

# TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

February—May 2025



The theme of this issue is:  
'All of us or none of us'

## Who's Who

SENIOR CHAPLAIN	The Revd Canon Joanna Udal c/o The British Embassy, Postboks 4005 AMB, 0244 Oslo oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no	22 69 22 14
ASSISTANT CHAPLAINS	Stavanger: The Revd Martin Chirume stavangerchaplain@anglicans.no	90 75 44 32
	Trondheim: vacant oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no	22 69 22 14
	Bergen: The Revd Martin Chirume bergenchaplain@anglicans.no	90 75 44 32
CHAPLAINCY SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Susan J Boyd   Safeguarding@anglicans.no	93 06 90 68
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER OSLO	Sharon John   oslosafeguarding@anglicans.no	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER BERGEN	Molly Rydström   bergensafeguarding@anglicans.no	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER STAVANGER	Vacant   Safeguarding@anglicans.no	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER TRONDHEIM	Susan J Boyd   Safeguarding@anglicans.no	93 06 90 68
READER IN TRONDHEIM	Susan J Boyd	93 06 90 68
READER IN BERGEN	Iris Evans-Bjørnø	55 18 67 34
ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES	Jill Almvang (Oslo), Mark Hamer (Stavanger), Ana Duerr (Bergen)	
CHAPLAINCY CHURCHWARDENS	Barbara McIntosh   Chaplaincywarden@anglicans.no Juliet Chukwuma   Chaplaincywarden@anglicans.no	
ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS	Annet Jasmine Karkada and Peter Pang (Oslo) Vacant (Stavanger) Logan Boese (Trondheim) Barbara McIntosh (Bergen)	
CHAPLAINCY ENVIRONMENT OFFICER	Esmé Knagenhjelm	
<i>FORSTANDER</i>	Ingeborg Wörheide   forstander@anglicans.no	92 82 68 84
OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS	Andrew Thomas (Hon secretary) Sigrid Kvaal (Hon Treasurer), Sarah Denieul (Stavanger), Norah Kaggwa Kwagala (Bergen), Jane Todd (Stavanger), Johanne Bjørnsdotter (Trondheim)	
CHAPLAINCY YOUTH OFFICER	Norah Kaggwa Kwagala	
YOUTH GROUP OSLO	Vacant	
YOUTH & CHILDREN STAVANGER	Vacant	
SUNDAY SCHOOL BERGEN	Norah Kaggwa Kwagala	
SUNDAY SCHOOL TRONDHEIM	Caroline Cheng	
YOUTH MENTOR TRONDHEIM	Priscilla Ringrose	
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	John Chapman   chapmanmusic@aol.com	
CARETAKER	Peter Ekeuluabia	
TOGETHER EDITORIAL TEAM	Joanna Udal, editor-in-chief; Ingeborg Wörheide and Beth Winther-Noble, editorial assistants	

### Persons authorised by the Bishop to assist in administering the sacrament of Holy Communion:

all readers, Ekene Agbalakwe, Hilde Chapman, Eirik Duerr, Sigrid I Kvaal, James Malumboj, Barbara McIntosh, Penny Mietle, Benn Mughisha, Peter Pang, Lynel Aurora Reyes, Philip Ringrose, Betty Short, Leanne Trekvold, Rune Torsvik, Sarah Warner Vik, Linda White, Ingeborg Wörheide.

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

**“Welcome one another,” urges St Paul, “just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”**

*Romans 15.7*

Welcome and acceptance of others are intended to be hallmarks of the Christian Church in witnessing to our Lord Jesus Christ who welcomes all those who come to him. So it is a particular tragedy when the church fails to express that welcome or fails to provide a safe place. In our church congregations within the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway, we have a particular opportunity to welcome people of very diverse cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds and to seek to build communities where all are valued and respected and find their place. We are all one in Christ and we are called to stand up to racism or any other kind of discrimination.

So racial justice has been high on our agenda for some time, as has contributing to the development of the Diocese in Europe’s racial justice policy “Breathing Life” and to creating a movement across the diocese and beyond to mobilise the Church in its response. The stark reality is that widespread discrimination is experienced by many racially minoritised people in our continent. The clarion call is that we need to stand together because we belong together. This issue of Together takes its theme from the recent Racial Justice Conference held by our Diocese in Bad Boll in Germany: *“All of us or none of us.”*

A rich reflection on the conference can be found in Sarah Denieul’s article on p11. Sarah represented the Chaplaincy at the Conference together with Revd Martin Chirume and me. We were blessed with rich fellowship from across the diocese as well as ecumenical and interfaith partners and brothers and sisters from many different parts of the world. We were challenged to form communities which can confront the tears of alienation to create new communities defined by relationship and belonging, and who can read the Bible together in a hermeneutic of trust.

Radical inclusion connects us to Christ’s prayer that all may be one as he and the Father are one. There have been special prayers and activities

across Norway during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, as various contributors record here. This year is the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and our prayers have had a special focus on our common faith as expressed in the Nicæan Creed. We look forward to going deeper into the Creed in our Lent Course beginning in March, as well as in our ongoing Confirmation classes which are underway for both young people and for adults.

