

TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

OCTOBER 2023— JANUARY 2024



The theme of this issue is:
'Wholeness, healing, and holiday'

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From the Senior Chaplain

“Wilt thou be made whole?” Jesus asks the paralysed man beside the pool by the Sheep Gate, or in the NRSV translation rather than King James version, “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5.6)

Jesus’ question resonates for many of us and with our longing for wholeness. The Greek word translated well can also be translated as whole, sound or healthy. We find in St John’s Gospel and in all the Gospels that Jesus is concerned for wholeness, wellness and healing. So we take as our theme for this issue of Together, Wholeness, healing and holiday, looking at the connection between these and with God’s gift of life and wholeness to us in Christ and through our reconciliation in him.

As well as news around the Chaplaincy including our Creationtide focus on the wholeness and healing of the earth, our contributors look at the significance of sharing food together for our fellowship, the importance of holiday and rest for our wholeness, and the healing which can come through forgiveness and reconciliation. Pia Lane also introduces us to the importance of Norway’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission for all aspects of our Church life.

This longing for wholeness comes across movingly in a poem from a young soldier, Charles Hamilton Sorley, who died aged twenty in the 1st World War. His words are adapted to become a prayer by the composer Charles Wood in a beautiful musical setting entitled *Expectans, expectavi* (I waited for the Lord):

*This sanctuary of my soul
Unwitting I keep white and whole,
Unlatched and lit, if Thou should’st care
To enter or to tarry there.
With parted lips and outstretched hands
And listening ears Thy servant stands,
Call Thou early, call Thou late,
To Thy great service dedicate.
My soul keep white and whole.*

May wholeness, healing and holiday help us all in our dedication to God’s great service.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Bergen notes

This past summer could be characterised by many important and fruitful times of coming together in

worship and fellowship. The Whit Monday Ecu-
menical Pentecost service was greatly enhanced
this year thanks to the leadership of the Norwe-
gian Christian Council and KIA (Christian Inter-
cultural Work) who were involved for the first time. It
was a Holy Spirit filled gathering that included
participation from a variety of different denomina-
tions, music from the Salvation Army, a fantastic
Ukrainian choir, and inspired preaching from Salt
Church, Bergen. Due to very rainy weather, the
service took place in Mariakirken this year, and for
the very first time ever, we all gathered together in
Mariastuen afterwards for a time of fellowship,
which included a fabulous cake provided by KIA. As
we moved into the summer months, our congre-
gation had a wonderful coming together at long-
time member Paddy Hanevik’s home for our sum-
mer garden party. We had a great turn out with
delicious food, fun lawn games, and fantastic
weather!



Garden Party (left) Harvest festival (right)

Our Sunday services throughout the summer were also a faithful coming together of people from every continent, with the exception of Antarctica, to worship with us in Mariakirken. The summer is such an exciting time for us as attendance numbers increase dramatically and we have the neat opportunity to connect with a really diverse group of visitors at our coffee hour fellowship. Many thanks to Rev’d Dr. Deborah Chapman (Barcelona) and lay readers Susan Boyd (Trondheim) and Iris Evans-Bjørnø (Bergen) for providing cover during July. During the first week of July, I was put on placement at St. Alfge Anglican Church in Greenwich, London. It was an interesting and helpful learning experience for me to be a part of busy London parish. Many insights and new friendships were gained and I am very grateful for the experience.

The conclusion of the summer had a couple of neat happenings as well. After a seven year journey of discernment, education, re-ordination and curacy training, I was finally licensed as the assistant chaplain for the Bergen congregation! This was a significant milestone in my transition to Norway and into the Church of England. It was a beautiful licensing service at St Edmund's and I was pleased to be given the opportunity to preach at the service and to share my gratitude for all the support, love and encouragement that has been shown to me over the years. Thanks again!

As we moved into the autumn, we had one of our best Harvest Festival Sundays in recent memory. We had a tremendous turn out with many newcomers, Erasmus students, and not least long-time members taking part. Members also gave greatly our their abundance with lots of food donations that were then given to the Robin Hood House in Bergen. We also had one of the most boisterous and competitive Beetle Drive fundraisers I can remember. The proceeds going to a mission project that we support at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Muni, Uganda.

It is incredible how quickly Advent begins to draw near once we move into the autumn. Our Christmas choir will begin practicing in mid-October and dates are set for our services of Nine Lessons and Carols. This year, our Saturday 16 December service at (15:00) will be held in St. Jakobs Kirke rather than Korskirken. Korskirken is currently closed due to a major revocation project that is taking place inside. We look forward to being back there in 2024. Our Sunday 17 December carol service remains in Mariakirken at (18:00). We are very pleased to bring back the Christmas Raffle after the service, and we will come together on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Lord with a service of Holy Communion at 11:00 in Mariakirken.

