

# TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

June—September 2024



The theme of this issue is:  
'The Gospel in Culture'

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For further information see our websites: [www.osloanglicans.no](http://www.osloanglicans.no), [www.bergenanglicans.net](http://www.bergenanglicans.net),  
Stavanger: [www.domkirkenogpetri.no](http://www.domkirkenogpetri.no) and Trondheim: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8468](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8468).

The diocesan website is [www.europe.anglican.org](http://www.europe.anglican.org), and the Church of England's website is [www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org).

## From the Senior Chaplain

**“Behold I make all things new.” (Revelation 21.5)**

Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ transforms our lives and our culture in ways which run as deep as they are far-reaching.

In 2024 Norway is celebrating 1000 years of Christian law and the impact that the Gospel has brought to the culture and way of life in Norway. Some have described this as the key transition from Viking might is right to a nation based on justice, mercy and the rule of law. There had already been Christian connections abroad for some time, such as the earlier baptism of Håkon the Good at the court of King Athelstan in England, and the visit to Moster on the island of Bømlo in Western Norway by King Olav Trygvasson in 995 which included the celebration of the Eucharist and first foundation of the Moster Old Church. But the introducing of Christian laws into Norway, which Snorre describes in his saga to have been brought to Moster in 1024 by King Olav Haraldsson (later St Olav) together with the English Bishop Grimkjell, marks a transformational shift in the people’s way of life. The bell is introduced to sanctify time for rest and for Christian worship; women are given new recognition as created equally in the image of God, the sanctity of life is established; and holy days are observed as times of celebration and participation in the life of Christ, including his death and resurrection.

Celebrations of this millennium at Moster at the end of May/beginning of June have highlighted international connections both past and present, with the participation of the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of Uppsala, Martin Modéus, the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Mark Strange, the Bishop of Greenland, Paneeraq Munk, Bishop Rosmarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon in the Diocese of Southwark, and Bishop Henrik Stubkær, Bishop of Viborg in Denmark and recently elected President of the Lutheran World Federation. The celebrations have also demonstrated the fine ecumenical fellowship we enjoy among the churches in Norway. The Norwegian Christian Council has had a key role in the celebrations and it was wonderful to have the host

Bishop of Bjørgvin, Ranghild Jepsen, lead worship alongside the Roman Catholic Bishop of Trondheim, Erik Varden, in Moster Old Church, their fine voices blending beautifully in the plainsong so fitting to the occasion. We also enjoyed an ecumenical evening of fellowship in Lykling Church hosted by Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Preses (Presiding Bishop) of the Church of Norway, where he himself had been baptised – a fitting place to recall together our common baptism into Christ Jesus.

The celebrations were also graced with the participation of the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway. In his speech to a full-house in the Moster Amphitheatre amid dramatic re-enactments of King Olav’s arrival and giving of the Christian laws, Crown Prince Håkon emphasized their significance: “It is difficult for us today to fully understand how important the introduction of Christianity was for our country. What a huge change in the worldview, in social structures and in mindsets this really entailed...Today we celebrate that a thousand years ago, the foundation stone was laid for our community-based society. We have built on this society together through generations until today. And we continue to build, to preserve, to protect – for those who come after us. In this way, we also shape the future – by celebrating the past.” (unofficial translation from the Norwegian.)

In keeping with this millennium anniversary, the Gospel in Culture is the theme for this issue of Together. Both continuity and renewal characterise the transforming of our lives and cultures in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As we seek to live out the Christian faith, there is a lively dialogue between the gospel and culture, as one interrogates the other in both directions, in what the Swiss theologian Walter Hollenweger calls “dialogical evangelism”. The gospel is transformative, and the realities of our lives and cultures are the seed-bed where Christ comes to meet us.

We’re delighted this issue includes features on the experience of portraying faith at the Oslo Opera House in Poulenc’s Dialogue of the Carmelites, a reflection on art to inspire in a London church, and the honouring of ground-breaking work in the field of linguistics essential for giving a just place to

Sami, Kven and Forest Finn peoples in Norway. The visit of our Diocesan Bishop Robert Innes and his pilgrimage hike to Preikestolen have also encouraged reflection on the significance of mountain pilgrimages in different cultures.

May Christ continue to inspire and transform our cultures and lives towards God's coming reign of justice, peace and love.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

## Bergen notes

Warm greetings from the Bergen congregation for the springtime edition of Together. We experienced a mindful Lent period, starting with our Shrove (Sunday) pancake lunch in Mariastuen on Sunday 11th February after morning worship. Unfortunately, the pancake race was not to be due to icy conditions on the footpath outside, but the third annual pancake flipping contest was a success, with a hat trick win for reigning champion, Øyvind. Ecumenical services with the Norwegian congregation at Mariakirken are generally special occasions, and the Ash Wednesday evening and Easter morning services this year were no different. To see the altarpiece solemnly closed and then joyfully opened again 40 days later is a moving experience. Kirk preached at both of these services. A handful of us participated in the Lent study TrueFreedom24, offered by the Clewer Initiative and the World Council of Churches and based on the book of Galatians. We are grateful for the leadership of Chaplaincy Honorary Secretary Andrew Thomas, and Zoom host, Jill Almvang, for facilitating the study on Zoom. In this way, a former visitor from the US who still follows our congregation, Woody, was able to join the study. It was lovely to be with the St Edmund's congregation on Zoom for the Maundy Thursday service, leading up to the intimate and sombre Good Friday Tenebrae service led by Kirk in Mariakirken the next morning.

