TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

October 2026 — January 2027

The theme of this issue is: 'Voyages'

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For further information see our websites: www.osloanglicans.no, www.bergenanglicans.net, Stavanger: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/ and Trondheim: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8468. The diocesan website iswww.europe.anglican.org, and the Church of England's website is www.cofe.anglican.org.

From the Senior Chaplain

"Ro! Ro! Ro!" has been the cry this summer as Norway supporters have celebrated the team's exhilarating voyage through the stages of the Football World Cup. So it was very timely when the modern-day Viking longship *Draken Harald Hårfagre* sailed up the Oslo Fjord in July and moored alongside in Bjorvika and opened up for on-board visits. The ship has become well known for recently for having starred in this summer's new film release The Odyssey. Some or our recently confirmed young people had the chance to take up an oar on board when we visited as part of a post-confirmation young people's retreat, as you'll see on the cover of this issue of Together. A lively weekend of activities gave the chance to explore Jesus' own Odyssey along the voyage of his ministry from Galilee towards the cross and to his resurrection.

We have taken *Voyages* as the theme for this edition, reflecting on the voyages of our lives as well as on Jesus' voyage and the life-changing avenues it opens up for us. As the 1st Letter of Peter encourages us,

"By God's great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1.3-5)

The letter warns there may be trials along the way, but through these, the genuineness of our faith—"being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1.7)

It has been a great joy for our Chaplaincy to celebrate two ordinations with Eirik Gjerløw being ordained Deacon in Brussels in June and Jacob Quick being ordained priest in Oslo in July, and they both speak about their ordination journey in this issue. They encourage us all to consider the particular ministry to which we may be called, as do those recently authorised as congregational worship leaders. Callings are wonderfully varied within the body of Christ and one special role which we still pray for to be filled is the position of Honorary Treasurer for the Chaplaincy. We are very grateful for Sigrid's many years of dedicated service and to the interim team currently in place. There are many different callings which through service and God's grace may give shape and purpose to our lives.

Following King Harald's death at the end of August, there has been much reflection on his many years of faithful service and the widespread affection in which he was held. As the Stortingspresident described, "He saw people; he was near to people." It was very moving to attend the national service of mourning in the Oslo domkirke together with other church representatives from the Norwegian Christian Council and with people from so many walks of life. In Eirik Gjerløw's sermon from St Edmund's the same day, included in this issue, he encourages us "to become aware of what our own lives demand of us" as we seek to follow Christ.

Church representatives at the national service of mourning (photo credit: NKR)

Our voyages may be testing at times, but we are invited always to call on God's help "to steer the vessel of our life toward the everlasting shore of peace" as a beautiful prayer of St Augustine of Hippo describes:

Blessed are your saints, O God and King, who have travelled over the tempestuous sea of this mortal life, and have made the harbour of peace and happiness.

Watch over us who are still in our dangerous voyage; and remember such as lie exposed to the rough storms of trouble and temptations.

Frail is our vessel, and the ocean is wide; but as in your mercy you have set our course, so steer the vessel of our life toward the everlasting shore of

peace, and bring us at last to the quiet haven of our heart's desire, where you, O our God, are blessed, and live and reign for ever and ever.

In this hope we, can be ready to take up an oar and to row for the sake of God's kingdom. Our voyages will be most sure if we ask God to steer our lives and to "bring us at last to the quiet haven of our heart's desire".

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Stavanger Notes

The Stavanger Congregation continues its voyage of faith, worship, and fellowship, giving thanks to God for His sustaining grace and faithful guidance. As with every journey, the life of the congregation has included seasons of activity, rest, renewal, and renewed commitment to the mission entrusted to us by Christ.

Pentecost Celebrations

In keeping with our usual practice, the church was closed during July for the summer recess. This pause provided members with an opportunity for rest and refreshment, enabling us to resume our common life and worship with renewed strength and gratitude. Before the recess, we celebrated an infant baptism in June. This joyful occasion marked the beginning of summer and reminded us of God's gracious welcome into the fellowship of the Church. We look forward to another infant baptism in October, when we shall gather to celebrate new life and mark the arrival of autumn.

Our pastoral voyage has also included the visitation of a considerable number of Christians who are home-based and unable to attend worship regularly. These visits were mutually encouraging, and those visited conveyed their love and warm greetings to the congregation. We continue to hold them in our prayers and remain committed to strengthening the bonds of fellowship that unite the whole Body of Christ.