Rev'd Dr Kirk Weisz, Bergen Assistant Chaplain

Stavanger notes

As the Stavanger Anglican congregation moves into its fifth autumn of interregnum, there is a strong indication that the pastor's position will be filled by the end of 2023. Watch this space!

Our Annual General Meeting followed the Sunday service on 11 th June, and happily coincided with a visit from Senior Chaplain Joanna. This prompted us to organise a post-AGM potluck

lunch (no surprise there). Joanna, combined with the promise of food, drew enough folk to have the required quorum for the validation of elections. Nevertheless, the patience of a hungry congregation wore thin quite early on in the meeting. Grumblings could be heard from both mouths and stomachs and stage whispers of "hurry up" were distinct. This eagerness to move towards the table ended up being rather positive as people who may have thought twice about being elected agreed in order to precipitate events and pass on to the lunch element of the day. One could say that it was a win-win and a best practice for our AGM next year!

We now have a new point of contact for safeguarding and the environment, and a new committee member. All those present were encouraged to continue to get involved and to seriously consider an elected role next year. The Stavanger Anglicans traditionally take a pause in July and this meant that we needed to bid farewell to those who would be leaving us during our summer break. As the other Chaplaincy congregations will know, an international congregation is a marvellous thing in so many respects. However, it also means that we say goodbye to people more regularly than we would wish. Felix and Anita, two Malawian students, returned home this year. Tyesha and Andy (Doctor Andy, as he recently successfully defended his PhD thesis), have moved for professional reasons to the Middle East. Cath, Ian and family have returned to Scotland. Jane and John have temporarily relocated to Tromsø, also for professional reasons. (They promise that this is just for one academic year, but if there is even the slightest inkling of an extension, we will send a contingent of heavies up to bring them back.) We are sad to say goodbye to those who have become such active and loved members of our community, but also hope that as they join another congregation they will take something of the Stavanger Anglicans with them, and recommend us to future visitors.

Of course, the nature of our community also means that we welcome newcomers quite regularly. This year has been no exception, but we are yet to break even!

Before the start of the school year, the North Sea Baptists held their annual Vacation Bible School. Jo White repeated her involvement of the past two years thereby continuing the Anglican cooperation

with NSB that André had initiated.

Our return to worship at Domkirke and St Petri menighetshuset in August started with a Family Communion led by Rev'd Morten, our favourite Nord-Odal priest! Despite the fact that a pair of rather stylish patent loafers with golden heels were peeking out from beneath Morten's cassock, we managed to concentrate on his sermon - a testament to the content and delivery of the sermon as the shoes were fierce competition. (These loafers are definitely a talking point and it is worth asking Morten how it was he came to buy them.)



The shoes!

We continue to be taken care of by our much-loved Rev'd Geir, without whom over the past few years, we would often have been (or at least felt like), lost lambs. As Geir is a very popular with many congregations in the wider Stavanger area, we always strive to be the first to get our dates in his diary!

Jane (travelling from Tromsø), Mark and Juliet (dual-hatted as she is also one of the Chaplaincy wardens), represented the Stavanger Congregation at the Chaplaincy Council Meeting held in Oslo early September. Feedback was that it was very beneficial for the Council to meet in person and that the programme was busy, and inspiring. Warm thanks go to the Oslo congregation for hosting guests in their homes.

Those who were able to join via Zoom, enjoyed the all-Chaplaincy service on the Sunday following the CCM. Highlights of the service (for me, joining from Edinburgh), were Kirk's licensing, his sermon and the offerings to Kirk from members of the different Chaplaincy congregations.

The Anglicans were invited to the Stavanger International Church's service and day out (BBQ and shared lunch) on the second Sunday of September. A small representation of the congregation attended the service and immediately felt welcomed by the congregation and pastors, many of

whom we know from other annual or joint events. It is truly wonderful to witness how others worship and to feel at home with them, whether the format and liturgy are familiar or not.

Sarah Denieul, Stavanger

Trondheim notes

The last quarter of the year has been a tad strange for all of us here as a variety of clergy and lay covered for me whilst I was on holiday and then after I broke my arm. So, thanks indeed to Mary Strommen, Torhild Fikseanet, Joanna, Susan, Logan and Priscilla plus cathedral staff for covering my chosen and forced absences during July through to September. The summer brought its usual round of multi-national pilgrims and tourists, many of whom actively seek out our English language service long in advance. Our youngest member, Elfie, is now beginning to walk (probably running by now!).