We find the concern for peace picked up by Ana Duerr in her impressions of the Tallinn Deanery Synod and by Barbara McIntosh reflecting on the Cross of Nails, while Beth Winther-Noble concludes by recalling our focus towards love and to our Christian hope that love may overcome fear, a theme very much picked up by the 1st Letter of John which we took for our Bible studies at Deanery Synod. As St John assures us all: “If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4.12).

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

## Bergen notes

I see that I wrote about Bergen rain in the last edition of Together. Not surprisingly I suppose! In this edition I can note that heavy snowfall prevented us from holding coffee hour on January 5, 2025 (a first!) but I am happy to say key folks showed up at church that day to offer a Service of the Word to the 19 physically present and the 11 on Zoom. What a true blessing Zoom has been for our congregation since Covid-times.

Our biggest news recently is that we were finally able to announce on December 1, 2024 that Revd Martin Chirume, who has served in Stavanger from October 2023, is now officially approved to serve as Assistant Chaplain in both Stavanger and Bergen, on a 50% basis in each place, to the end of October 2025. In practice, this means alternating Services of Holy Communion led by Martin, and Services of the Word led by Iris.

This schedule meant that Martin was able to participate in our two Services of Nine Lessons and Carols in mid-December, first at the newly reopened Korskirken and the next evening at Maria-

kirken. As usual Iris arranged for some lesson readers from outside our church community; among others, the Canadian and British consuls, and BDM (Bergen Domkirken Menighet) sogneprest Bjarte Nese. A wonderful choir participated this year, with singers also as usual from within and without our church community; we were said to have sung like angels. A lofty comment! Seventeen of us, including Martin, shared a meal together after the Korskirken service. Whereas about fifty folks gathered after the Mariakirken service, for fellowship and the annual raffle, which raised a record-breaking 16000+ nok, allocated towards our mission project in Uganda (see separate article in the Oct 2024 edition of Together). This schedule also meant that Iris took the Christmas Day service in Bergen. With 41 in attendance, I heard it was also a joyous event.

Outside of Advent and Christmas, we had a busy autumn. Joshua presented a travelogue of his summer-time pilgrimage from Porto, Portugal to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Ana spoke of her impressions of her time in Tallinn at the Deanery Synod, we took food offerings to Robin Hood house in connection with our Harvest Festival, as well as hosting a pot-luck lunch for ourselves and visitors, we sent gifts of knitted items and toys to a foster-home in the Ukraine, we dove into Safeguarding Sunday (perhaps too deeply!), a small group led by Janine gathered on a week-day evening to make Chrismons (see below) for the Christmas tree erected in Mariakirken, and six of us



attended a very interesting tema-kveld at the Bergen Cathedral (see separate article).

We are grateful for the support received on various fronts: Revd Ulseth led us in worship one Sunday in each of October and December, and helped to take posters around town advertising our Carol Services(!), David, Lasma and Johan have all contributed in helping Roger provide music each and every Sunday, and Senior Chaplain Joanna Udal continues to look out for our best interests and to be an inspirational leader of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway.

Recently, a former member attended a service and remarked that he was happy to see the Bergen congregation has continued to evolve and grow from its humble beginnings in the early 1960s. My answer to that is that we keep on going by the hands and hearts of many within our small church community and by the grace of God. May we continue to shine a light in our small corner of the world.

*Barbara McIntosh, Chaplaincy warden and Bergen warden*

## Stavanger notes

2025 a new year, a new beginning easier said than done. Very easy again to come up with new themes, vision and mission statements. And this year as I have noted above that it's a new year and that is a fact. We have adopted the Diocesan Racial Justice theme 'All of us or none of us' this will go with our vision 'a welcoming Church.'

We ended 2024 on a high note by having 9 Lessons and Carol service at the Stavanger Cathedral - thumbs up to the organisers. It was a success at least in my opinion because we had a full house, we didn't hear of any accident during or after the event, and we managed to raise NOK 22275 donated to the charity Doctors without Borders. The idea of donating is in line with our theme All of us none of us. In other ways if we can't donate as a Church towards a just cause so who can then help.

In order for us to succeed we are using at least 4 channels of communication The Facebook, Jane is in charge, Thank you Jane. A Church Near You,

Sarah is in charge, Thank you Sarah and The Pew Paper - notice the difference between The Pew Paper and the service sheet. We also make use of The Together Magazine and St Petri's Domkirke website. If you have something you want to share do contact us, we are more than happy.

Last year again we (Martin and Sarah) attended the Racial Justice Conference in Bad Boll, Germany, which was supposed to be Interfaith but because of one reason or another it ended up being mostly Ecumenical and it was a success.

This year in Stavanger, we are preparing to celebrate 900 years of preaching the Gospel. Yes someone might want to correct me and say it's 900 years of the Cathedral's life. Which is correct, however it's 900 years of preaching, and because of that, quite a number of activities have been lined up in Stavanger and the big day will be in September - please watch the press.

Our numbers as a congregation are a bit worrying but we continue to pray, please continue to pray for us as we are looking forward to Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost - plans are already in place we will accommodate everyone and again we are going to make use of The Facebook, A Church Near You and The Pew Paper. These services reminds me of Squire Parsons—The Old Country Church, so please come and worship with us.

*Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain,  
Stavanger*

## Trondheim Notes



*Unity Week United Prayer—Photo credit NKR.*

Trondheim has again been active for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, welcoming the General Secretary of the Norwegian Christian Council, Henrik Erhard Hermansen, to preach for a united service in

the Cathedral. Trondheim Anglicans are represented by Reader Susan Boyd in the Trondheim Kristne Råd which has coordinated a full programme of prayer and fellowship for the week.

