evening prayers and readings from the Gospel going in St Olaf's in Norwegian.

Oslo Kulturnatt on 17 September provided another fine opportunity to bring Anglican Choral Evensong at St Edmund's to a wider Norwegian public. This followed earlier very creative efforts by the choir to rehearse online and outdoors before rehearsing was finally allowed in St Edmund's. Even then, considerable creativity was needed to cope with the competition from live music next door!

The Drammen Ladies' Guild resumed meeting on 23 September with a highly ecumenical occasion at Bragernes Church when following Midday Prayer led by the sokneprest, Per Erik Brodal, the Senior Chaplain was invited to celebrate Holy Communion at the high altar. Many thanksgivings for at last being able to gather and pray together in person and for the delicious shared lunch we enjoyed afterwards.

More locally to St Edmund's, friendship with our Porvoo partners – the Swedish, Finnish and Latvian churches and the Oslo Trefoldighetskirke of the Church of Norway – provides an excellent basis for wider ecumenical cooperation, such as for the Global Week service being prepared for 17 November with a focus on Modern Slavery at Trefoldighetskirken. This could also give the opportunity to share our special services with one another more widely, whether Choral Evensong or One World Prayers such as our recent Vigil of Prayer and Reflection for Haiti and Afghanistan.

Many thanksgivings for all these new openings after so long, and praying for the opportunities ahead.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal
Oslo Chaplain*

Living the Porvoo Agreement

Joanna has asked me (a former Anglican Chaplain in Norway) to recall some memories and reflect on the Porvoo Agreement, so this is by its nature a very personal, autobiographical article.

Dnk, the Lutheran Church in Norway, became a second spiritual home for me long before the Agreement was signed because I had married a Norwegian in Stavanger Cathedral's *Bispekapell* in 1960, and 1962–64 we lived and worked in

Sand i Ryfylke, where Olaug was their first *helsesøster* and I was a locum teacher at the local *folkehøyskole*. We naturally worshipped each Sunday in the Lutheran parish church, though, after I was licensed as a Reader in the Church of England, we took the ferry once a month into Stavanger, where I officiated at Evensong in *Bispekapellet* and helped nurture a small expatriate Anglican congregation with Bishop Fridjov Birkeli's active encouragement.

I was ordained in 1966 in Carlisle and whilst still just a curate was asked to help set up a youth exchange programme with a Norwegian diocese, and I naturally turned to Bishop Birkeli for his support which he gave readily. Later that grew into a formal 'Partners in Mission' relationship between the two dioceses: a foretaste of Porvoo. Years later, with the help of Ola Rypdal, the Chair of *Dnk's Presteforening*, who had helped set up the Youth Exchange programme in 1968, I spent a month's sabbatical leave visiting parishes in Norway to see how they prepared people for Baptism and Confirmation, and we reciprocated by hosting a number of Norwegian clerics who came to England on sabbatical to observe how the C of E ministered to the nation. So, when the Porvoo Agreement was wending its way through the Church of England's synodical process in the 1990s I was naturally an enthusiastic and vocal supporter of it and voted for its approval in General Synod.

In the summer of 1996, at the invitation of Bishop Bjorn Bue, I was temporarily seconded from Carlisle to the Diocese of Stavanger where I was appointed *Stiftskapellan* to minister at *Utstein Kloster*. I only discovered after the licensing in the Abbey, when I was interviewed by newspaper and TV reporters who had come to witness the event, what an historic occasion this was: the first time since the Reformation that a non-Lutheran priest had been licensed for ministry in *Dnk*, and the interview was shown on prime time news that evening. The Bishop had pre-empted Porvoo by several months and, after the signing of the Agreement in Nidaros Cathedral which I attended, he invited me to speak at his diocesan celebrations about Anglican church life and spirituality.