Our regular acts of worship were augmented by Messy Church which continues to attract a few but very happy youngsters learning about our faith.

We have had no one leave us for a while now, something to rejoice about, but in summer of course our regulars vanish to the hills or the beaches, even during St Olav-tide – as did I! So with a tolerably quiet summer behind us we now look forward to a more active lead-in to winter. There will be the regular annual sale at the end of November to raise funds, the carol service in the cathedral and an Advent course based on the theology of Christmas carols, exploring such things as the meanings of 'the branch of Jesse' and 'the Ancient of Days' or the 'Mystic Rose'. The annual Remembrance service and our Creation tide service at Fjellseter are also, as ever, on the agenda of services.

We will have a new Dean, Kristin Moen Saxegard, in the cathedral to get to know having said a very fond farewell to Ragnhild Jepson just before Easter.

Rev'd Sheila Rosenthal, Trondheim Assistant Chaplain

Oslo notes

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness wrote the poet John Keats of autumn which, conspiring with the sun, was to load and bless with fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run. The fruits and changing foliage already herald the arrival of autumn and the celebration of harvest thanksgiving. This has been marked with festivity at St Edmund's with a beautifully decorated church and the choir's

joyful rendition of John Rutter's All things bright and beautiful at our Harvest Sung Eucharist, followed by a lively auction of harvest gifts in support of the Shearly Cripps Children's Home in Zimbabwe. Autumn has also been heralded by the annual September Oslo Kulturnatt and the St Edmund's contribution of a service of Choral Evensong. Wonderful to welcome a full church of those exploring the offerings of Kulturnatt and to have William Byrd's sublime motet Ave Verum Corpus included as the anthem in this 400th anniversary year of his death.

We have also enjoyed a Creationtide Forest Hike to mark the Season of Creation when an intrepid all-age party hiked from Frognerseteren to Vetakollen appreciating the riches of the forest flora and fauna along the way. We continue to be challenged over our care for creation and the part we can play as the impact of climate change is increasingly felt even at home. Like the extreme weather associated with Storm Hans which adversely affected many communities as well as causing serious travel disruption across the country.

Summer memories may be receding but we should not omit the fine summer party held inside St Edmund's crypt due to the intense heat wave which precluded beach outings or barbecues. A splendid buffet lunch was supplemented by artistic activities for all ages inspired by Sue Danielson. The works of art were then exhibited and auctioned off in support of the St Edmund's Crypt Appeal. The Crypt Appeal remains a fundraising priority, with one third of the total now raised but support is still much-needed in the form of grants and donations to enable the project to go ahead.

The St Edmund's Ladies' Guild enjoyed meeting at Paleet Bakery in June, while in Drammen the Ladies' Guild have met in June, August and September at Bragernes Church for midday prayer in Norwegian and Holy Communion in English, followed by fellowship over a shared lunch. Their next gathering will be 2nd November at 12 Noon to which all are welcome. We also enjoyed welcoming their longstanding friends from the Parish of St Peter's, Great Totham, in England to St Edmund's for the Kulturnatt Evensong.

Also before the summer holidays we were privileged to host an ecumenical prayer vigil for World Refugee Day at St Edmund's, part of a day of action arranged by the Norwegian Christian Council



Icelandic Violinist World Refugee Day

which included prayers, readings and music from the Icelandic congregation outside the Oslo City Hall and Stortinget. As the summer holidays drew to a close we again held One World Prayers, a vigil of prayer with a special focus on Afghanistan, Haiti, Yemen and Sudan.

Children's Church continues to be a blessing to our under 12s on two Sundays a month, while on the 1st Sunday of the month we have an All Age Service and on the 3rd Sunday CHOOM is offered (Children's Church on Zoom). We are very grateful to our helpers. We were sorry to bid farewell to Bethan, Peter and Rasmus and their families over the summer and wish them every blessing in their new homes. We look forward to welcoming new young participants.

Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal, Oslo Chaplain

A snapshot of our Chaplaincy Weekend

This was such an enriching and encouraging weekend and a wonderful opportunity to meet our fellow council members in person. Although we meet regularly via zoom, it was positive that we were able to socialize and get to know each in a totally different way. Who'd have thought that we would be celebrating a very flamboyant confirmation reception together on Saturday evening!

We were presented with a packed and highly loaded agenda for our meeting where we worked in small groups. The various topics that were discussed were all pointing to the direction on how the church can grow, how we can impact positively on peoples' lives as a church, Safeguarding, protecting the environment and how the church handles multicultural backgrounds and embracing diversity to name a few.