The highlights of a busy autumn have included the Anglican Bake Sale in November which went very well and we raised a good sum of money. The Lessons and Carols service also was a packed house and we're thankful to Joanna for coming to preside, along with the Cathedral staff for partnering with us. The children's procession was as ever enjoyed by all and we appreciated Dean Kristin's participation in the service.

Christmas Day worship in Vår Frue was well attended and we're thankful to Mary and to our special musical guests for sharing their talents and time with us.

We're looking ahead now to Lent and Holy Week and look forward to being a part of Chaplaincy-wide activities and partnering with the Norwegian Church locally as well.

*Logan Boese, Trondheim Assistant Warden*

## Oslo notes

Joining our neighbouring churches during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been a fine way to galvanise our communities during the wintery start to 2025. Even the heavy snowfall did not deter a fine turnout for our Unity Prayer Walk (or Vandring) between our local churches, starting out at the St Olav's Catholic Cathedral, visiting the Adventist and Greek Orthodox churches before the Swedish Margareta church where we lit candles to symbolise the light of Christ and then said together the Nicæan Creed in this 1700th anniversary year. The procession continued to St Edmund's where the intercessions included selected passages from the Church Fathers illuminating our faith, before the choir sang the anthem Author of life divine by Celia McDowall to the words of Charles Wesley. The procession then continued singing Ubi caritas until arriving at Oslo Cathedral for the blessing and warming refreshments and fellowship.

St Edmund's has had a longstanding friendship with the Dominican sisters at Lunden Kloster, which developed through former chaplain Janet Heil and Mother Anne-Lise OP. It was lovely to be invited to preach for this year's Ecumenical service at Lunden Kloster with this year's particular focus

on our shared faith as expressed by the Council of Nicaea.

Harvest now seems of another era but was well celebrated with the involvement of Children's Church and with the shared lunch which followed together with an auction of harvest produce raising almost 7000 NOK towards the Shearly Cripps children's home in Zimbabwe. Soon after, we commended to God's heavenly rest Annabella Loinsworth with the choir singing Rutter's The Lord bless you and keep you. The Service of Light gave another opportunity to remember all those we have loved who now rejoice on another shore and in a greater light.

Great efforts went into the St Edmund's Bazaar in November to support the Crypt Appeal. Many thanks to Anna and all the stall holders and helpers. A novelty this time was the Cryptic Quiz devised by Michael Brooks which provided hours of family entertainment. The Feast of St Edmund fell midweek but we were able to celebrate by releasing online a recording of the St Edmund's 140th Anniversary service held on 30th June with the joint choirs of St Edmund's and the Choral Scholars from St Martin-in-the-Fields. As ever we have been grateful to Revd Morten Grindvoll for taking services at St Edmund's when the Senior Chaplain has had responsibilities elsewhere, and particularly for leading the Advent Christingle service.

The Christmas festivities have brought comfort and joy to many, first in Bragernes Church in Drammen in early December, then with a full house at St Edmund's for both the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and for Carols by Candlelight. Others still joined us for carol singing outside St Edmund's on Christmas Eve, where we were even joined for a time by a group of visitors sporting festive reindeer antlers! Children's Church inspired our wonder at the birth of the baby Jesus at Bethlehem with their nativity play and singing, while on Christmas morning, the challenge was to fit in the extra chairs so that nobody should be prevented from joining our celebration of Christ's birth.

Happily the festivities continued on with a well-supported Christmas celebration in Drammen on 26th December bringing together the South Suda-

nese Maban community around the region. Appreciation to St Edmund's and Bragernes Church for their support – it was a joy to celebrate together with Pastor Isaac Momma who has now received our bishop's permission to officiate.



*Sudanese Maban Christmas in Drammen.*

We look forward to welcoming Revd Donnetta Thomas, a deacon and children's worker from the Diocese of York for a month's placement in Oslo during Lent, and to the building up of our whole community in faith, whatever our stage of life, as we seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in faith and hope and love.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain, Oslo*

## Cross of Nails

The Bergen congregation received an invitation in the week preceding the last of the four Temakveld offered by Bjørgvin bispedømme, Bjørgvin kirkeakademi and Bergen domkirke menighet in autumn 2024. This was likely because the late November evening's discussions were to be conducted in English, given a special guest from the UK was participating. Even on relatively short notice, six from the Bergen Anglican community were able to attend the event at Bergen Cathedral.