In January 1997, Bishop John Hind licensed me in St Edmund's to minister to the Anglican congregations in Norway and Bishop Andreas Aarflot gave me his license to minister in Lutheran churches too. That was an early historic

'1st' implementation of the Agreement, and in the years that followed I was privileged to preach and minister in several parish churches and cathedrals, and once at the annual pilgrimage to the site of St Sunniva's monastic foundation. Shortly after my licensing, the Dean of Oslo (whom I had met socially at a dinner party hosted by Ola and Marit Rypdal) invited me to become a member of his deanery clergy chapter. In the months that followed, I met with the same welcome, encouragement and support from Lutheran church leaders in Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim where we had Anglican congregations meeting regularly for worship, and doing it in Lutheran churches. The use of their buildings pre-dated Porvoo but the Agreement facilitated even closer working relationships, and that was seen in the number of Lutheran clergy who applied for and were granted 'Permission to Officiate' at Anglican services by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Dean of Nidaros, Knut Andresen, was one of the first to be so licensed.

The reality of the Agreement was seen in such historic, high-profile '1st's as Mary Strømmen's Ordination to the Diaconate in Nidaros Cathedral, which Bishop Finn Wagle ministered using the Anglican rite. A year later, she was ordained Priest in Canterbury Cathedral by Archbishop Rowan Williams, and Knut and I were privileged to share with him in the 'laying on of hands'. Another such '1st' in the Anglican Diocese in Europe was when Bishop Gunnar Stålsett ministered the Anglican rite of Confirmation in St Edmund's Oslo.

We really were partners in mission and ministry now. That was reflected synodically for me personally by my being appointed to the national Council of Churches in Norway and to the Nordic Council, and by being invited as a guest observer at *Dnk's* national synod meetings. I also served as one of the C of E's two members of the Porvoo Contact Group which met annually to monitor the progressive implementation of the Agreement in each signatory's home country, encouraged new initiatives, and planned and prepared for future meetings of Porvoo church leaders. This Agreement was an historic event but it was also an ongoing, living, growing reality.

I am sure future church historians will judge the Porvoo Agreement to have been one of the greatest ecumenical achievements of the 20th century. What a privilege it was for all of us in

the various Anglican congregations in Norway to have shared in its early implementation, and for me personally to have made so many new friends in *Dnk* and in the other Nordic and Baltic Lutheran churches. And it is you, today's generation, who have that same joy and privilege of sharing in worship and proclaiming the Gospel along with our Norwegian Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ.

*The Revd Canon Dr Trevor Park MBE
former Norway Senior Chaplain*



Porvoo – Memories and Reflections, 25 years on

I was one of the lucky ones able to be present at the signing of the Porvoo agreement in Trondheim in September 1996. When I think back, three memories stand out.

Firstly, a large group of (mainly) women from the local Anglican community working hard in a kitchen to provide a buffet lunch for an unknown quantity of ecclesiastical visitors from different parts of the British Isles and beyond. The familiar fearful feeling of aiming to feed the five thousand, followed by the familiar feeling of faith rewarded as (50 or so?) people tucked in, filled the room with lively conversation and expressed good cheer and appreciation.

Secondly, the service itself in a packed Nidaros Cathedral. We local Anglicans had ringside seats as spectators and participants in worship, but no responsibility for proceedings. They were in the hands of the Dean, the Cathedral staff, the Bishops and Archbishops and their associated dignitaries. The opening procession was a mighty and colourful affair which seemed to go on for ever. Robes of many colours, mitres or no mitres, guessing who were the Anglicans and who the Lutherans, beginning to feel overawed by the music, the setting and the splendour of the event. Later, the long solemnity of the signing of the documents which publicly confirmed the wish and the intention to work together in visible unity.

Thirdly, the sermon given by the then Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Richard Holloway. This woke us all up and perhaps pricked a little hole in the temptation towards too much pomp and circumstance. He spoke of