The Sunday after Easter there was a baptism for a 9 week-old! Her mother had participated in the small choir that sang 5-6 times a year in pre-Covid times. It was a touching service, as all baptisms performed by Kirk have been, and the congregation was treated by the family to a lovely spread of sandwiches and cakes at a reception in Mariastuen afterwards. With many events on Sundays in April (see below), our local AGM ending up being held

uncharacteristically on a Thursday evening, on Zoom, on relatively short notice. But we managed to reach quorum and hold a successful meeting.

Joanna led us in worship in person at Mariakirken on Sunday May 5 (see below), such that I could make my declaration to serve as Chaplaincy churchwarden for the coming year in the presence of our Senior Chaplain, instead of on Zoom, as in years past.

With Kirk's announcement in late February that he would leaving us at the end of April came many feelings; shock and sadness amongst them, but after only a brief moment of all that came understanding and gratitude. Understanding that he has answered God's call to serve in the Norwegian church at Sandviken, which is even closer to his home than Mariakirken! And gratitude for his 8 years with the Bergen congregation, during which time he trained and was ordained within the Church of England, having been an ordained Presbyterian priest before coming to Norway 12 years ago. We had a lovely send-off service on April 28th, with an ad-hoc choir of 15 members singing three pieces at various stages throughout the service, and afterwards there were speeches and gifts presented in the church before moving over to Mariastuen for a wonderful potluck lunch, complete with a decorated home-made chocolate cake. And of course, Kirk's speciality, his green-bean casserole.



*No farewell is complete without cake!*

The Bergen congregation wishes Kirk and his family all blessings, and thanks Joanna for her support in arranging worship leadership for the next while, but we are especially grateful for the heart and service of our lay reader, Iris, who continues to be joyfully willing to lead us in Services of the Word. The family which is the Bergen congregation has much to be thankful for and we will continue to be



faithful and work towards fulfilling the mission of the church in the best way we can.

*Barbara McIntosh, Chaplaincy warden and Bergen warden*

## Stavanger notes

From February to May we have celebrated many festivals of the Christian year. Ben Bailey, Director of Programmes for The Mission to Seafarers says, "Change can be disconcerting for many, and it is vital that we focus on creating inclusive, resilient and respectful systems of communication across Maritime's wide range of stakeholders. The success of these efforts rests on us working collaboratively to identify continued gaps in workplace culture, address its impacts, and create viable solutions that are nuanced and effective- now and in the future."

The statement by Ben Bailey serves as a wake-up call to me and probably to others as well in that, Church Festivals and/or services are very different from place to place. In some places attendance will range from 400 people to 600 in a service while in other places a well-attended service will be having 8 people present. From February up to now we have celebrated Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Good Friday and Pentecost were both Ecumenical services and were like Pastors' fraternal services in terms of attendance.



### *At Preikestolen*

During this period we welcomed the Diocesan Bishop on 10th May with a fellowship meal and together we visited Preikestolen on 11th May. This gives me an opportunity to share a few insights

about African Spirituality regarding mountain hikes. Pilgrimages are made to mountain sanctuaries that are viewed as the seat of God. African Hidden Voices, a Research Institute, defines high mountains as the places to which personality carries us in our spiritual uplift and as the consciousness of power over mortal thoughts in all its earthly awareness of expression. Going up into the mountain to pray means elevating our thoughts and our aspirations to the spiritual viewpoint.

A mountain represents an exalted state of mind where the divine plan may be perceived and unfolded, a state of spiritual realization. In African Spirituality there are sacred places and/or spaces and the spirituality is not separated with nature. Certain mountains, places in rivers, forests, and trees are sacred. This idea encourages humanity to look after nature or environment.

I noticed a pool towards the mountain top which is often the case with sacred mountains and forests where at the top of the mountain or at the middle of the forest there is a pool. Of interest to me were locked padlocks and pieces of cloth at different places as you go up or down the mountain. An explanation was that they represent vows made by people especially those who will have become engaged there, and true to that, we witnessed some getting engaged at the top of the mountain. I am not sure what will happen to the padlock if the relationship fails. I am also not sure what happens to the relationship when the cloth is torn. But all in all everything was above board. We continue to give glory to God.

*Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain, Stavanger*

## Trondheim Notes

On May 12th we had the pleasure of a flying visit from our Bishop in Europe, Robert Innes, his wife Helen, and our Senior Chaplain Joanna Udal. Sokneprest Andreas arranged for us to have a joint service with the Anglican Church in the main Cathedral. A big thank you to the Norwegian Church including Sjur, who took some time explain some of the features of the Cathedral on the East side.