And we are all so glad we did! The four "theme nights", arranged in connection with the celebration of the 750th anniversary of the Norwegian Landslov, were organized to mark the four daugh-

ters of God; Mercy, Truth, Justice and Peace. This last of the series was on Peace and reconciliation. As it was said a few times during the evening, Peace is possible only with the other three. The first speaker was Norwegian lawyer/judge/human rights activist Hanne Sophie Greve, who gave us a history lesson of sorts about Landsloven. After a hymn, it was England's The Very Reverend John Witcombe's turn to speak. Now serving as Dean of Coventry Cathedral, he told of a different history; the story of the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in November, 1940, and the hope that came out of its ashes in the forming of a Cross from 3 of the many nails found in the ruins. After another hymn, there was a panel discussion between Bishop Ragnhild Jepsen and the two speakers, discussing the four daughters, how we all can contribute to peace, and of the World Council of Churches' program called Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. This discussion could have continued much longer, as interesting as it was, but time was needed for the presentation of Eivind Groven's song based on Draumkvedet, a long Middle Ages folk tale, sung so mesmerizingly by Berit Opheim from Voss. And then to end, the Litany of the Cross of Nails and the Blessing, offered by Bishop Ragnhild in the Sami language, as well as Norwegian, and by Very Rev'd John in English. Note the following two definitions, as it were, of reconciliation:

1. *Journeying from a fractured past towards a shared future. -The Very Reverend John Witcombe.*
2. *The transformation of violent and destructive conflict into non-violent and creative disagreement. - Archbishop of Canterbury.*



*Left to right: Astrid, Barbara, Molly, John Witcombe, Iris, Myla, Hannah.*

There is a Cross of Nails community around the world, with the Bergen Domkirke Menighet joining in 2021.

*Barbard McIntosh, Bergen*

## Tallinn Deanery Synod Impressions



### *Synod representatives in Tallinn.*

This was my second Synod visit to Tallinn and my third visit to this lovely city. I have to say that my impression was very different from previous times. There was a background of geopolitical uncertainty that had a tendency to permeate conversations and comments. Because of unavailability of flights, my visit was extended two extra days and luckily for me, I learned a lot about the situation in Estonia and also in Finland. Both countries border with Russia and the situation in Ukraine was in everybody's mind.

This Synod started on Thursday afternoon for the lay representatives. Many of us had arrived on Wednesday and we were all in the same hotel which led to a lot of informal get togethers. The Anglican congregation in Tallinn is called St. Timothy and St. Titus. The location is the church of the Holy Spirit (Püha Vaimu kirik) in the old town. The Rev. Gustav Piir was our host. Gustav Piir officiates both in English, following the Anglican tradition, and in Estonian, following the Lutheran tradition. This is possible thanks to the Porvoo agreement. There were 4 other representatives from Estonia, including new people from Latvia and Finland.

Our archdeacon Leslie Nathaniel welcomed us and just as he had done before encouraged us to sing

				Oslo		Bergen	
FEBRUARY							
Sun	02	Candlemas	11:00 18:00	All Age Service Sung Communion Taize Service	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	09	4th before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	16	3rd before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	23	2nd before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
MARCH							
Sun	02	Sunday next before Lent	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Weds	05	Ash Wednesday	19:00	Sung Communion	10:30	Combined Service w DNK	
Sun	09	Lent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	16	Lent 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	23	Lent 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	30	Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
APRIL							
Sun	06	Lent 5	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	13	Palm Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Thu	17	Maundy Thursday	19:00	Sung Communion			
Fri	18	Good Friday	11:00	Joint Service with ALC	11:00	Combined Service w DNK	
Sun	20	Easter	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Combined Service w DNK	
Sun	27	Easter 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
MAY							
Sun	04	Easter 3	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	11	Easter 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Sun	18	Easter 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	
Sun	25	Easter 6	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	
Thu	29	Ascension Day	19:00	Sung Communion			



Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
Malachai 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Isaiah 6.1-8, 9-end Luke 5.1-11	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri Crypt	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Jeremiah 17.5-10 Luke 6.17-26	10:30	Family Communion St Petri Crypt	18:00	HC Cathedral
Genesis 2.4b-9,15- end	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	HC Chapter House
<b>MARCH</b>				
Exodus 34.29-end Luke 9.28-36	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Isaiah 58.1-12 John 8.1-11	18:00	Service of the word	TBA	Service w/ cathedral staff
Deutronomy 26.1-11 Luke 4.1-13	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 Luke 13.31-end	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Isaiah 55.1-9 Luke 13.1-19	10:30	Holy Communion		Online gathering
Joshua 5.9-12 Luke 15.1-3,11b-end	TBA	Family Communion Kristiansand		
<b>APRIL</b>				
Isaiah 43.16-21 John 12.1-8	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Isaiah 50.4-9a	10:30	Family Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Exodus 12.1-14 John 13.1-17,31b-35			18:00	HC Cathedral
Isaiah 52.13-end of 53 John 18.1-end of 19	12:00	Service of the Word	18:00	Ecumenical prayer walk /TKR
Acts 10.34-43 Luke 24.1-12	10:30	Family Service	11:00	HC Vår Frue
Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-end	10:30	Family Communion		Online gathering
<b>MAY</b>				
Acts 9.1-6[7-20] John 21.1-19	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Acts 9.36-end John 10.22-30	10:30	Family Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Acts 11.1-18 John 13.31-35	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Acts 16.9-15 John 14.23-29	10:30	Family Communion	11:00	Online gathering
Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end				

along in different languages, one in Spanish we knew from last year and one from Zimbabwe. Alas, Rev. Martin had to do a solo to teach us how to pronounce correctly. It is a fun way to warm up to conversations. Rev. Joanna conducted the Bible study on the two days of the Synod. We had interesting discussions in small groups on different passages of the 1st letter of John. There were morning and evening prayers during both sessions.