All service details are subject to change

			Oslo		Bergen		Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim	
OCTOBER												
Sun	03	Trinity 18	11:00	All Age Service/ Harvest Festival	11:00	Holy Communion Harvest Festival	Hebrews 1.1-4,2.5-12 Mark 10.2-16	10:30	Service of the Word	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	10	Trinity 19	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	Hebrews 4.12-end Mark 10.17-31	10:30	Cafe Church Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Vår Frue Worship Evening prayer Chapter House	
Sun	17	Trinity 20	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Cathedral Holy Communion	
Sun	24	Last after Trinity	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 7.23-end Mark 10.46-end	11:00	Joint service with others	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	31	All Saints Day	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Revelation 21.1-6a John 11.32-44		No service	11:00	Fjellseter Chapel Harvest All Saints	
NOVEMBER												
Sun	07	3 before Advent	11:00	All Age Service	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 9.24-end Mark 1.14-20	10:30	Service of the Word Zoom	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	14	2 before Advent	11:00	Remembrance	10:30	Service of the Word Remembrance	Hebrews 10.11-25 Mark 13.1-8	10:30	Remembrance Sola/Eiganes	10:30	Remembrance Stavne War Cemetery	
Sun	21	Christ the King	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Revelation 1.4b-8 John 18.33-37	10:30	Cafe church Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral	
Tue	28	Advent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Jeremiah 33.14-16 Luke 21.25-36	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
DECEMBER												
Sun	05	Advent 2	11:00	All Age Service	11:00	Holy Communion	Malachai 3.1-4 Luke 3.1-6	10:30	Fam Comm/Christingle Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	12	Advent 3	11:00 18:00	Sung Communion Carol Service	11:00	Holy Communion	Zephania 3.14-end Luke 3.7-18	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Worship Vår Frue Evensong Chapter House	
Sun	19	Advent 4	11:00	Sung Communion	18:00	Carol Service	Micah 5.2-5a Luke 1.39-55	11:00	Join another congregation on zoom	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral	
Sat	25	Christmas Day	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-20	10:30	Christmas Day Menighetshuset	TBA	TBA	
Sun	26	Christmas 1	11:00	Sung Communion		No service	1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 Luke 2.41-52		No service	TBA	TBA	
JANUARY												
Sun	02	Epiphany	11:00	All Age Service	11:00	Service of the Word	Isaiah 60.1-6 Mathew 2.1-12	10:30	TBA	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	09	Baptism of Christ	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 43.1-7 Luke 3.15-17,21-22	10:30	Family Communion TBA	11:00 18:00	Worship Vår Frue Evensong Chapter House	
Sun	16	Epiphany 2	18:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 62.1-5 John 2.1-11		Service of the Word Zoom	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral	
Sun	23	Epiphany 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6, 8-10 Luke 4.11-21	10:30	Cafe Church	11:00 18:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	
Sun	30	Epiphany 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 43.27 - 44.4 Luke 2.22-40		No service	11:00 8:00	Zoom Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House	

the need for Anglicans to learn from the Lutheran emphasis on a theology of grace. He suggested that at a forthcoming visit of the assembled bishops and church leaders to London, those who had mitres might consider throwing them into the River Thames! It was a radical reminder that our signed togetherness wasn't meant to be about guarding a status quo, but about growing together into a new future.

If I could summarize those three memories under the three p's of *provision, performance and provocation*, perhaps I could also summarize some of the on-going results of that day under the heading of three r's.

Recognition. Our small and fragile local Anglican congregation suddenly felt *seen* in the bigger scheme of things. We were not just a group of assorted foreigners trying to carry on worship and fellowship in a language and a custom that happened to suit us, but we belonged to a much larger and older tradition called Anglicanism, with all its accumulated strengths and weaknesses. Theology made an impact.

Relationship. Trondheim Anglicans had received friendship and hospitality from the Lutheran church long before the Porvoo agreement, but now we were in a publicly celebrated and official family relationship. It was like a wedding where the vows had been made. We were no longer just living together.

Responsibility. The first two r's quickly lead on to the third. It was strongly emphasised on the day that the Porvoo agreement shouldn't remain only a signed piece of paper. If we had recognised that we were in relationship, we could not ignore each other. We must want the best for each other and find out how we can make our particular contributions, while

acknowledging our individual differences and limitations.

In Trondheim there have been many examples of warm and practical cooperation over the years since then. I personally benefited greatly from the relationship during my time as local priest. If I have one regret, it's that the ecumenical movement doesn't seem to have moved much further since then. The world is full of people who are neither Anglicans nor Lutherans, but who share our common Christian faith and witness! But we all have to keep working at improving things!

Revd Mary Strømmen, Trondheim

A service to commemorate the signing of the Porvoo declaration

Sunday 12 September and once again the mighty cathedral in Trondheim is host to people and clergy to celebrate signing of the Porvoo agreement. Some of our congregation were at the first service in 1996 and the second picture here shows some of the clergy who took part then. The picture below is from this year and, if you peer closely, you can see Joanna and myself either side of the Danish priest in black robes and ruff collar. This year's order of service followed a pattern very similar to the first service with prayers and hymns in the languages of the participants present – Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish and English. Anyone attending the service in 1996 would have probably found the 2021 service very similar.