Since worship resumed after the summer break, we have been encouraged by the increasing number of visitors attending our services each Sunday. We warmly welcome all who join us and trust that our congregation will continue to grow. With this increase in attendance, there is also a greater need for cakes and refreshments for fellowship after Holy Communion. Members are therefore encouraged to support this ministry of hospitality generously.

The return of regular members has brought renewed vitality to our worshipping community. We remain grateful for the faithful musical ministry of Caroline and Veronica, whose service continues to enrich our worship. We also give thanks that three people are currently undertaking training to become worship leaders. Their willingness to serve represents an important investment in the future of the congregation and strengthens our capacity for ministry.

In the coming season, we anticipate offering more Services of the Word than in previous years, providing further opportunities for prayer, biblical reflection, and proclamation. September, observed as the Season of Creation, will be reflected particularly in our sermons and prayers as we consider our responsibility to care for God's world.

We commend the Stavanger Congregation to the prayers of the Chaplaincy as we continue our voyage in faith, hope, and service.

Revd Martin Chirume Assistant Chaplain, Stavanger

Oslo Notes

Our voyage has included an eventful past few months in Oslo! At the end of June, Eirik and Jacob left for their ordination retreat at a monastery in Chevetogne, Belgium. The retreat culminated in the ordination service at Holy Trinity Brussels on 28th June, when Eirik was ordained deacon by Bishop Robert. Eirik was joined by family and

friends, in person and online, to celebrate this new chapter in Eirik's service in the Church.

Eirik's Ordination in Brussels

The following Sunday, Jacob was ordained priest in Oslo by Bishop Trevor Willmott, with Eirik serving as deacon. International and local guests joined the St Edmund's congregation, including no shortage of ecumenical clergy. Bishop Trevor led the service with warmth, humour, and a personal touch: he was Assistant Chaplain in Oslo in the late 1970's and spoke fondly of his love for the Chaplaincy in Norway. The service was followed by a bountiful feast. The following day, celebrations continued as Jacob offered his first Mass, and we enjoyed a lovely time of fellowship and food afterwards.

Jacob's ordination in Oslo

In early August, Oslo hosted a retreat for recently confirmed youth. Youth came from across the chaplaincy to enjoy time together over food, games, learning, and adventures. We celebrated the feast of Christ's Transfiguration together on a forest hilltop and explored what Christ's Transfiguration means for us as his followers. We also investigated the theme of 'Jesus' Odyssey', where we compared and contrasted Odysseus' journey in the Odyssey and Jesus' earthly ministry in the Gospels. It was special to gather in person for fellowship, and we left with a desire to gather again soon. One of our youth confirmands, Liv, has kindly written about the retreat, included in this issue.

Our ecumenical partnerships continue to bear fruit in public witness. Clergy from St Edmund's were able to attend the 15th annual commemoration of the victims of the July 22nd terror attack in Oslo. The memorial service was held at the Oslo domkirke, with loved ones of the victims in attendance, in addition to leaders of Norway's political parties, ecumenical and interfaith groups, and the late King Harald and Queen Sonja. It was a moving occasion and reminder of the importance of working together across divides to promote peace. Members of St Edmund's joined the ecumenical celebrations of the feast of St Olaf in Sarpsborg in July, and a Pilgrim Walk through Maridalen to Oslo, with participants from St Edmund's, the Church of Sweden, and the Church of Norway.

Near the end of August, St Edmund's had a delightful BBQ in Frognerparken. We were blessed with beautiful weather and great food, though getting the grills started was a Herculean task! We give thanks for the fellowship and continued growth in our community.

On the day of King Harald's death, we held a special Evening Prayer with the church open for people to pray or sign our condolence book. Eirik laid flowers at the palace on behalf of St Edmund's together with the other churches. He also preached at St Edmund's during the national day of mourning. News of Princess Astrid's death became known shortly before Choral Evensong at St Edmund's for Oslo Kulturnatt so prayer could be included, just a fortnight after her brother's death.

As some voyages conclude, others continue with renewed purpose. This year we were blessed with

a fine day for our Creationtide Hike, foraging for berries and spotting wildlife over the hilltops between Sørkedal and Fossum. And we look forward our first Creationtide Retreat on the eve of our harvest festival – a themed day out to be led by Annie at the St Joseph Sisters in Grefsen near the edge of Oslo.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Oslo
Revd Annie Bolger, Oslo
Revd Dr Jacob Quick, Oslo

Bergen Notes

The Bergen Congregation continues its voyage of faith and fellowship, trusting in the guidance and sustaining grace of God as we journey together in the life and mission of the Church. Throughout the period under review, our services have continued without interruption and according to the schedule agreed upon. We give thanks for the faithfulness of our members and for the continued opportunity to gather for worship, prayer, proclamation of the Word, and Holy Communion.