Thursday afternoon we had a presentation by Archbishop Urmas Viilma of the Estonian Lutheran church. It was a remarkable presentation. Archbishop Viilma grew up with no religion at all. It was not until Estonia became independent from the Soviets, in 1991, that the church was reestablished. I heard the same when I did a presentation about the Synod in Bergen, and the Ukrainians in our congregation confirmed that that was the case with them as well. Archbishop Viilma went on to be the first priest, the first deacon, pastor, the first bishop and archbishop of the reestablished church. He told us about the situation they are now facing with their relation to the orthodox church. About 16% of the people in Estonia are orthodox, with Russian background. Their bishop who reports to the patriarch in Moscow, has recently been denied a residence permit in Estonia. A portion of the orthodox congregation (about 3%) actually reports to the patriarch in Constantinople. According to a 2022 survey, about 8% of the population considers themselves Lutheran, about 5% other smaller congregations but 58% of the rest of the population of 1.3 million reports no religious affiliation and 13% were unwilling to respond. Still, the norms of conduct are the same as Christians everywhere.

Afterwards we had the Lay Chapter meeting in which we discussed : Appointment of meeting secretary – Approval of minutes – reports from the Diocesan and General Synods and budget including input from Jill Almvang. Afternoon presentation «Godly play» by Rev. Eha Kraft, who runs the Sunday school at Püha Vaimu's basement , in which she explained how through tactile interaction (sand boxes, little toy ducks, etc.) the concept of who is “your neighbour” is explained and hope-

fully understood by the children and expanded to people's relationships.

The Friday Session began with information given by Archdeacon Leslie on the follow up to the Racial Justice Conference held in 2023 in Freiburg, Germany: A follow up conference ALL OF US OR NONE OF US was to be conducted shortly near Stuttgart. The Revd. Iain Bendrey – Head of Children and Youth Ministry Development, based in Lisbon, gave a talk about his work and the importance of issues of climate, identity and poverty for Gen Z. There was also News around the Deanery, while Communications officer Susi Doherty gave a brief introduction to her ongoing work and Susan Boyd an update on Safeguarding in our Diocese. The final presentation was Bishop Robert Innes who also mentioned the relationship with the Russian Orthodox Church and as member of the World Council of Churches how it is important to keep the dialogue going, to explain how we disagree with was going on in Russia. It was necessary to walk a careful line with the presence of the congregations of St Petersburg and Moscow.



*Inside Püha Vaimu*

On Saturday, there was Eucharist at 10:30 in Püha waimu kirik, lunch, farewell and departure. Because I was staying an extra day, I was able to attend the concert on Saturday afternoon by Olga Gamm, organist at Püha Vaimu, on the newly renovated organ. It was well attended and the JS Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D-minor was the highlight. The church was built in the 14th century and has undergone many restorations. It has an intimate atmosphere very conducive to meditation. The main altar is by Bernt Notke, German

painter and sculptor whose workshop was located in Lübeck and contemporary with the artist(s) that created Mariakirke's altar. Perhaps the same workshop?

Next day, Sunday, I attended the English service at 13:00. Again, I felt there was something very special about the church and the service and when the time for communion came, Olga started playing my #1 favorite piece by Rameau. It was a magical moment. Some of our Estonian Synod colleagues attended as well and after the service they invited me to join them at the coffee hour in a little café next to the church. I am very glad that I attended. We were joined by some students and the conversation turned, of course, to Trump, the Ukrainian war and what is to come. I noticed several people in the café were listening to our conversations and one lady even came over to ask our opinions about Elon Musk. I was sorry to leave their company, but I had to go back to the airport.

All in all, I felt everyone was concerned about the situation in Europe but there was calm prevailing. Everything would be alright.

*Ana Duerr, Bergen*

## All of us or none of us Racial Justice conference 2024



*Speakers at the Racial Justice conference (Sarah far right).*

In the first week of December 2024, Senior Chaplain Joanna, Reverend Martin and I travelled to Stuttgart to attend the Diocese in Europe's second international, ecumenical and interfaith Racial Justice Conference in Bad Boll (home to Germany's first Evangelical Academy since 1945). Academics, clergy and lay folk from all corners of the Diocese, and indeed of the world, gathered for a stimulating and incredibly well-organised three

days. Pause from the full programme came in the form of song, prayer and worship, good food, fellowship, and astonishingly stirring entertainment.

2024's conference maintained and built upon the previous year's overarching theme of "God's Kaleidoscope", basing its discussions on 2023's conference statement, and taking a deep dive into the vision and mission: "All of us, or none of us":

**"We share a dream:** That no person shall be judged by outward features but that all people shall be seen as children of God, Our Father, in all their diversity, part of one human family.

**We share a hope:** That God's love will enable us to see our own shortcomings in making this dream come true, repent of our failures towards those in need of our solidarity and transform our lives from preserving our privileges to sharing our place at the table.

**We share commitment:** That we will ceaselessly work to form a communion of faith in which His vision can start to become tangible reality for everyone, celebrating together the splendour of God's creation and the colourfulness of our community."

(Intro to the 2024 Conference Statement).

It would be impossible for me to adequately summarise the wealth of challenging topics, rich debates, testimonies, insights and observations of these three days. However, the conference organisers and racial justice team have done just that! To enjoy conference newsletters and read the full 2024 conference statement, please visit <https://www.europe.anglican.org/site-search?key=racial+justice+conference>.