Racial justice was an important part of this weekend with a presentation from Dr Pia Lane on the mistreatment of the Norwegian Sami people which still carries on today. When discussing the role of the church in embracing diversity, we looked at the history of the church and how we must acknowledge the past and the role that the church and Christian organizations may have played in oppression. Actively working towards reconciliation with marginalized communities by engaging in meaningful dialogue, building relationships, and actively addressing the root causes of oppression. This must continue to be part of the development of our chaplaincy.

However, for us, one of the greatest parts of the event was the face-to-face meeting. We realized that there is a great difference between interacting through zoom and meeting physically. It greatly increased the relationship and bond and helped us get to know each other better which is also part of the church culture.

As it often is, food was a great contributor! Those who arrived on Friday night were all welcomed with a lovely dinner hosted by Joanna. Lunch on the Saturday was at a local Arabic café and then the finale was the Confirmation party of one of the members of St Edmund's. It was a very colorful and relaxing event and we were again provided with really good African food. On that note we will encourage more social events in the church, as in Stavanger, food certainly brings in the crowds!

Overall, the Chaplaincy Council meeting ended up being a great, interactive, and knowledgeable event. It was a weekend that will remain in our memories and this type of meeting should be greatly encouraged where possible. Many thanks to our hosts and all that made it worthwhile.

Juliet Chukwuma & Jane Todd, Stavanger



			Oslo			Bergen	
OCT							
Sun	01	Trinity 17	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	08	Trinity 18	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	15	Trinity 19	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	22	Trinity 20	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	29	Last after Trinity	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
NOV							
Sun	05	All saints	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	12	Remembrance w Act of Remembrance	11:00	Sung Communion	10:30 12:00	Remembrance Memorial Service	
Sun	19	2nd before advent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Baptism w Holy Communion	
Sun	26	Christ the King	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
DECE							
Sun	03	Advent 1	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	10	Advent 2	11:00 18:00	Sung Communion Carol Service	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sat	16				15:00	Carol Service, St Jakobi	
Sun	17	Advent 3	11:00	Sung Communion	18:00	Carol Service, Mariakirken	
Sat	23						
Sun	24	Advent 4	11:00	Sung Communion		No service	
Mon	25	Christmas	11:00	Sung Communion		Holy Communion	
Sun	31	Christmas 2	11:00	Sung Communion		Holy Communion	
JAN							
Sun	07	Baptism of Christ/Epiphany	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	14	Epiphany 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	21	Epiphany 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	28	Candlemas	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	

Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim	
OBER					
Philippians 2.1-13 Matthew 21.23-32	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00 18:00	No Service Said Communion Chapter House	
Philippians 3.5b-14 Matthew 21.33-end	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00 18:00	Creation tide celebration Fjellseter HC Chapter House	
Philippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Holy Communion/ Cathedral	
1 Thess 1.1-10 Matthew 22.15-22	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House	
1 Thess 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-end		No Service	18:00	Evensong Chapter House	
EMBER					
1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5.1-12	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00 18:00	All Saints Online Service HC Chapter House	
1 Thess 4.13-end Matthew 25.1-13	11:00 12:00	Remembrance Service	10:30 18:00	Service of remembrance War Grave Cemetery HC Chapter House	
1 Thess 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	10:30	Family Service	18:00	HC Cathedral	
Ephesians 1.15-end Matthew 25.31-end	10:30	Service of the Word/virtual	18:00	HC Chapter House	
EMBER					
Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13.24-end	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00 18:00	Online Service HC Chapter House	
Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8	10:30	Family Service/Christingle	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Isaiah 61.1-4,8-end John 1.6-8,19-28	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral	
	18:30	9 Lessons & Carols, St Petri			
2 Samuel 7.1-,16 Luke 1.26-38				No Service	
Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14[15-20]	10:30	Christmas Day Family Com- munion	11:00	HC Vår Frue	
Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Luke 2. 15-21		No service		HC Chapter House	
UARY					
Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12		TBC	18:00	HC Chapter House	
1 Samuel 3.1-10 John 1.43-end		TBC	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Genesis 14.17-20 John 2.1-11		TBC	18:00	HC Cathedral	
Deutrn 18.15-20 Mark 1.21-28		TBC	18:00	HC Chapter House	

Truth and reconciliation



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission outside Stortinget
(Image credit: Stortinget).

*Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation:
one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.*

This may be how we would like our Church to be, but the Church and Christian organisations have alas been tools for oppression and colonisation. This is also the case in Norway, where the Church partook in oppressive policies and injustices and now is in the process of working towards reconciliation and healing.