We also had beautiful music from the Cathedral Domorganist Brita as well as Emily and Hans Liem. We were able to gather after the service in the Waisenhuset to meet our visitors for refreshments and a chat before they were kindly driven to the airport by Sarah.

We celebrated Pentecost again at the Fjelseter Mountain Chapel. The Chapel volunteers kindly had opened up the chapel and lit the wood fire for us. An all-age service of the Word was led by Lay Reader Susan Boyd. Susan had a lot of help from three children lighting and blowing out magic candles! Our reading from Acts had lots of good participation from the congregation, we needed to have a practice with the sound effects before the service started! We looked at a picture of the Herodian temple and a wonderful painting by Edgardo De Guzman, full of color and movement. Andrew played the organ and Sigmund played the violin. During our writing of prayers on doves which looked like flames when turned a certain way Hvit Marsj written by Gjermund Larson was played and we also heard Sæterjentenes søndag by Ole Bull as our postlude. We had a lovely morning and we were joined by a few Norwegians who were enjoying a morning walk.

Messy church has been held monthly and we have 5 young families in our congregation with children's ages 2-10 years. Please contact Susan if you would like to join in. We have fun singing, hearing a Bible story, reciting the Lord's Prayer, making a craft, and having a light lunch. We always start by lighting a candle to remind us that God is always with us. There is also a monthly Sunday school online with Zoom, on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9.40-10.15, called Choom. This is of particular interest to those who do not live near an Anglican church or a morning service.

We also have an «Andakt» devotional gathering on Zoom once a month held by members of our congregation. If you are interested in joining please reach out to Logan Boese (our local warden) for the Zoom Link.

We would like to thank all our PTOs who have kindly volunteered to help so far this year leading our services: Revd. Mary Strømmen, Revd. Torhild Fikseanet, Sokneprest April Almaas and our senior priest Canon Joanna Udal from Oslo. Thank you also to the Nidaros Cathedral staff for all their help coordinating and welcoming us into their wonderful space.

So far, we have announcements of services on the Nidarosdomen website, on the Diocese of Europe's A Church Near You and at the café To tårn by the

Cathedral. We also use an open Facebook page called Anglicans in Trondheim. For more information, please contact with Susan or Logan.

We are looking forward to the summer season when many tourists and pilgrims visit Trondheim. We also wish all those traveling for the holidays a safe journey and looking forward to seeing you when you return. Happy Summer!

*Lay Reader Susan Boyd / Trondheim Assistant Warden  
Logan Boese*

## Oslo notes

Just as snowfall came early in Oslo before October was out, so summer temperatures have arrived early with a bright and cloudless 25 degrees for the festivities of the 17th May for the Norwegian national day! A beautiful day out for families and for our children in the Barnetog proudly marching past the royal palace.

Lent already seems long behind us but we had a fruitful observance with two Lent groups appreciating the "True Freedom" course prepared by the World Council of Churches and the Clewer Initiative, one meeting in person in Majorstuen and the other online with others from around the Chaplaincy. This reflected on the contemporary challenges of modern slavery and human trafficking in the light of St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. We also held an ecumenical prayer vigil at St Edmund's on 8th February, the Feast Day of St Bakhta, the first Sudanese saint who herself had been enslaved.

For Holy Week, it was a joy for us to welcome Rachel Sheppard on placement from Westcott House, Cambridge. Rachel first connected with our Norway Chaplaincy through the Anglican-Lutheran Society's international conference in Trondheim in 2022 so it was a very good continuation to have her participate liturgically with us for Holy Week shortly before she will be ordained in London. It enabled us to have St Edmund's open daily for Evening Prayer and also to share our local ecumenical involvements with Trefoldighet Church, the Swedish Church and the Oslo Bymisjon, as well as our joint Good Friday Church held jointly this year at the American Lutheran Church. Members of their congregation had also joined us for the World Day of Prayer Service on

1st March which this year had been prepared in advance by Christian women of Palestine, offering a much-needed opportunity to pray for an end to the devastating conflict there.

Our celebration of Easter was heralded with for the first time an Easter Vigil Service, held on the evening of Holy Saturday, with a fire and lighting of the Paschal Candle outside St Edmund's which was then carried into the darkened church, announcing the light of Christ, and the singing of the Exultet proclaiming Christ's resurrection from the dead. The celebrations on Easter morning were in no way dampened by the clocks going forward overnight, with a full church and additional chairs needing to be put out!