A super aspect of the service was the sharing of communion in both kinds with wine being poured from huge chalices into small single use cups – that the '96 congregation would not



have recognised but times change and the cathedral have risen to the needs of the times so as to offer the sacraments in both kinds. The choir sang amazingly well and the whole service was carried off with dignity and appropriate ceremony without too much pomp!

After the service there was coffee and cake in the Archbishop's Palace hall. Covid regulations restricted the numbers but it was a convivial time. After coffee there was a panel of speakers – of which Joanna was one. The meaning of Porvoo as it affects us now was discussed and some theological banter ensued about deacons and priests and the way forward. I rather imagine the 1996 audience would have found similarities with this too. As ever with such panel discussions there wasn't enough time to ask and answer all the points raised or brewing but the melee afterwards was indicative of contacts being made and thoughts being 'thunk'.

Because of Covid or perhaps because of other factors, the whole day was rather low key perhaps in comparison with the high hopes of a ¼ century ago. The world has had a lot of corners rubbed and bruised since then and different realities present themselves which outweigh the concerns of what different Churches agree to do with their respective theologies. Nevertheless we Anglicans do benefit from Porvoo, in the sharing of buildings and facilities but more especially in the making of friends in faith. I was curious to learn that an early Anglican priest in Oslo, Trevor Park, was also a licensed in the Church of Norway. Maybe this is where our future lies, sharing ministry as well as premises?

*Revd Sheila Rosenthal,
Trondheim Assistant Chaplain*

PORVOO at 25 – a common vision for the Church

The wide-reaching ecumenical co-operation we enjoy with the Church of Norway is very much the fruit of the Common Statement agreed between national Anglican and Lutheran Churches in Northern and Western Europe 25 years ago. Named after the cathedral city of Porvoo in Finland where the discussions were concluded, this agreement on the nature of the church and its faith and doctrine has made possible a relationship of full communion between our churches. This is very much something to be celebrated! One important consequence has been the possibility to share in ministry in our different churches.

In November 2020, the Church of England's Council for Unity brought together some of its best-known ecumenical thinkers to mark this important anniversary, including Mary Tanner, who formerly served as a president of the World Council of Churches. This online Symposium reflected on some of the key issues involved.

One significant challenge addressed by the Porvoo agreement was how to demonstrate continuity in the succession of ministry, particularly of bishops, from the early Church, as a sign of a church's authenticity and faithfulness (termed *apostolic succession*). One helpful theological insight (from the Niagara Anglican-Lutheran Report) has been to focus on this sign being of God's fidelity to the Church rather than vice versa. In view of complex historical situations at the time of the Reformation, Mary Tanner urged mutual generosity in recognising apostolic succession in the ministry of each



other's churches, while working towards a single reconciled ministry. Apostolic succession should not be viewed in isolation but within the wider context of the church's mission and theology. Bishop Christopher Hill suggested wider reflection with the Roman Catholic Church and other church partners in Europe under the Meissen and Reuilly ecumenical agreements could help everyone make progress on this question.

Bishop John Hind urged more reflection on what structures were needed for common decision making and greater accountability among the Porvoo churches on questions of faith and order. Also the aspect of primacy has yet to be addressed. A further challenge identified by Mary Tanner was how to enable the Porvoo churches to engage not only together but also in a co-ordinated way with global structures such as with the Anglican Communion or Lutheran World Federation.

This anniversary in 2021 presents us all a fine opportunity to reflect on how God has blessed our churches through the Porvoo Agreement and how God calls us to deepen our unity and common mission. What gifts can we share with and receive from each other as we journey together? And how better may our united witness offer faith, hope and love to the world?

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Season of Creation celebrated as Chaplaincy agrees Environment Policy

Following our last issue of Together which focused on Caring for Creation, a Chaplaincy Environment Policy has now been unanimously adopted for the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway by our Chaplaincy Council. This is intended to help and encourage us in the light of our faith to play our part collectively and as individuals in response to the environment crises facing the world. The full text is given below.