We are particularly encouraged that an increasing number of visitors are finding their way into our congregation. Their presence is a welcome sign of the openness and hospitality of the church, and we pray that those who come among us will find a place where they can encounter Christ and experience the warmth of Christian fellowship. It is also encouraging to note that more people are remaining after Holy Communion to participate in fellowship, strengthening relationships and deepening our sense of community.

Bergen congregation member Astrid's artistic rendering of the Transfiguration

The growing attendance, however, has brought some practical challenges. We are increasingly running out of hymnals and songbooks, as well as service books, during our worship. The Congregational Committee is working diligently to identify and implement a sustainable and lasting solution to this situation. We are grateful for the patience and cooperation of members as we seek to ensure that our worship continues to be properly resourced.

From a safeguarding and pastoral-care perspective, particular attention must also be given to the safety of members and visitors as they make their way to and from church. Bergen has experienced an abundance of slippery stones of late, and unfortunately several people, including members of our congregation, have experienced falls. We should therefore exercise additional care when walking and remain attentive to the needs of those who may be more vulnerable. We are, after all, not growing younger, and practical care for one another is an important expression of Christian fellowship.

As we enter the Season of Creation, we shall seek to incorporate its themes more intentionally into our worship, particularly through our sermons and prayers, reflecting on our vocation as stewards of God's creation.

We are also grateful that three members have commenced training to become worship leaders. Their willingness to serve represents a positive development in the life of the congregation and provides hope for the continued strengthening of our ministry.

As our voyage continues, we remain committed to holding our services as planned and to serving God faithfully through worship, fellowship, discipleship, and mission. We commend the Bergen Congregation to the prayers of the Chaplaincy as we continue this journey together in faith and hope.

Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain, Bergen

Trondheim Notes

The Anglican congregation in Trondheim has been progressing onward, with increased participation by congregants in running aspects of the community. With much help from our Lay Reader

Susan, we have added new members to the local committee, and have filled vacant positions: Johanne as coms assistant, Richard as assistant warden, Benn as assistant sacristan. We are of course grateful to Susan and Linda for their continued work as safeguarding and finance officers, and for the work of Dixie as secretary, and our emeritus holder of the position, Priscilla. B. Committee members are now keeping up with their training in safeguarding with Susan's assistance.

In June, we were very glad to welcome our senior chaplain, Joanna, for a visit to the monastery on Tautra Island in Trondheimsfjorden. The original monastery was founded by Cistercian monks back in 1207, but suffered during the Reformation, and now only its ruins still stand. However, a new monastery was established in 1999 which now houses a living community of Cistercian nuns. It was an enjoyable visit, and encouraging to see a community reviving.

Richard, Joanna, and Ben at the Tautra ruins

It was excellent to have Anglican participation in the Trondheim celebrations for the Feast of St Olav (Olsok) and during the Olavfest. Senior Chaplain Joanna took part in the pilgrimage from Lade Church to the Cathedral which retells accounts from St Olav's own faith journey, culminating in the Olav Vake (or vigil service) late at night in the Nidaros Cathedral. Susan also took part in the festivities and on the Sunday evening a moving joint Norwegian /English service was held.

In September, the Anglican Community was present at the memorial service, organized by the Council of Religious and Life Stance Communities Trondheim, for H.M. Kong Harald V at the Stiftsgården Royal Residence in Trondheim. This was a well-attended service and offered the opportunity to express our condolences alongside a range of faith communities.

Memorial Service for King Harald in Trondheim

Activities are continuing. In October, we will be having our Harvest/Creation service up in the Fjellseter Chapel again, and in November, our Remembrance Service and annual bake sale will take place. During the Advent period, we will be hold our Christingle service, and the annual Service of Lessons and Carols supported by the Nidaros Cathedral Choir, followed by our Christmas Day service in Vår Frue Kirke. We continue to hold evening services twice a month in the cathedral church and chapter house, with those in the church attracting a diverse group of visitors. Susan continues to run Messy Church services one Sunday in every month for the benefit of families with small children.