I need to say that all present recognised that racism, exclusion, discrimination, gaping divisions, and the far-reaching legacy of colonialism are both wittingly and unwittingly alive and well today in our societal structures and often in our faith structures. No conference participant or group bore grudges, or expressed the desire to chastise, or to reverse roles. Rather, a desire for the past and of its repercussions today to be acknowledged and owned. A desire for a safe space to understand and express past and present suffering. A desire for the future to be different, and for

that difference to begin today. A desire for us all, in the eyes of God our Father and in all our wonderful difference, to truly believe that we are of equal worth. To this end, the gravity of the subject notwithstanding, the atmosphere of the conference was energetic, positive and joyfully hopeful.

A few moments, words, presentations that stood out for me:

- The Lord's Prayer spoken in the language of our origin or/and of our heart brought a tranquil yet galvanising hum to the room.

- Songs and hymns sung in a variety of languages. The Racial Justice Clarion Call sung at the beginning of each day and whenever we needed to revitalise!

- Keynote from missionary medical Dr Gisela "Either all are healthy, or none", perspectives on healing, health and racial justice.

- Voices of the youth (18-ca 30yrs): the international "caste" system within faiths still pervades and needs to be recognized and addressed; discrimination or lack of consideration with regard to youth prevails; need to revisit the need for part-time priests to be at least 35 years old; elders need to consider ceding control and welcome youth to leadership roles...

- The interfaith landscape today: "Are we doing the right things at the right time in our public witness so that faith communities can be catalytic for ensuring racial justice through peace making and bridge building?" Multidimensional aspects of all religions and effects stemming from world events, e.g. Interreligious amity shaken, as not seen since WWII, by Israel/Gaza.

- Father Michael, monk, pastor in the illegal African National Congress, fighter for freedom from Apartheid, lost an eye and both arms from a letter bomb. The ecumenical and interfaith community played a central role in the struggle against Apartheid, but also provided theological and ideological justification for Apartheid. Father Michael is the founder of the <https://healing-memories.org> where individuals and communities can share their stories, confront their pain, and work towards reconciliation.

- Dr Joycia: "Leave no-one behind": spoke about the lack of agency of disenfranchised, marginalised groups (Romans, Dalits, Tribals, migrants...). If we

silence some because of their racial or social background, we are silencing a voice of God.

- Dr Esther in her Bible study (Revelation 21:1-7) "There shall be no more tears" spoke of Ubuntu: humanity to others, "where my being is defined by your being", calling us to recognise the interconnectedness of humanity and value the contribution and experiences of all. We should question ideologies that have sought to shame, violate, oppress others, that contribute to the annihilation of others. She also mentioned that the Bible must be freed from the chains of cultural, colonial ways of interpretation in order to be liberating.

- An extraordinary evening of Sami music and history with singer, joiker and artist, Elin: <https://www.elinteilus.se>

I would like to end with an extract from Bishop Anne Lise's closing blessing at our 9L&C service in Stavanger Cathedral in December: "May you recognise in your life the presence, power and light of your soul. May you realise that you are never alone, that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe. May you have respect for your own individuality and difference. May you realise that the shape of your soul is unique, that you have a special destiny here, that behind the facade of your life there is something beautiful, good and eternal happening. May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride and expectation with which God sees you in every moment."

*Sarah Denieul, Stavanger*

## Unity Week Sermon

*Preached at Lunden Kloster, 22nd January 2025*

Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe". Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20.27-28) In this remarkable scene of Thomas encountering the risen Christ, we find the climax of St John's Gospel in its witness to Jesus. Thomas is the "fall guy", the one whose questions allow the discovery of the greater truth. The puzzling question is, how is it that Thomas only believes in Jesus resurrected from the dead when he is presented

with Jesus' actual wounds from the cross and nails?

Thomas generally gets a bad press, but he's not alone in doubting or failing to recognise the reality of Jesus. A little earlier in St John's Gospel, we find the disciple Philip asking Jesus: 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? (John 14.8-10)

This relationship between Jesus and the Father was at the heart of debate and exploration in the early centuries of the Church. Many people were reflecting on how best to describe the implications of this relationship: they were seeking to avoid descriptions which risked undermining the distinct nature of God. As we heard in Deuteronomy, "the Lord our God who is the Lord alone," and yet they were trying to find language which could give adequate witness to their encounter with the divine in the person of Jesus Christ.

It was no easy task given the constraints on the terminology and concepts available. But undaunted, they tried and tested different expressions, sometimes acclaimed, more often found wanting and sometimes resulting in real conflict and even division. One figure who became embroiled in such controversy was the presbyter Arius in Egypt. He rejected the formulation of his bishop Alexander and promoted his own formulation insisting that the Son was distinct from and inferior to the Father. We can imagine the flurry of correspondence being carried across the Eastern Mediterranean as different language was formulated and often rejected. But so serious were the fault-lines emerging that the Emperor Constantine decided to call together a council of the church to resolve these disputes.

Reports vary, around 200-300 bishops from across the Mediterranean world were to convene together in modern-day Turkey, originally to converge in Ankara but the venue was changed to Nicaea much closer to the newly founded city of Constantinople. By some small miracle, or by the

Holy Spirit acting in overdrive, the Council agreed upon a term and its interpretation which was just about acceptable to nearly everyone at the Council, that Jesus Christ was "of one being with the Father." This is the Council of Nicaea we are celebrating the 1700th anniversary of this year, whose formulation of the Christian faith in the words of the creed of Nicaea honours the ascriptions of holy Scripture and the experience of the Church to testify Jesus to be divine and of one being with God, the one to whom Thomas can declare, "My Lord and my God".