Our first Chaplaincy-wide celebration for the Season of Creation was also held online on Sunday 12 September using an ecumenical prayer service prepared with insights and materials from indigenous peoples around the world.

A Prayer for the Environment

Almighty God,
Give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Environment Policy for the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

Caring for God's Creation is an essential element of our Christian discipleship and witness. Aware that the need to address threats to the environment is more pressing than ever, we commit ourselves as Chaplaincy and congregations, and encourage at an individual level to the following:

1. We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects.
2. We will seek to identify environment issues in our chaplaincy and individual congregations, and devise appropriate action on them.
3. Where possible we will undertake an 'environmental audit' of the premises and property we use and devise appropriate plans to care for the most significant aspects of the natural world which are our responsibility. Specifically, we will make an energy audit at least every three years and seek to save energy, wherever possible.
4. We will work with others and support the work of local and national environmental organizations, as appropriate. We will listen to the concerns of young people and encourage their efforts to protect the environment.
5. We will encourage the Chaplaincy Council and our architects and contractors to take environmental concerns fully into account in repair and construction work.
6. We will include environmental concerns in our prayer, worship and teaching, especially observing the period of Creation Time between 1 September and the second Sunday in October, each year.
7. We will invite our members to consider their personal impact on the environment in their daily lives.
8. We will consider our mode and frequency of travel in order to contribute to a reduction in our carbon footprint.
9. We will endeavour to be responsible consumers and to minimise and recycle waste, consciously adopting the practice of **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** in our consumption.
10. We will encourage and work with our Chaplaincy environment officer and team.

Litter-picking in Bergen 2021

The Bergen church committee has determined that the proceeds of the 2021 litter-picking will be divided between two projects.

St Luke Church, Muni, Uganda – 15 000 NOK

This project, a new building for the home church of Molly Rydstrom, an active member of the Bergen congregation and a member of the Bergen church committee, is already underway and is supported by others in Uganda. We expect to continue to support this project in coming years, and are very fortunate that Molly will be able to keep us updated as to its progress.

Local environmental ministry – 10 000 NOK

In response to the pressing ecological concerns facing our planet, a chaplaincy-wide working group has been established, and Bergen is fortunate that Janine Wardius is willing to represent the congregation on the committee. The litter-picking project is in itself a contribution to the local environment, but the proceeds from our participation should give us a good financial basis on which to direct our resources towards improving our impact on the environment.

*Barbara McIntosh
Bergen Churchwarden*

What is something positive that the global pandemic has given us?

There are several answers, such as an uptake in bread making, completing little jobs at home that had been put off for years or finally reading all the books in your home that have been collecting dust.

Now don't get me wrong, the pandemic has also been a horrible experience, with depression at an all time high, economic insecurity and relationships tested to the brink and back. Some wish that these past 18 months never happened.

On the other hand, I believe I have found a positive, a light, if you will, in the darkness that has been the pandemic. I never thought I would say it but attending online church has become that thing I look forward to each week. That hour of calm. That hour of fellowship. That moment when a hymn is played and fills one with warm and fuzzy memories of happier times. One hymn was played, which we sang both at my wedding and my child's christening. I hadn't thought of or heard it in many, many years, yet I was instantly brought back to the sights and sounds of those moments of joy and delight, celebrating with loved ones and creating memories.



Proposal for expansion and re-modelling of St Luke's Church Muni, Arua City, Uganda



At one time, my family was incredibly active in the church. We attended regularly, participated in all the activities and taught Sunday School. Then our children started arriving. We moved far from our beloved community and never really settled in a church in our new area. It has been ten years since we officially left Stavanger. Yet, here we are, 2021 and sitting in the comfort of our house out in the woods of Hedmark, listening to the wise comforting sermons and watching old friends far away singing along to familiar hymns.

We have a son with special needs, making it difficult to attend church services at times. We struggled to get our brood out the door to drive to church on time. We struggled to get them to sit still and allow us to listen to the service. Often, one of us would have inevitably had to leave to take a child out as they were too disruptive. For the past 18 months, that has all changed. All those worries and angst have been forgotten. I have, at times, woken up five minutes before a service has begun. No one can see me. Thus, they are not fussed if I am loading the dishwasher or changing a nappy during the liturgy. Instead, I have sat many a time in my pyjamas with my children, chatting away, eating, or drawing on my walls as I listen along with my fabulous noise cancelling headphones to a plethora of church services.