We are grateful for the support from visiting priests. We would particularly like to thank Revd Canon Joanna, Revd Torhild Fikseaunet, Revd April Almåas and Revd. Mary Strømmen. We were also pleased for the sermon given by Revd Canon Rana Khan, a rector in the Church of Wales, who was visiting Trondheim.

Richard Hedger, Assistant Warden, Trondheim

Susan J. Boyd, Lay Reader, Trondheim

			Oslo		Bergen	
						OCT
Sun	04	Trinity 18	11:00	Harvest/All Age Service Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	11	Trinity 19	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Harvest Holy Communion
Sun	18	Trinity 20	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	25	Last Sunday after Trinity Bible Sunday	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion
						NOVE
Sun Sun	01 01	All Saints All Saints	11:00 18:00	All Age Service Sung Eucharist Service of Light	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	08	3rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	10:30	Morning Prayer with Act of Remembrance	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	15	Second Sunday before Advent	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	22	Christ the King Sunday next before Advent	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	29	Advent 1	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion
						DECE
Sun	06	Advent 2 w Christingle	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	13	Advent 3 Carol Service	11:00 18:00	Sung Eucharist 9 lessons and Carols	18:00 11:00	Sat 12: Carol Service Holy Communion tbc
Sun	20	Advent 4 w Nativity Play	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Fri	25	Christmas Day	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Joint Service
Sun	27	Christmas 1	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
						JAN
Sun	03	Epiphany	11:00	All Age Service Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	10	Baptism of Christ	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	17	Ephiphany 2	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	24	Epiphany 3	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	31	Candlemas	11:00	Sung Eucharist	11:00	Holy Communion

Readings	Stavanger		Trondheim	
OBER				
Phillippians 3.4b-14 Matthew 21.33-end	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Phillippians 4.1-9 Matthew 22.1-14	10:30	Holy Communion	11:15	Harvest Service Fjellseter
1 Thessalonians 1.1-10 Luke 10.1-9	10:30	Harvest Holy Communion	18:00	HC/ Cathedral
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8 Matthew 22.34-end	10:30	Service of the Word		No service
MBER				
1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5 1-12	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Chapter House
Amos 5.18-24 Matthew 25.1-13		Join ceremonies at Eiganes & Sola cemeteries	11:00	Morning Prayer w Act of Remembrance Stavne Cemetery
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11 Matthew 25.14-30	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Ephesians1.15-end Matthew 25.31-end	10:30	Holy Communion		No service
Isaiah 62.1-9 Mark 13.24-37		No service	11:00	Join Cathedral for Advent 1
MBER				
Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 John 1.6-8,19-28	10:30	Service of the Word	11:00	Christingle Waisenhuset
2 Samuel 7.1-11.16 Luke 1.26-38	10:30	Holy Communon	18:00	HC Cathedral
Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Family HC Vår Frue
Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3 Luke 2.15-21	10:30	Holy Communion tbc		No Service
UARY				
Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC tbc Chapter House
Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Rev. 5 1-10 John 1.43-end	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	HC Cathedral
Rev. 19.6-10 John 2.1-11	10:30	Service of the Word		Join Unity Service Cathedral
Malachai 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40		No service		No Service

A Reflection on the Late King Harald

In a time like this, there is a desire to interpret King Harald's life, to tell a story; a story that inevitably depends on the context in which it's told. A historian might point out the ways in which King Harald differed, or the ways in which he was the same, as our previous monarchs. On the Rainforest Foundation's Facebook page, you can find the story of when king Harald visited the Yanomami tribe of the Amazon, where upon his return stated that he was not fully sure whether he was travelling back to civilization or whether he was leaving it. Or there's Antirasistisk senter's story: they posted one of the king's speeches in which he emphasized and acknowledged the diversity of the people who live in Norway. There's King Haakon's first speech, which presented a story of the late king as a loving family father and a loving father of our country. And so on. The story of King Harald will be viewed through many lenses in the days, weeks and years to come.

As a Christian community, it is in the light of Christ's redeeming work on the cross that we are obliged to interpret and tell stories. If Jesus is the truth, if Jesus is the one through whom all events in history will be interpreted, then it is appropriate to look at Harald's kingship in the light of the kingship of Christ.