*South Sudanese Maban Easter Celebrations*

Pentecost has also been celebrated in style this year, not only with our festive Sung Eucharist at St Edmund's, but also with the Ecumenical Pentecost celebration at Mortensrud church on the holiday Monday with several of our congregation participating. It was a joy that members of the South Sudan Maban community could present a song to round off the Pentecost celebration, as it had also been to lead their community in an Easter celebration in Bragernes Church in Drammen on Easter Monday. Their choir offers us a fine example of the interaction between the Gospel and culture as they present Gospel teachings expressed creative-

ly in the Maban language through music, movement and song. Their commitment and enthusiasm is inspiring to us all.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain, Oslo*

## Dialogues of the Carmelites

In 1790 the French revolutionary government passed the Civil Constitution of the Clergy which outlawed religious life. In 1792 the government then ordered all women's monasteries to be closed. Towards the end of the 'reign of terror', a particularly violent period, 16 members of the Carmelite Sisters of Compiègne (11 nuns, 3 lay sisters and 2 tertiaries) were executed by guillotine on 17th July 1794; this reign ended only ten days later. They were beatified on May 27th, 1906, as martyrs of the Catholic church.

Francis Poulenc, a 20th century French composer, was commissioned to write a ballet for la Scala Milano. It was to be based on the dramatisation of these events, using a short story by Gertrud von Le Fort which was dramatised by Georges Bernados. After seeing Bernados' play, Poulenc decided to set it as an Opera instead. This was completed in 1956 and first performed in 1957.

Bernados' text centres around the two main characters of Blanche de la force and Mere Marie of the incarnation, and their sisters and colleagues, as they face the horror of having their way of life removed by the state.

Poulenc himself was deeply religious man, this is evident in the depth of expression in the setting of the liturgical text used in the libretto; these moments provide space for the characters to anchor, find strength and unity, and to reinforce their faith in the face of grim uncertainty.

From the still devotion of Qui Lazarum Resuscitasti in act 2, the reflective Ave Maria, the impassioned Ave Verum Corpus to the final, resolute Salve Regina (where the sisters' voices drop out one by one as they are led to the guillotine until only Blanche is left) Poulenc's passionate music helps to transcend the horror. These moments of faith-expressed-musically stitch the whole opera

		Oslo			Bergen	
<b>JU</b>						
Sun	02	Trinity 1	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	09	Trinity 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	16	Trinity 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	23	Trinity 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	30	Trinity 5	11:00	Sung Communion 140th Anniversary	11:00	Service of the Word
<b>JU</b>						
Sun	07	Trinity 6	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	14	Trinity 7	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	21	Trinity 8	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	28	Trinity 9	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
<b>AUG</b>						
Sun	04	Trinity 10	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	11	Trinity 11	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	HC/Service of the Word
Sun	18	Trinity 12	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	25	Trinity 13	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
<b>SEPT</b>						
Sun	01	Trinity 14	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	08	Trinity 15	19:00	Sung Communion`	11:00	HC/Service of the Word
Sun	15	Trinity 16	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	HC/Service of the Word
Sun	22	Trinity 17	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Joint service tbc
Sun	29	Trinity 18 Michael and all angels	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word



Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim
<b>JUNE</b>				
2 Cor 4.5-12 Mark 2.23-3.6	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	EP Chapter House
2 Cor 4.13-5.1 Mark 3.20-end	10:30	Service of the Word	11:00	MP Abp's chapel
2 Cor 5.6-10,14-17 Mark 4.26-34	10:30	Family Service	18:00	HC Cathedral
2 Cor 6.1-13 Mark 4.35-end	10:30	Family Communion	11:00	Online gathering
2 Cor 8.7-end Mark 5.21-end	10:30	Service of the Word (zoom)		No service
<b>JULY</b>				
2 Cor 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29		No service	18:00	EP Chapter House
Ephesians 2.11-end Mark 6.30-34,53-end		No service	18:00	HC Cathedral
Ephesians 3.14-end John 6.1-21		No service	11:00 PM	Online gathering Join St Olav Vaka
<b>AUGUST</b>				
Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35	10:30	HC	18:00	HC Chapter House
Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35, 41-51	10:30	Service of the word	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58	10:30	Family Service	18:00	HC Cathedral
Ephesians 6.10-20 John 6.56-69	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
James 1.17-end Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23	10:30	HC	18:00	HC Chapter House
James 2.1-10(11-13)14 -17 Mark 7.24-end	10:30	Service of the Word	11:00	MP Fjellseter
James 3.1-12 Mark 8.27-end	10:30	Family Service	18:00	HC Cathedral
James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a Mark 9.30-37	10:30	Family Communion	11:00 18:00	Online Gathering HC Chapter house
Revelation 12.7-12 John 1.47-end	10:30	Service of the Word— zoom	18:00	EP Chapter House

together, juxtaposing the individual struggles of faith which all the characters are working through.

I have been in this opera twice, once in my student days in Trinity College of Music, and more recently here at the Norwegian National Opera. Both times I sang small roles and the mob choruses. Not particularly nice characters. In the recent production in Oslo my character of the jailer appeared in the penultimate scene of the opera, and like most of the male characters in the show, he turns up, tells the protagonists what's going to happen to them, what they ought to do about it, and then leaves. My interaction was brutal; that of incarcerating the 16 women, cutting off their hair, calling out their names and sentencing them to death, sanctimoniously reading the newly written 'revolutionary tribunal' as a justification for the atrocities that followed.