This past Easter was by far my most thrilling one. I made it a plan to 'watch' church on different continents. With many thanks to Facebook and YouTube, we greeted the day by watching the service from Sydney, Australia. I had never watched a church service from Australia, and I marvelled at the familiar and yet enjoyed marking the distinctions as well. We moved on to breakfast whilst listening to a service from Hong Kong. I peeled carrots and prepared the roasted veg whilst watching a service from Jerusalem. The highlight was watching mass from New York, online for the first time. Things went wrong but still we rejoiced in the glorious refrain He has risen! He has risen indeed!

Some might say that online church takes us away from what the faith is about, coming together, praying together, and singing next to each other and building a community together. I beg to differ. The concept of online church has allowed many who have felt unwelcome at times to feel a part of a community again. Online church has allowed us to be apart, yet together: across continents, countries, and

towns. For the past few weeks, we have been back at Bethel, visiting with and watching old friends online and listening to beloved hymns. It has been such a fantastic opportunity to spend time with old friends and enjoy fellowship, although we are very far apart. I might not be grateful for the pandemic, but I am thankful for the online worship that brought the church back into my life and the lives of my family. Blessings,

Gwynne Rasen

'remote' member of Stavanger Congregation

Confirmations: a great day in our faith journeys

Great joy and celebrations on Sunday 26 September as our eleven candidates from around the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway were confirmed and one also baptised in St Edmund's Church, Oslo, by Bishop David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese in Europe. Families and friends gathered in prayer and praise in what also coincided with the relaxing of national COVID restrictions.

Confirmation preparation had been started online in January in faith amid considerable uncertainty, but the online sessions opened up access and allowed participation from far distant parts of the country. Some of the young candidates travelled to meet each other for a pre-Confirmation weekend in Western Norway



in early September, while others only finally met each other in person at the rehearsal and tea the afternoon before the Confirmation itself. Both occasions provided a fine opportunity get acquainted and to learn music from different parts of the world reflecting the varied background of our candidates.

It's been a great joy to accompany those newly confirmed at such an important moment in their lives. Our journey has been greatly enriched by members of our Chaplaincy from different walks of life who have shared how their faith connects with their lives. And our helpers

throughout the programme have been a great asset – somewhat remarkable to discover amongst them both a space-physicist and an astro-physicist. What better evidence that science and faith can go together!



Upcoming events



Helsinki

8–10 Oct: Deanery Synod

Oslo

Wed 17 Nov: Global Week Service on *Modern Slavery*, Trefoldighetskirken, 18:00

Sun 12 Dec: Carol service, St Edmund's, 18:00

Bergen

Sat 18 Dec: Carol singing, Korskirken, 15:00

Sun 19 Dec: Carol service, Mariakirken, 18:00

Drammen

Tue 7 Dec: Carol service, Bragemes Church, 18:00

Kristiansand

Thu 9 Dec: Carol service, Oddemes Church, 18:00

Tromsø

Fri 17 Dec: Carol service, Elverhøy Church, 18:00

Stavanger

Fri 10 Dec: Carol service, St Petri Church, 18:00



After the licensing of Revd Canon Joanna Udal
as Senior Chaplain on 6 June 2021

From the registers

BAPTISM



Tobenna Lemuel Agbalakwe

St Edmund's Church, Oslo

25 July 2021

CONFIRMATIONS



Nigel Mwambingu, Bergen

Jessica Laubscher, Bergen

Morrigan Irwin, Kristiansand

Jodi Hudson, Oslo

Tristan Larsen, Oslo

Laurel Mittenthal, Oslo

Patricia Cove, Tønsberg

Daba Briggs, Stavanger

Tonye Briggs, Stavanger

Ingun Roberts, Stavanger

Nadia Giske, Ålesund (also baptised)