King Harald (Photo: Kimm Saatvedt / Det kongelige hoff)

On the surface, and also quite a bit below the surface, those kingships are different. King Harald was crowned a King in the 'wordly' sense, a King for a people who are, on the whole, trying to bring order to their part of the world and to live peacefully in it. Jesus' kingship was of such a nature that perhaps the most central feature of it was that he had to die, as we read in Matthew 16.21-28. King Harald, whether he liked it or not, had a retinue of servants and assistants. Jesus taught those who followed him that to be great was to become servants. King Harald's power was given implicitly by the Norwegian people. Jesus received power from God. So clearly, there are some deep differences between these two kings.

And yet: When Jesus talks about his followers taking up their crosses (Matt. 16.21-28), what does He mean? For Him, and for many of the early Christians, it meant a literal cross that they would die on. But seen more expansively, I read the command to take up our cross as a command to become aware of what our own lives demand of us as Christians, and to faithfully carry out that demand in our following Christ. There will be as many types of crosses to bear as there are Christians. King Harald was, paradoxically, in many ways less free to act than many of us, as is the case with any monarch or person of power. But even with these constraints, he did have a choice: He did have a choice about whether to act haughtily or to act humbly. He did have a choice about whether he would rub elbows with the elite, or whether he would associate with the lowly, in the words of St. Paul (Romans 12.9-21). He did have a choice about whether to grow bitter about having to live a life according to the expectations of a people, or whether he would love that same people instead. And it is my impression that he sensed the calling that this specific life made on him, and it is my impression that he followed that calling faithfully.

Laying Wreaths at the Royal Palace in Oslo

(Photo credit: NKR)

The passage from St Paul, referenced above, where he exhorts us to associate with the lowly, is headlined 'Marks of the True Christian'. And if a true Christian carries their cross by accepting the demands their life makes on them, and does so in the humble, self-sacrificial and loving way of Jesus, my impression is that the life of our beloved King Harald carried exactly those marks; and as we give thanks for his life, let us also pray that we may identify the call of the cross in our own lives, cheerfully take it up and follow our Lord.

Revd Dr Eirik Gjerløw, Oslo

Celebrating Arts and Crafts in Balestrand

The Summer Chaplaincy at St Olaf's Church had a rousing start with the season's opening on the Feast of Pentecost coinciding with a cultural weekend celebrating the opening of an exhibition on the Norwegian painter Hans Dahl who made Balestrand his home not long after St Olaf's was built. Many of his paintings depict the surrounding landscape, often bathed in almost luminous light. We were delighted so many attended our Pentecost opening service and that Hans Dahl expert and writer Frode Skag Storheim accepted to play for the service on both the original harmonium and the newer electric organ/piano. An added treat was the anthem he accompanied sung by Barbara and Kristin from our Bergen congregation who it turned out have sung with him before in Bergen!

Hans Dahl's coloured sketch of St Olaf's church exhibited at this summer's exhibition

In celebrating the arts and crafts which are so important to St Olaf's, it was wonderful that a new altar cloth could be dedicated at the service, exquisitely hand stitched over the winter by Berit-Ann Poppe-Berget from St Edmund's in the traditional Hardanger style.

By request a further celebration of Holy Communion was held that evening with a visiting group from Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minnesota who shared several choral contributions. The Pentecost celebrations continued the next day with the invitation to join a service in nynorsk in the historic stone church on the island of Kvamsøy.

Berit-Ann with the exquisite new altar cloth

We are immensely grateful for the local support and cooperation for the summer chaplaincy as well as for the service of all our summer chaplains visiting not only from England but around our Diocese in Europe. It is a blessing to work together.

Ingeborg Wørheide and Revd Canon Joanna Udal

Post-Confirmation Retreat Overview

The post-confirmation retreat was amazing! Some highlights of the trip were, the mountain eucharist communion, the "Draken Harald Hårfarge" ship tour (featured on the cover), the morning prayers and of course the sleep (unless your name is Kristian).

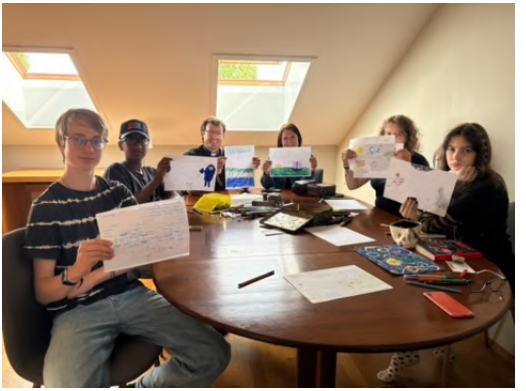
It all started with waking up early for the plane on Thursday 6th August. I can't complain though, Astrid had it much worse; she woke up at roughly 3-4 AM. Anyway we (Joanna, Astrid and I) met each other at the airport and tried to take the train to the city. Then we met up with the others, packed our bags, and went for our hike. There were many blueberries and raspberries. And then later on had our communion, on two rocks. Later in the day, John, James and Annet came, bringing dinner – very delicious, thank you! It was a nice evening filled with Mario-kart and cookies.