*Approaching St Edmund's—Oslo Unity Prayers Thursday 23rd January.*

But how important are the doctrinal formulations of an earlier age seemingly so far from our own? Reflecting on the vital role of Christian doctrine, Rowan Williams contends that, "to say less than the truth about the union of divine and human in Jesus is to offer less than Christ offers, to reduce the hope of radical transformation of human nature through the Holy Spirit. These affirmations of our faith "tell us who we are as Christians, and without them we lose our identity – and thus also lose the true depth of our communion with each other." Christian doctrine, he argues, "is always at the service of this communion, with God and with each other." Defining moments such as the Council of Nicaea "are attempts not so much to guard a static content of belief but to preserve

the fullness of what is opened up in Christ to a redeemed humanity.”

As another British scholar, Colin Gunton has observed, “it matters because our salvation hangs upon it.” Our Epistle reading from the 1st letter of Peter spoke of faith being tested to ensure its genuineness “as gold is tested by fire”. There is no lack of rigor here, but faith founded upon love with the hope of indescribable joy for those of us who have not seen and yet believe. And the letter also speaks boldly of the outcome of this faith as “the salvation of your souls.” As the disciple Thomas looks at the wounded hands and side of Jesus he recognises his Lord and his God in the one who has been crucified on the cross and has been raised from the dead. He challenges us to recognise our Lord in his Passion and in his body the Church in all its woundedness and fractures. My own church is in turmoil at present, with painful self-searching over its failings towards victims of abuse. And there are fault lines over questions of identity and human sexuality. But as a former Archbishop of Canterbury Michael Ramsey wrote somewhat earlier, it can be possible to accept even “the pain of disunity as a part of the Passion of Christ”. The inner mystery of the Passion “contains both the meaning of disunity and the hope of unity”. The true credentials of the Anglican Church he described as “its incompleteness, with the tension and the travail in its soul”; because through these it is called “by its very brokenness to point to the Universal Church wherein all have died.” The movement towards unity, or reunion as he describes it, “consists in the growth within every part of the Church of the truth of the Body and (of) the Passion” of Christ.

Thomas only believes in Jesus risen from the dead when he is confronted with Jesus’ actual wounds. As the Church, our refuge is in Jesus Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God, whom we meet in his death and resurrection as we share his body and blood. May the Lord hasten the hour when all churches recognise each other in the one communion God wills and share together in the one bread given for us.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

## All are welcome

*“Fear builds walls, hope builds bridges.”*

### ***Graffiti on the Palestinian side of a wall***

All of us, or none of us is a simple sentence, but it can be a difficult one to live out in practice. It’s easy to love your neighbour when they look like you, have similar political leanings, the same cultural background and language, and love the same people you love. What made Christ’s statement “love your neighbour” so radical was the lack of qualifiers. We don’t get told our neighbour is someone of the same race, same gender, same class. Christ did not specify sexuality, immigration status, political leaning, religion, age. He left us with a simple sentence that is a radical call to action. In a world where division, discrimination, war, and refugees were just as present as they are today, Christ calls on us to show love to all.

So, how do we live by these two simple, radical statements? It would be lovely to have a definitive answer to end our magazine with. Sadly, that’s beyond me as a writer! Perhaps our first move is to look past what we perceive as differences, and extend love. Fear of what we don’t understand is often the biggest barrier. Sometimes, facing what we fear in others leads to understanding, knowing, and loving our neighbours. In the words of Bishop Mariann Budde at the recent inauguration service:

“The truth is that we are all people, capable of both good and bad. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn astutely observed that “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties, but right through every human heart and through all human hearts.” The more we realize this, the more room we have within ourselves for humility, and openness to one another across our differences, because in fact, we are more like one another than we realize, and we need each other.”

*Beth Winther-Noble, Oslo*

## Worshipping together in Stavanger

On Sunday 26th January, to end the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Stavanger Anglicans joined an ecumenical (nearly bilingual) service in St Petri Church which was lovely. This was led by the Sokneprest Øivind Holtedahl and priests from the Methodist church while Juliet and Veronica read scripture and a part of the intercessions and Mark helped with the distribution of the communion. The light installation Gaia (part of the 900 year anniversaryhangs and turns in St Petri <https://stavangerloed.no/om-festivalen/>).

*Sarah Denieul, Stavanger*



## From Bergen to Kropyvnytskj

In 2023 the Bergen congregation, through our Ukrainian friends, became aware of a foster home in Kropyvnytskj, Ukraine, run privately by Fru Valentina, aged 70. We learned the home gets little monetary support from the government and as we became aware of the needs of the 6 children, aged 5-12, who stay there, we collected and sent school supplies to them. In preparation for winter 2024, the request went out to our church community and friends for hand-knitted socks. The response was fantastic, with 12 pairs of socks, plus hats and mittens being donated as well as monetary funds which were used to purchase toys and chocolates. Thankfully all items were delivered via private courier in time for the children to open these gifts on St. Nicholas' Day, December 6, as is the tradition in the Ukraine. It was lovely to see the smiles on the children's faces in the nice thank-you video received from them. Thanks to all those involved.