St Edmund's Church, Oslo

26 September 2021

by Bishop David Hamid

DEATHS



of faithful church members

Malcolm Bullock

29 June 2021

Drammen

Geraldine Harcourt

16 July 2021

Oslo

Carlyn Florencia Wahani

March 2021

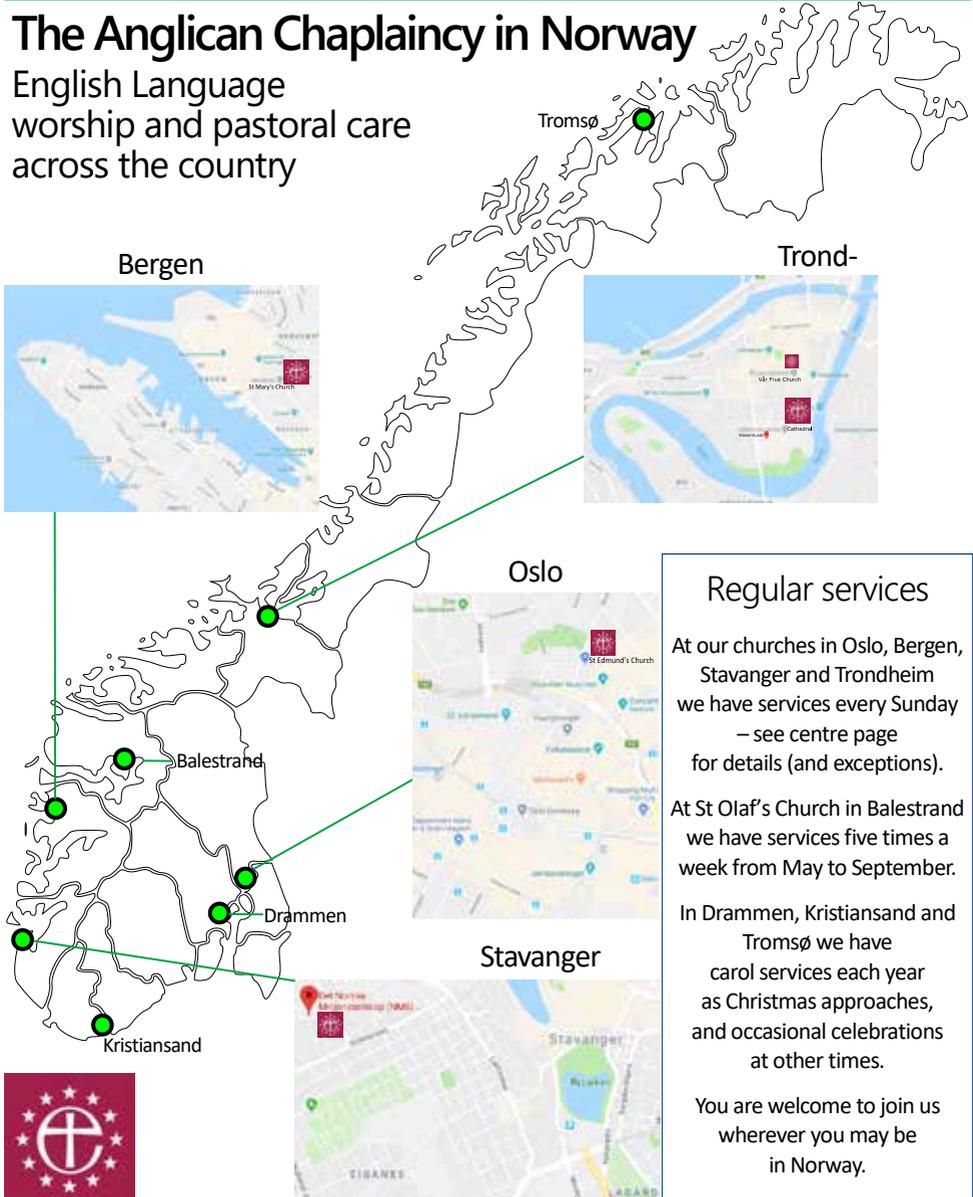
Stavanger



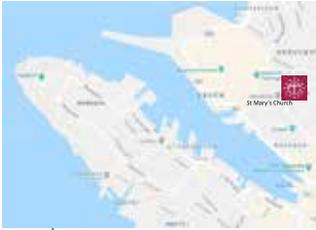
Retur: British Embassy,
Postbox 4005 AMB,
0244 Oslo

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

English Language
worship and pastoral care
across the country



Bergen



Trond-



Oslo



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.

Stavanger