It's an uncomfortable role to play; albeit minimal, it was essential to the story telling. The brevity of my stage time made the difficult, evil and misguided nature of the character I portrayed easier to process in that I didn't have to be in character for the whole three hours. For my colleagues onstage as the main protagonists it seemed to be quite a different story; having to work through, interpret and relay the trauma every night whilst expressing and conveying all the emotions without being totally overwhelmed themselves, all the while maintaining the high vocal-athleticism of an opera singer. This process affects each singer in individual ways. I have observed the emotional and physical toll performing such roles takes on my colleagues but cannot directly speak for them.

Art/theatre/opera at its best, reflects our humanity and the human condition. It helps us to triangulate, empathise, understand, and bear witness to the worst and the best of us. This opera honours those that have fallen, those that held strong, those that struggled, those that failed, and it continues to tell their story, hoping that we can learn from the past and find our own understanding of what faith means to us.

**The ladies' names were:**

*Madeleine-Claudine Lidoine, Marie-Anne Brideau, Marie-Françoise Gabrielle de Croissy, Marie-Anne Piedcourt, Anne-Marie-Madeleine Thouret, Marie-Claude Cyprienne, Marie-Antoniette Hanisset, Rose-Chrétien de la Neuville, Marie-Gabrielle Trézel, Anne Petras, Marie-Geneviève Meunier, Marie Dufour, Angélique Rousset, Julie Vérolot, Catherine Soiron, Thérèse Soiron*

*Peter Willcock, Oslo*

## Balestrand—Abide in God's Love

The opening of the 2024 summer season at St Olaf's, Balestrand, was preceded by a Chaplaincy retreat. And although the programme was very similar to the retreat at the same place in 2022, this year's event was attended by at least one representative from each of the four congregations within the Chaplaincy.

A night, morning and evening prayer service gathered us together at St Olaf's for a series of 3 talks by Joanna; Abiding in God's love in prayer, in meditative prayer according to the teaching of St Antony of Egypt and the desert fathers, and in the triune God.



*Our happy band of pilgrims*

Outside of these organised gatherings, the 24 participants ate meals together, and otherwise made opportunities to get to know one another better in smaller groups, by hiking on the adjacent mountain, swimming in the sea, rowing across the closest arm of the fjord (and back!), conversing on the terrace or strolling around the quaint village.

Thanks go to Jill, for setup, and Esmé for transport of a tripod and tablet used to stream on Zoom Sunday's worship, service from St Olaf's, presided by Joanna, with participation of Lay Readers Susan from Trondheim and Iris from Bergen. We were pleased to see so many from the village and tourists at the service, in addition to the retreat participants, as seen in the photo below, taken by Peter, one of the two Assistant Wardens at St Edmund's.

We are so appreciative of the Friends of St Olaf's, who look after the chapel, giving all who pass through Balestrand an opportunity for contemplative thought and prayer in the serene surroundings of this beautiful example of God's gift of creation. Thanks be to God.

*Barbara McIntosh, Chaplaincy Warden*

### **Would you like to be a Friend of St Olaf's?**

The friends of St Olaf in Balestrand are working hard for the repairs/upkeep of the church. Please consider to help with a yearly contribution of NOK 250,- for the upkeep.

More details can be provided; just contact Ingeborg: [forstander@anglicans.no](mailto:forstander@anglicans.no)

### **Congratulations confirmands!**



Congratulations to our adult Confirmation candidates from Oslo and Bergen who prepared together online before being confirmed by our Diocesan Bishop, Robert Innes, at St Edmund's in Oslo on Sunday 12th May. It was a special joy to be joined for the service by Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Preses (Presiding Bishop) of the Church of Norway, a visible sign of our far-reaching cooperation under the Porvoo Agreement.

### **Kirk's farewell address**

There are three things I would like to say to all of you. But the first is the most important. And if you remember anything I say from here on out, I hope that you will remember this. So I hope you will listen closely because I've thought a lot about it and I really mean it. The most important thing I want to say to you is — Thank you. There you have it. If there is anything I hope you will remember it is that I am incredibly grateful to God for all of you.

You know I am not all that different than all of you. I am a person who needs to be loved and share my love with others. I am also a person who needs community and a place of belonging. Many of you do not know this but I came to this church a lot like many of you did. I have never shared this until now, not even with my wife Sarah, but before I started serving as your priest eight years ago, I started coming with my family because we needed a community of faith, a place of belonging. This was when the congregation had just relocated to Mariakirken and you had lost your previous priest Sammy. But there was one Sunday I came to church alone without my family. Truth be known, I was going through a difficult time in life. I was still quite new to Norway, I had just become a father to our second son David and I was struggling to finish a dissertation, but even more so about how God was going to use me here in Norway because doors were not opening for me to serve as a hospital chaplain, which is where I thought God was calling me to be.

And on that day I came alone, I sat down in one of the green covered seats where you are sitting now, and I lowered my head, and I wept. I was so confused and uncertain about how God was going to use me here. And then after the service, I went over to the coffee hour in Mariastuen and started talking with Eirik Duerr who was the warden at the time. He said to me "Kirk, I hear that you are ordained in the Presbyterian Church. We need a priest like you around here. We could look into what might be possible, although I don't know how far we can take it." But then God did take it and look how far he took it!