*Ana Duerr, Bergen*



## Upcoming events



### Chaplaincy

**7th March** World Day of Prayer

**22nd April** AGM

**11th May** Confirmation Service TBC

**25th May** Summer Chaplaincy Opening, Balestrand

**4th-7th September** Archdeaconry Synod, Bad Boll, Germany

### Oslo

**9th April** Liberation Thanksgiving at Sylling Church 6pm

**19th April** Easter Vigil 8pm

**27th April** Oslo AGM

From the registers

### DEATHS

Isobel Ann Knudsen, Drammen

Annabella Victoria Loinsworth, Oslo

Mark Rhodes, Hundvåg



### CONSECRATION OF REVD ANDREW NORMAN

Our new Suffragan Bishop, Revd Andrew Norman, will be consecrated in Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday 27th February at 11am, and installed at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Gibraltar on Sunday March 2nd

See [www.europe.anglican.org](http://www.europe.anglican.org) for live-streaming.

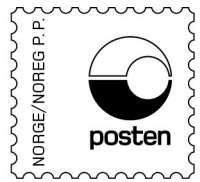
Please hold Andrew and his family in your prayers.

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

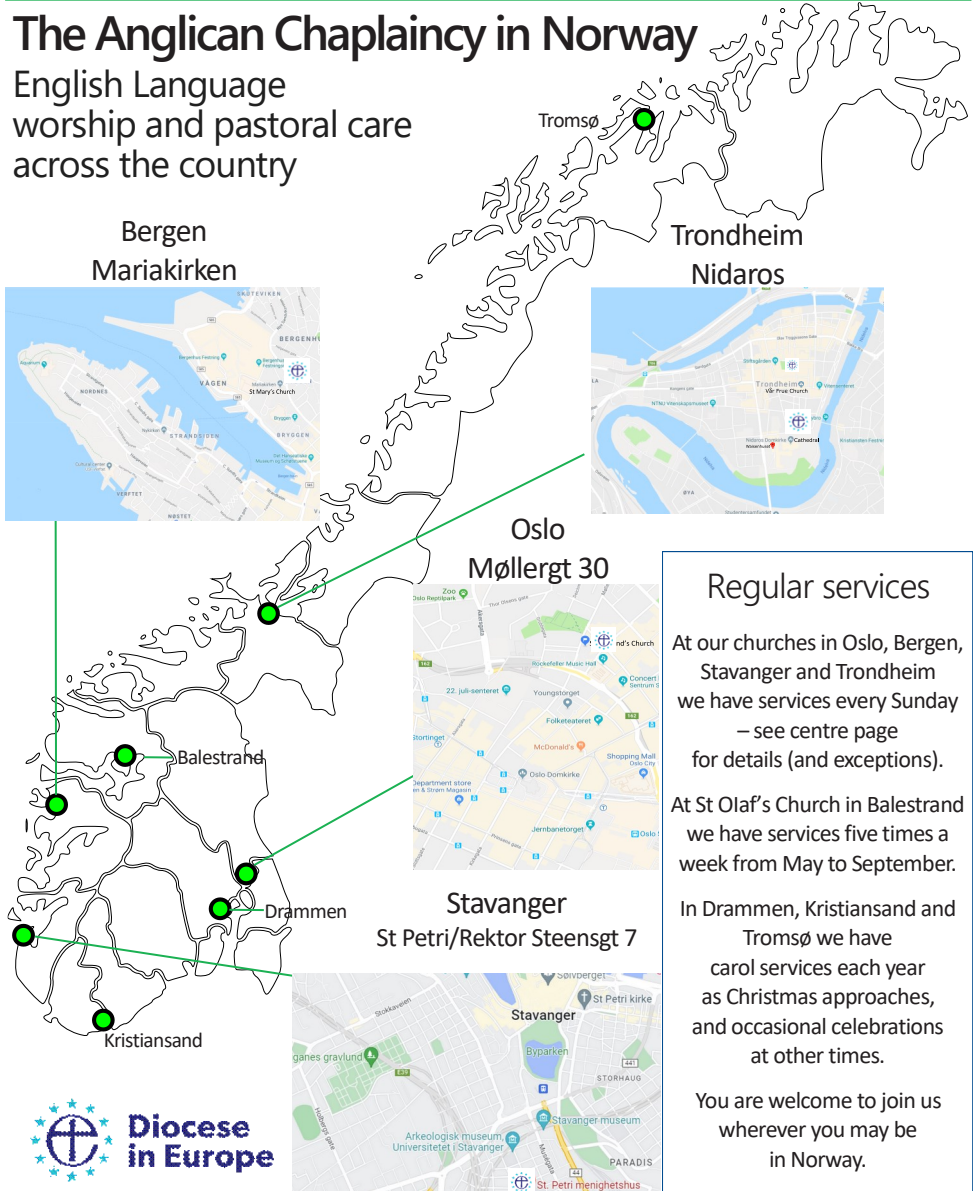




Retur: British Embassy,  
Postboks 4005 AMB,  
0244 Oslo

# 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  
St Petri/Rektor Steensgt 7

Kristiansand

Balestrand

Drammen

Stavanger

St Petri kirke

Stavanger museum

St. Petri menighetshus

Stavanger museum

St. Petri menighetshus

St. Petri menighetshus

St. Petri menighetshus