In June 2018 the Norwegian Parliament appointed the Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a parliamentary commission of inquiry, whose task was to investigate the Norwegianisation policy and other injustices against the Sámi, Kven/Norwegian Finns, and Forest Finns, examine the repercussions of the Norwegianisation policy today, and propose measures for further reconciliation. The Commission submitted its report to the Presidium of the Norwegian Parliament on June 1 2023. To mark this occasion, members of the Commission, politicians, artists, and individuals from all over Norway read the entire report aloud – cover to cover – on the main stage of the National Theatre. The event was broadcasted live by the Norwegian Broadcasting Cooperation.



The Presentation of the TRC Report in Stortinget
(Image credit: Stortinget).

The Norwegianisation policy was applied as follows:

- Norwegianisation policies gained a foothold during the last part of the 18th century.
- the goal of the Norwegianisation policy was for the Kven, Forest Finns and Sámi to choose one ethnic identity - the Norwegian one.
- the Norwegian authorities used a wide range of means to achieve this goal, including linguistic, cultural and material oppression, and making the groups invisible. These policies included:
- limiting the use of Sámi and Kven languages a range of social arenas, including the school and church
- building boarding schools for Kven and Sámi children
- using legislation targeting language to establish a Norwegian-speaking population in Northern Norway
- the educational system, the Church and religious organisations were used as tools to implement Norwegianisation policies and to expand the state
- Churches and school buildings were important symbolic and cultural fortifications.

Today there has been a reversal: the educational system and the Church are important arenas for the revitalisation of language and culture. Sámi

rights were enshrined in law from the late 1980s, and the Kven/Norwegian Finns and Forest Finns were recognized as national minorities in 1999. The report concludes that the visibility of indigenous peoples and national minorities is at the heart of reconciliation, and that their rights should be safeguarded so that both language and culture have opportunities for development. The will for reconciliation must be demonstrated in action, and those in positions of power have a particular responsibility.

How can international congregations contribute to healing and inclusion?

Oppressive policies and processes of colonialisation position others as different or inferior and thereby create hierarchies where some people or groups are perceived as better or more worthy than others. Some are positioned as 'Others' - those who are different from us. Reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel and the mission of the Church - reconciliation between God and humans, between humankind and the earth we inhabit, and between people. The church, and particularly international congregations, may contribute to reconciliation by breaking down the opposition between 'Us' and 'the Other', through respect and communication. The Anglican congregation in Norway is not English, Norwegian, Indian or Kenyan, but transcends these differences in unity or oneness. As the hymn declares: "one Lord, one faith, one birth". By our baptism and our belonging together, the "other" can no longer be regarded as other but part of the one community of God's Church.

Pia Lane, Oslo

Holidays—derived from Holy Days and the relationship between rest and work

the re-creative activity of play, the necessity of rest and its relationship to work and mental health. The importance or role of indulgence and abstinence, the bounty of giving and the grace of receiving, etc. etc...

When I was a curate my training incumbent tried to explain to me that clergy are allowed 1 day a week off on the ancient principle that God worked

6 days and rested on the 7th. I explained back that, as I was not God, I needed another day as well as the sacred 1 especially as I was married and had family commitments outside the insatiable needs of a very large city parish. It was not well received but it was implemented. Not being a single man as curates so often used to be, nor new to the work environment (i.e., too young to argue back, I was 49) plus coming from a profession where time worked over hours was either time off in lieu or paid, I was not easy to persuade of the authority of patriarchal tradition. I did not and do not keep a time sheet as an Anglican priest - but the Church of Norway priests that I know do. The old stick of 'you're doing God's work and you must obey the bishop' never cut any ice, not least as I once worked in a city where a CoFE bishop had been arrested for 'safeguarding issues'. There is a sometimes bullying relationship between duty and joy.

There are few of us who do not feel guilty at having 'just a little one then' when offered a one-too-many cake at church or some such. On these occasions I think it is my duty to resist temptation but rude to refuse a gift. But indulgence has a holy property to it. God indulges us with abundant forgiveness - at a price of course, the knob of the Christian faith, that Christ died for our sins, shows a willingness on God's part to proactively seek us out for forgiveness, literally amazing grace. We always make too much or too many for festive times, as God does when it comes to limitless everlasting love - there is more rejoicing in heaven over 1 sinner that repents...

There are times when abstinence, like absence, makes the heart grow fonder as our senses are sharpened by the lack of something and heightened when it returns. When we feel God is absent, God's 'return' is all the more welcome, but, like the father of the prodigal son, the father never left, the son did. When people explain that they 'found God when they were 17' I wonder that they should think God was lost. Holidays are such times, absence from work to be present with things other than the office, the factory, the school, etc. etc. Going back to work, to routine, to ritual, to a more marked passage of time - the working day/week - enhances the liberality of what it is to be on holiday.