Sometimes where we think we need to be and where God needs us to be are not the same thing. At first, I thought I had just followed my wife to Bergen for her work, but I now believe with all my heart that God called me across an ocean to serve with all of you. So thank you for welcoming me into this community of faith. Thank you for seeing me. Thank you for needing me. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for your encouragement, grace, and above all else love. I am forever grateful for all of you. Please remember that.

The second thing I want to say to all of you is — Wow! Think about all the challenging, wonderful, and joyful things we did together as we journeyed together in the faith. You sat and stayed awake through some 400 sermons of mine! In my first congregation, which was a bunch of pig farmers in North Carolina, there was one member who sat directly in my line of vision and fell asleep in the middle of my sermon every Sunday. I do not recall any of you ever falling asleep during my 400 sermons. Thanks for that because it can be quite distracting!

We also moved through the fear and chaos of a pandemic. You saw me ordained for a second time, making me the most ordained person in Bergen. Think of all the hours we spent picking up trash with the little pickup project and the good conversations we had along the way. We responded to a refugee crisis and welcomed and sustained numerous Ukrainians. We welcomed thousands of visitors supporting them in the faith during their travels. We welcomed in so many people like so many of us coming from abroad in need of a spiritual home. And I did the math. On average, we consumed my green bean casserole twice a year, which made it 16 times! We had so many wonderful times of fellowship over there across the street in Mariastuen. I could stand here the rest of the afternoon talking about all the wonderful things we did in ministry together. Together in love.

The last thing I want to say, my dear friends, is remember that God is always faithful and God is often at work when we are least aware of it. God will not only be with you along the way but God is

out ahead of you preparing the way forward. Please do not ever forget that either. And last but not least, I will miss all of you. I will miss letting God's love blossom out of us together.

So may the LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Much gratitude Kirk for your ministry amongst us and every blessing in your new role.

*Revd Dr Kirk Weisz, Assistant Chaplain, Bergen*

## Pia Lane has been awarded the Fridtjof Nansen award!

On the 4th of March 2024 the steering committee for the Fridtjof Nansen's fund for Scientific Research to award Pia Lane the 2024 Fridtjof Nansen's Award for Outstanding Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Pia has received the award for her outstanding research in multilingualism and sociolinguistics.

The committee noted, "Lane's research is internationally recognised and has a large impact on the research field, as well as having great political and practical significance. It is important to also highlight Lane's contributions as a central member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which delivered its rapport to Parliament on the 1st June

2023." The committee also highlighted the important role Pia now plays as the Academic Chair for Circle U Multilingualism, Interculturality and Lab at the University of Oslo (2023-2025), and as a member of the Committee of Experts in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Pia said of the award, "I am overwhelmed and very happy with this award. It is a great honor to receive such an award and I am grateful for all the colleagues I have been lucky enough to work with so that I have been able to develop as a researcher. I am also grateful to everyone the research

participants who have shown me the great trust to share their experiences and stories.”



*Pia Lane—Image University of Oslo*

We are very proud of Pia’s incredible work, and grateful to have her as a member of the chaplaincy.

*Translated/summarised from Norwegian.*

## Bishop Robert’s Ascensiontide Visit to Norway 11-13th May

In a such a huge diocese with chaplaincies located in more than 30 countries of across continental Europe and beyond, it makes a particularly special occasion when our Diocesan Bishop makes an episcopal visit to our Chaplaincy.

The visit to Norway of Bishop Robert Innes, and his wife Helen began in Stavanger with a fine opportunity for fellowship as the Chaplaincy hosted a dinner at Olivia’s overlooking the harbour. Among the guests was the Church of Norway’s Dean of Stavanger, Stefan Emmerhof, and his wife Bente Kamilla, as well as Revd Geir Barlaup, who with permission to officiate has so much helped the Stavanger congregation before Revd Martin Chirume’s appointment as Assistant Chaplain. We were also grateful Deanery-Synod member Ana Duerr could travel from Bergen to represent the Bergen congregation and Eirik Gjerløw from Oslo.

Onwards and upwards the next morning to Preikestolen, the highest point of Bishop Rob-

ert’s Ascensiontide visit. Also known as Pulpit Rock, it towers 604m over the waters of Lysefjord down below and was the destination of a memorable pilgrimage hike involving members of both Stavanger and Oslo congregations. It has become an ever more popular destination since Tom Cruise featured there in Mission Impossible 6, but an early start helped our intrepid pilgrims to beat the crowds. On reaching the mountain plateau we recalled the mission Jesus entrusts to his disciples at the end of St Matthew’s Gospel, to go and make disciples of all nations, a mission already reflected in our pilgrim group from seven different countries and three continents. The climb was demanding, but great conversations could happen along the way as we took in the glories of creation around us.