Nordmarka hilltop hike to kick off the retreat

On the next day (Friday 7th August) we had our first "art and reflection" with the theme being the parallels between the Bible and the Odyssey, before we went to Middelalderparken, where we had lunch. After that we went to the re-imagination of a viking ship, obviously we had to eat ice cream afterwards. Then we had part two of our reflection, before heading into the library for a scavenger hunt. Later on we went to Frognerpark and played Kubb, before heading back to Joanna's to eat - big thanks to Annie and Jacob for providing dinner. The final activity of the day was the group quiz.

On our final day, we had the final part of our "art and reflection" and we shared what we had created over the past couple of days. We ate our lunches at the nearby park, before saying our goodbyes. All in all it was a super fun get-together and we made friendships that'll last a long, long time. Thank you to all who contributed to making this retreat special!

Liv H. Fikseaunet, Trondheim



"Art and Reflection" creations

The Voyage of Ordination

On 5th July, I was ordained priest at St Edmund's, Oslo, by Bishop Trevor Willmott. It is hard to put such a powerful experience into words! The church was full of people from near and far, each of whom made the day special. The service was beautiful, and the reception afterwards was bountiful and exuberant. The experience of ordination, followed by my first Mass the following day, was a miraculous experience, and I am more grateful than I can express for all who made it possible, across the chaplaincy and beyond.

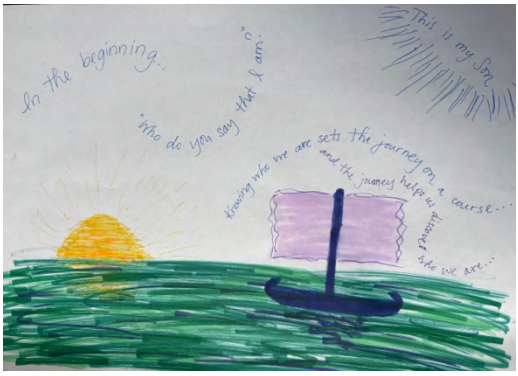
Jacob's First Mass

Witnessing the encouraging faces in the church at the ordination reminded me of the fact that priesthood, and any form of ministry for that matter, is never only about one person. Scripture refers to the whole church as a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2.9), which means that a specific vocation to

the priesthood only exists to empower that larger priesthood of the Body of Christ, patterned after the ministry of Jesus.

We are all members of Christ's body, and each of us reflects the light of Christ. We share this light together as our journey with Christ continues. Many church buildings take architectural inspiration from the design of ships, which is a fitting metaphor for the Church's voyage. Whether the waters are raging or the sea is calm, we are emboldened by the presence of Christ in one another as we sail together.

Revd Dr Jacob Quick, Oslo



Revd Annie Bolger's artistic reflection on Christ's voyage

(Text in the image from top-down, left-right "In the beginning…" "Who do you say that I am?" "This is my Son" "Knowing who we are sets the journey on a course… and the journey helps us discern who we are…")

Receiving the blessing of ordination and the Deacon's stole in Holy Trinity Brussels during Petertide this year truly felt like sailing into port after a long voyage. This voyage started in earnest three years ago when I began my studies at the Eastern Regional Ministry Course (ERMC). It has been a voyage filled with all kinds of weather; studying theology will challenge many of your assumptions and beliefs, and for parts of the journey, only the faithfulness of God was able to carry me through the storms. For other parts of the voyage, it was smooth sailing and rejoicing in the mystery and joy that is life in the Lord. For all of it, I was travelling with other seasoned sailors - fellow students with whom I could share joys and frustrations, and without whom the voyage would have been impossible to finish.