All of this is mildly ironic for me as in August I broke my arm and had to stop. But I didn't of course, not completely. I found ways round not

being able to use my arm and hand by using my teeth to pull when my hand just drooped limply. But teeth have their limits and dependence on others, especially on Andrew, chastened my arrogant determination to ignore a physical fact. Body and soul have similar needs, just as the body needs rest so does the soul – we actively seek peace when we feel lost, hurt, lonely, tired. We find in different ways, sometimes the soul rests best when the body is engaged on mindless tasks – which is why pilgrimage is a good way of being a companion to God – the body plods whilst the heart wanders.

Society gives us two ends to our working life, if we live long enough. Our first stop is retirement with all the changes in status and time (and energy) that brings. I look forward to mine! The other is death when we are laid to rest in peace and rise in glory, refreshed and occupied with the timeless duty and joy of praise (with no sense of ought implied, in those circumstances duty is a recognition of role and rank.) There, in the gifted ever-after, the abundance and indulgence of God will become more apparent and words such as these written here will not be needed: not a silence but a humm of deep worship – a bit like Winnie the Pooh on a very happy day.

Revd Sheila Rosenthal, Trondheim

Healing in unexpected places

As we approach the 11th November, and our services for Remembrance Sunday on the 12th, our minds often turn to history and the difficult questions of how forgiveness and healing can be possible in these situations. Forgiveness and absolution are a weekly part of our Sunday services, but it can be difficult to imagine ourselves in situations where we are asked for forgiveness for someone's actions that has fundamentally altered our lives or have caused deep and lasting trauma.

In discussions of remembrance, forgiveness and reconciliation is a difficult topic to address. On the national level, treaties, visits of political leaders to wartime cemeteries, and public apologies for acts of atrocity are public acts of forgiveness in the abstract. But one story of forgiveness is one that took place between two individuals: Eric Lomax, and Nagase Takashi.

Eric Lomax was a signal officer during the Second World War who was captured by the Japanese Army in 1942 and spent the remainder of the war

as a Prisoner of War and forced labourer on the Burma Railway. Lomax was a victim of torture, psychological trauma, and found that he could not move beyond his hatred for those involved in war, particularly the Japanese interrogator Nagase, who had been involved in Lomax' interrogations. In 1998, Lomax and Nagase met again in Thailand. This meeting could have easily been a moment for recriminations and revenge on the part of Lomax, but instead, the two men were able to reconcile through Nagase's act of contrition and Lomax' forgiveness.

The story of the railway man, as Lomax is commonly known, highlights to us all the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. While we may not in our lives experience moments quite as extreme, forgiveness is a moment in which we can experience healing. In the moments of confession and absolution in our services, we have a chance to bring those things in our lives that we feel ashamed of to God and receive healing through forgiveness. When we offer others our forgiveness, we give others the chance to experience those same feelings of lightness and healing. As we move towards Remembrance Day, let us think on those situations and people in our lives who, in order for us to heal and move forward, need our forgiveness.

Beth Winther-Noble, Oslo

Congratulations!



Many congratulations to Sigrd Kvaal on receiving the King's Medal of Merit for outstanding service in the field of dentistry and Forensik odontologi. Sigrd is a much valued and long-serving member of St Edmund's and Treasurer of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway. We are delighted at this recognition of her public service.

Revd. Canon Joanna Udal

Christ is longing for us to be rooted in unity



Welcome to Paradise, the posters said, and paradise it was. First, before I get into the details of how great and enriching the experience was, let's learn about rooted in unity. Rooted in Unity was an event organized for young Christians of all denominations during World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, from the 1st-6th of August 2023. Young people from all over the world travelled to Lisbon to praise and pray. So much power, Yes it was. The organizers of the WYD 2023 promised that we would return home with full hearts. My heart was whole, inspired, and encouraged to continue serving Christ. For the entire week, I was there, I attended talks from renowned speakers such as Joe Tosin of John 17, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, and Archbishop Ian Ernest, among other great young people from Chemin Neuf and associations.

Young people are eager to be rooted in unity, and Christ longs for us to be rooted in unity. So, let's begin with why we need to stay rooted. Christ is the truth and the life; therefore, we must find Him. When we don't, Our hearts will wander until we allow Christ to be in our hearts. How do we do this? By turning to God because He is the only one with Grace.

God has taught us to love one another as we allow Him into our hearts. During this time, the church can unite if we work together. Christ extends his invitation to all, and so should the church. In all this, Jesus is the meeting point between our flesh and the Glory of God. Our church leaders and those we look up to as young Christians are responsible for providing guidance during this sea-

son of remaining rooted in Unity. They must continue to remind us that we are one.