Next to Oslo for the Chaplaincy Confirmation service at St Edmund’s, with adult candidates from St Edmund’s and from Bergen. It’s been a pleasure to work with them during the preparation with their questions and insights and the Confirmation service was a joyful next step in their journey of faith. It also gave us much pleasure to be joined by Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, presiding Bishop of the Church of Norway, whom Bishop Robert had invited to participate in the service.



*Bishops Robert and Olav with Revd Canon Joanna*

With Bishop Olav’s blessing we continued on to Trondheim for an evening service in the historic Nidaros Cathedral with bishop Robert presiding



and preaching and Susan Boyd leading the prayers. This regular service in English is a very tangible sign of our Porvoo cooperation with the Church of Norway. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments in the Cathedral's Waisenhuset opposite.

The last stage of the visit was for Bishop Robert to participate with Norwegian church leaders in part of the Norwegian Christian Council's Board meeting - a fine opportunity for him to share perspectives and witness the close ecumenical cooperation we enjoy in Norway.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

## Glimpses of God in Culture

*"A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1: 5.*



*The Apse St Marylebone, London (Image: St Marylebone website)*

In a recent clip from an episode of Songs of Praise, artist Sophie Hacker discussed her latest artwork, *Sea of Glass*, which has been installed in St Marylebone Parish in London. The artwork, as Hacker described it, is designed to appear as though God "had punched a hole through the wall", leaving us with a glimpse of the extraordinary. *Sea of Glass* represents God as a swirling mass of light, rather different from many of the traditional paintings, icons, and mosaics that we associate with art in the church. Hacker's *Infinity* series, inspired by her work on *Sea of Glass*, gives an image of God as though part of the cosmos – abstract, undefined, and yet infinite in majesty.

If you take the number 205 bus for about 40 minutes from St Marylebone, you end up at St

Leonard's church in Shoreditch. St Leonard's was the site for a very different kind of cultural output – it was the filming location for the BBC show *Rev.* which was broadcast from 2010-2014. *Rev.* follows the story of Adam, a priest transferred from his leafy green parish to the challenges of inner-city ministry, and the complex and diverse needs of a parish in dire straits financially.

When we meet God in *Rev.*, it is not an image of swirling light and wonder, yet it is a punch through the wall all the same. Adam, whose life is in a mess and whose church faces closure, carries the cross through the dark streets of London to the top of a hill at Easter. As he begins to sing the Lord of the Dance, a drunk, older man joins him in the hymn. The drunk man asks him why he is not in a good mood, and Adam responds, "I'm trying to keep something alive, and I don't think I can do it." While the man's initial response is to quote rather useless and common turns of phrase, he suddenly looks at Adam, places his hand on his shoulder, and says, "Adam, Adam. We all have our crosses to bear. I understand Adam. I'll always be here." In the lowest moment of Adam's life, God reaches him from an unexpected place.

From the dishevelled image of God in *Rev.* to the swirls of light of *Sea of Glass*, both are representations of a God who reaches us through whatever culture we engage with in our lives. We may think of God as confined to the beautiful and aesthetically pleasing, but God is not confined to one box, neither is God only found in places and institutions of cultural significance. Sometimes, it is in the glimpses of God in the moments of our lives at our darkness points, where that extraordinary light we see in John 1, verse 5, shines brightest.

*Beth Winther-Noble, Oslo*



## Upcoming events



### Chaplaincy

6th/7th - 9th November Deanery Synod in Tallinn

### Oslo

30th June 140th anniversary, 30 th June

13th September Oslo kulturnatt

6th October Harvest Festival



Celebrating the 140th Anniversary of the completion of St Edmund's Church  
29th/30th June 2024

### Saturday 29th June

18:00 Afternoon tea in the Crypt

19:00 Concert in St Edmund's given by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Sunday 30th June

11:00 Festive Sung Eucharist with St Edmund's Choir and the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields with the Bishop of Oslo, Kari Veiteberg as our preacher.

19:00 Choral Evensong at Oslo Domkirke with Trefoldighet parish & the St Martin-in-the Fields Choral Scholars



THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY IN NORWAY, SUSAN, IRIS & NURAH INVITE ALL CHILDREN TO

## Choom, Children's Zoom

ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9.40-10.15



## From the registers

### HOLY BAPTISMS



#### St Edmund's, Oslo

Gwendolen Ingrid Boeré Stange, 21.04.

Harris Myrvold Martin, 21.04.

#### Bergen

Duncan Edwards, 22.01.

Nicoletta Beata Ghetti, 07.04.

### CONFIRMATION BY BISHOP ROBERT, 12TH MAY, OSLO

LAWRENCE EDWARD SUTTON BROOKS,  
OSLO

LEO WASSUM SANDVÆR, OSLO

BRENDAN RICKETTS, BERGEN

### DEATHS

Erik Tellmann, Oslo

Anne Cathrine Fylkesnes, Bergen

Catherine Rhoda Williams, Lørenskog

Geoffrey K Ward, Nesøya

Susan Mary Schanche, Asker

Dave Harrison-Fox, Oslo

Maurice Nelson Dukes, Oslo

Jacqueline Nilsen, Oslo

Dilys Tunheim, Ålesund

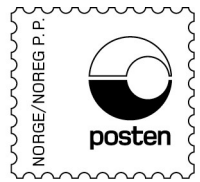
Nina Clark, Kleppstø

Elizabeth Wilson MacCallum, Stjørdal

Dafida Ann Clee Søhoel, Kristiansand

Richard Ernest Binns, Trondheim

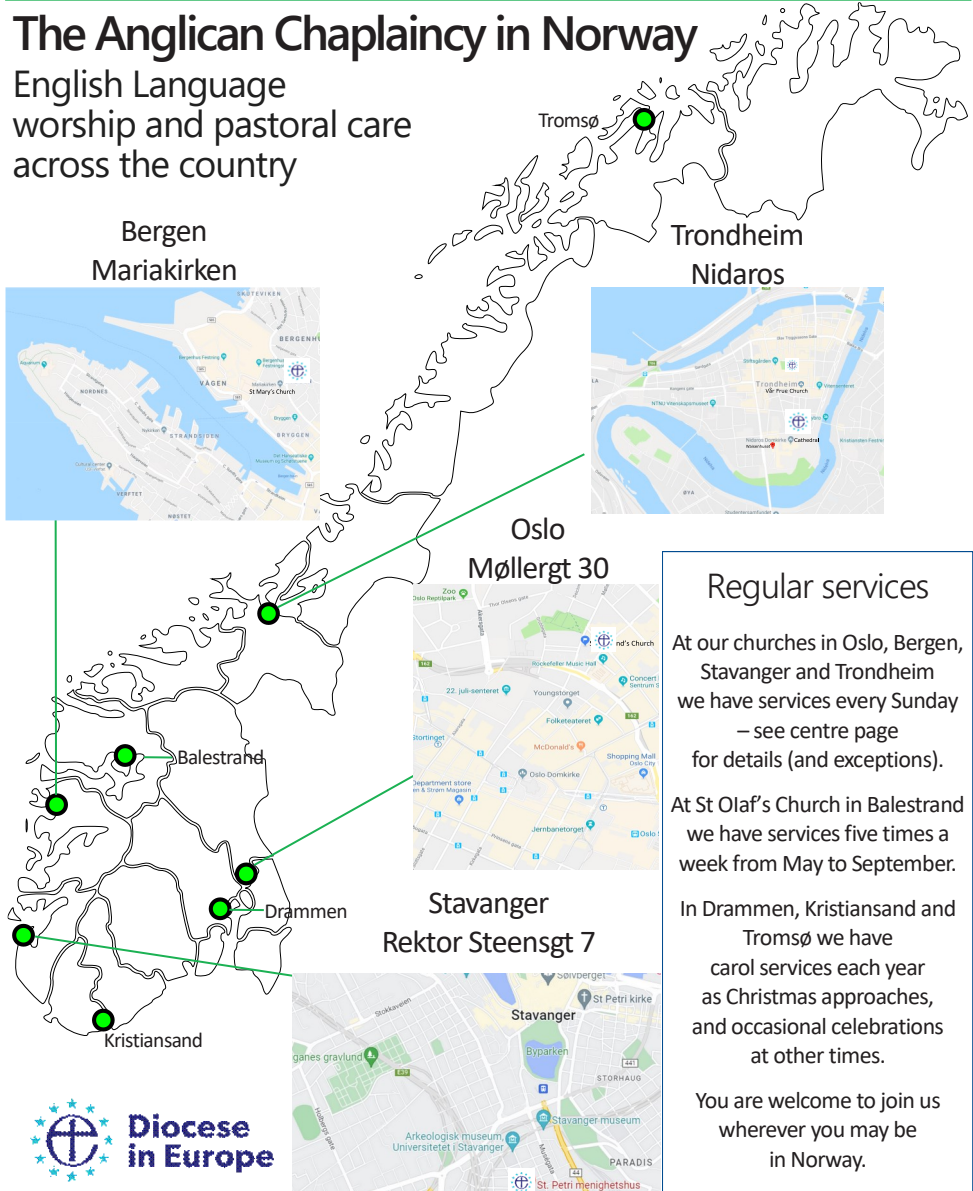




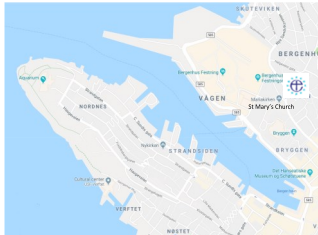
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Postboks 4005 AMB,  
0244 Oslo

# The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

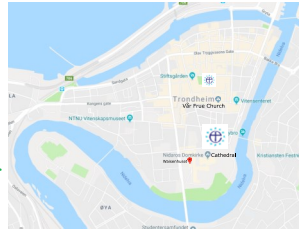
English Language  
worship and pastoral care  
across the country



Bergen  
Mariakirken



Trondheim  
Nidaros



Oslo  
Møllergt 30



## 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  
Rektor Steensgt 7