Unity is a divine gift, and Christ longs for us to be united. Arch-Bishop Ian Ernest stated in his teachings about the Magnificat, "The Magnificat expresses how things can be with God. The Magnificat reminds us to have hope because God is in charge." From the scriptures, we see how Mary trusted God, just like Elizabeth and Hannah. Mary's song helps the human mind to discover the Lord's word. Being a Christian means taking a risk. Like Mary did. For this world to be a better place, we need to take risks and make a difference in the lives of those around us.

The speakers conveyed one message throughout the sessions: Love. The Bible teaches us about Love as the greatest. In John 17, Jesus prays to God to keep His followers safe, including me and you. Therefore, God's love is one united church. For that reason, let us align our purposes with those of God. Let us build a peaceful world. Love one another just like God loves us.

Picture a city filled with more than five hundred thousand young people of diverse denominations, sharing their encounters with Christ, praying for Nations, and encouraging more young people to stay rooted in Jesus. I left Lisbon better than I went in. My Faith grew, biases crushed, and friendships made. On the final day, we had an amazing Night Vigil as we waited for the service from the great man of God, Pope Francis.

This is a call to all young people reading this today: Love one another, Unite the church, attend more services from different denominations, and, most importantly, organize more ecumenical meetings and services. I will leave you with the question: How will we say "yes" together and bring Joy to Christ's heart?

Sherine Omondi, Oslo

Gifted pastor and mission leader appointed as Assistant Chaplain for Stavanger

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway is delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Martin Mhaka Chirume as Assistant Chaplain for Stavanger. Revd Martin is an experienced priest of the Diocese of Harare, in Zimbabwe, within the Church of the Province of Central Africa, with much expe-

rience of mission and ministry within cultures different from his own.

His passion for the Gospel and commitment to diversity will be invaluable in serving one of the most diverse communities in Norway. His background in primary education, including football training and music will be an asset in Stavanger as will his teaching experience at Bishop Gaul Seminary in Harare and his academic interests which include the Church's role in conflict resolution and response to the environmental crisis. His ecumenical work within the Zimbabwe Council of Churches will also benefit the much-valued ecumenical partnerships enjoyed by the Anglican Congregation in Stavanger.

Responding to this announcement, Revd Martin said, "I am pleased to join the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway in general and Stavanger in particular. I am married to Happiness and we have 2 adult children (a boy and a girl). I am very much interested in peace building, living the Gospel and a bit of farming. I am looking forward to seeing you and praying together soon."

Welcoming this appointment, the Senior Chaplain of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway, Revd Canon Joanna Udal, said, "We are excited to welcome Revd Martin Chirume and his wife Happiness to Norway and to Stavanger. Our lively Stavanger congregation is full of expectation and hope for Revd Martin's ministry amongst them and for new possibilities in their mission together. His rich experience will benefit our cooperation with local churches and our connections with the wider Anglican Communion. We also welcome the contribution to diversity which he brings to the ministry of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway."

Revd Martin Chirume will be moving to Norway together with his wife Happiness to take up his new appointment in Stavanger at the beginning of November. His licensing is planned for 5th November in Stavanger.

5th October 2023



Reminder!

The BBC Radio 4 "Daily Service" recordings from across the diocese of Europe are still available until October 24th, including a recording of a service from St Edmund's.

Services are available from the BBC Radio 4 website at this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wzfs>

Sunday service featuring Revd Dr Kirk Weisz's reflection: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qnds>



Upcoming events



Chaplaincy

8-11th November Diocese in Europe Racial Justice Conference, Freiburg, Germany

21st November Chaplaincy Council Meeting on Zoom 1830

18th-25th January 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Oslo

18th November St Edmund's Christmas baazar

Stavanger

5th November Licensing of Revd Martin Chirume as Assistant Chaplain in Stavanger

Trondheim

25th November Sale of goods, Waisenhuset



Carol Services in Norway 2023

Come along to one of our festive services across the Chaplaincy!

Sunday 3 December: Domkirke, Tromsø at 1900

Tuesday 5 December: Bragernes Church, Drammen at 1900

Sunday 10 December: St Edmund's, Oslo at 1800

Tuesday 12 December: Cathedral, Trondheim at 1800

Friday 15 December: Oddernes Church, Kristiansand at 1830

Saturday 16 December: St Jakobi, Bergen at 1500

Sunday 17 December: Mariakirken, Bergen at 1800

Saturday 23 December: St Petri Church, Stavanger at 1800

From the registers

BAPTISMS



St Edmund's

Nora Aagenaes Bullard, 23rd July
Ian Sila Gjerløff, 27th August

BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE,

ST EDMUND'S

RAYNE REID AND
JØRN-EIRIK PETERSEN RØDUM,
1ST JULY

DEATHS

NIGEL WEIR, STAVANGER

NINA SLOTTAN, OSLO

IAN POWELL, TRØGSTAD

SYLVIA OTTOSEN, OSLO

SHEILA MERINGDAL, SANDVIKA

CRAIG MACFARLANE, RØYNEBERG

MOLLY LINDVEIT, KRISTIANSAND

PETER YOUNG, KRISTIANSAND

ELENA GALE, OSLO

SUSAN ELIND, OSLO

NICHOLAS CHERRIE, HUNDVÅG

DAVID ATKINSON, TRONDHEIM

HELEN ANDERSEN, KRISTIANSAND

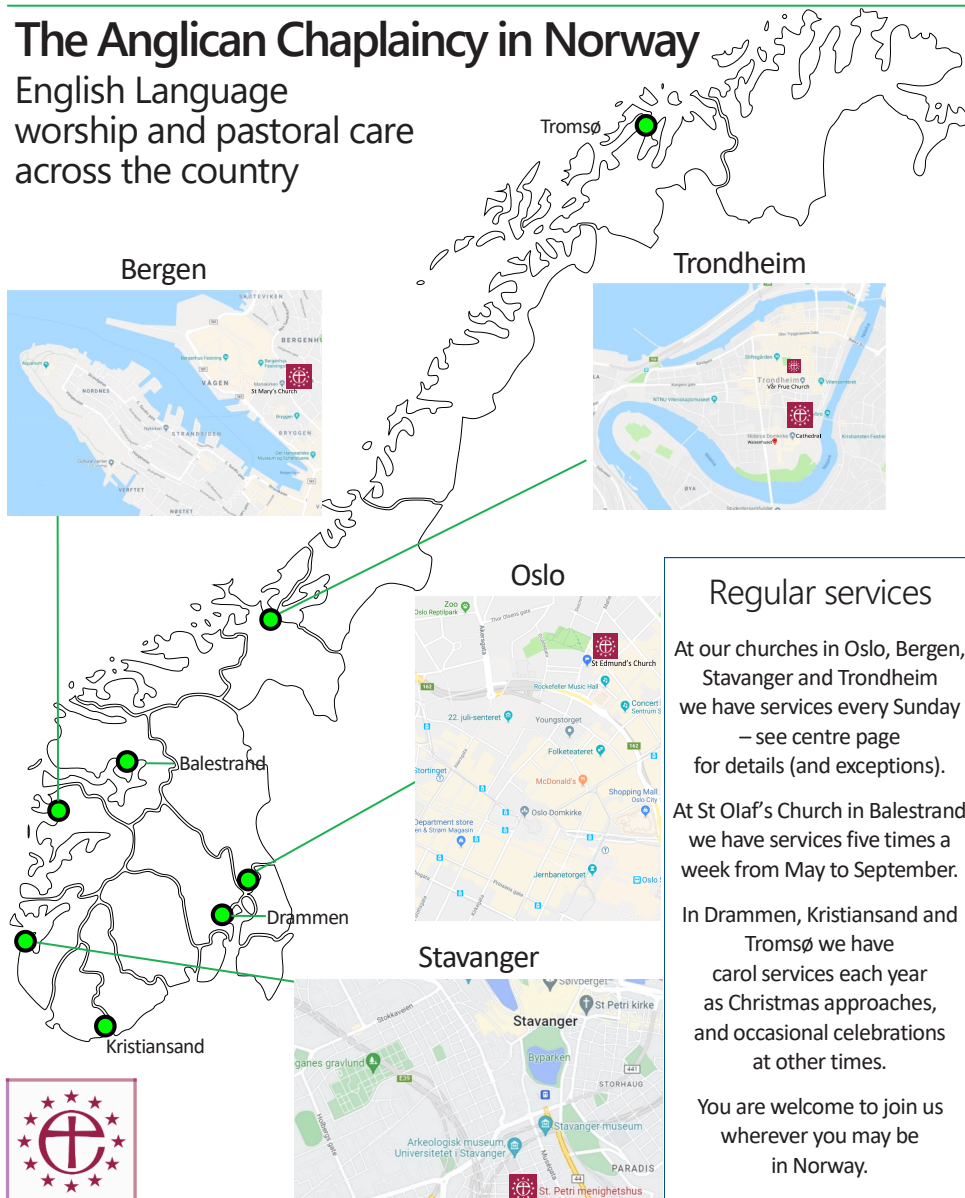
DAVID ALDEERSON, MOSS



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





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