I say that the voyage started 'in earnest', because going to ERMC was also in many ways just the final leg in a longer voyage that started many years earlier. When I first started attending St. Edmund's, I had only just started exploring what I believed to be a calling, and the people and community that met me there and welcomed me became my fellow travellers for many years, while the sense of calling I had was allowed to grow and mature. And these fellow travellers also helped shape my calling: They helped me see what a Christian community can be; they helped me see what true service is; they helped me see what it means to care for each other, sharing the sorrows but also the joys; and finally, just by being Christ's body on earth, they were Christ's presence with me in my travels. I want to thank everyone who has been on this voyage with me, and for those who have invited me on theirs. For me, another voyage is now beginning, and I hope to continue travelling together with all of you.

Revd Dr Eirik Gjerløw, Oslo

STOP PRESS

Our longstanding friend and colleague Per Erik Brodal has recently moved from Bragernes Church, Drammen, to Uranienborg Church in Oslo. He will be much missed by our Drammen Ladies' Guild to whom he has been a wonderful support. Thank you, Per Erik. But we are delighted that Margrete Schmidt Johansen soon becomes the new Sokneprest and we look forward to continued close working together.

Margarete (second on the left) with the Drammen Ladies Guild at Bragernes Church

A Safer Church

What is Safeguarding?

It is about caring for each other. Jesus's second commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. It is about creating a culture where the vulnerable (we are all vulnerable at some time in our lives) are kept safe through active care, dignity and respect. Recognizing that loving others involves ensuring their welfare, just as we would desire our own. We are all called to serve our Lord. To love him, carry out his mission. This includes the responsibility of keeping people safe from harm and abuse.

Who can you contact if you are worried about something?

Contact your local assistant Safeguarding officer for your congregation or the Chaplaincy Safeguarding officer. On your local Safeguarding policy poster, you will also find a confidential telephone number to the professional Diocesan Safeguarding team in London. Please don't hesitate.

Susan J. Boyd, Chaplaincy Safeguarding Officer

DO YOU GET A TAX BENEFIT WHEN YOU DONATE TO OUR CHURCH?

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway is registered for tax efficient giving. This means that donations under this scheme will be deducted from your gross income prior to the tax calculations for the year.

For this purpose:

- register your **full name and person number** (11 digits) on your bank transfer slip or contact the Chaplaincy Treasurer directly,
- donations must be sent to the **chaplaincy bank account 7029.05.14973,**
- total donations must reach a minimum NOK 500 per year,
- total tax deductions for donations to voluntary organisations or faith communities cannot currently exceed NOK 25 000 per year,
- donations received into the chaplaincy account will then be reported to the tax authorities (provided your person number (11 digits) is registered with the Chaplaincy Treasurer.

Donations will be credited to the local congregation of the donor, using your post code, unless otherwise specified. This means that your local congregation will still reap the benefits of your donation, even though your money was donated through the central Chaplaincy bank account.
If you have any questions, please speak to your local treasurer or warden.

Upcoming events

Chaplaincy

10th-13th December in Germany: God's Kaleidoscope 4.0 -Conference on racial justice

Oslo

4th October: Harvest Festival
14th November: St Edmund's bazaar
21st January: Unity Prayers, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Trondheim

11th October: Harvest Festival at Fjellseter 11:15
28th November: Christmas Bake Sale 11-14

Bergen

11th October: Harvest Festival

Stavanger

18th October: Harvest Festival

Chaplaincy Carol Services

Sunday 29th November: Tromsø Domkirke at 18:00
Tuesday 8th December: Bragernes Church, Drammen at 19:00
Saturday 12th December: Mariakirken, Bergen at 18:00
Sunday, 13th December: St Edmund's Church, Oslo at 18:00
Tuesday 15th December: Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim at 18:00
Thursday 17th December: St Edmund's, Oslo at 19:00 Carols by Candlelight
Friday 18th December: Oddernes Church, Kristiansand at 18:30
Wednesday 23rd December: Stavanger Domkirke at 18:00
Thursday 24th December: Carol Singing outside St Edmund's, Oslo at 12:00

From the registers

HOLY BAPTISMS

St Edmund's, Oslo, 7th June
Frans Koivunen Ellerman
St Petri Menighetshuset, Stavanger, 14th June
Chinedumu David Chukwuma

DEATHS

Heather Margaret Evjenth, Oslo
Stephen William Kerry, Drammen
Marguerite Ugland, Arendal
Margaret Rosilda Willetts, Oslo
Petter Sørlie, Kolbotn
Maureen Tufte, Oslo
Joyce Johansen, Ås
Eileen Joyce Belck-Olsen
Maureen Røed, Loddefjord
Edward John Pedder, Geilo
Majorie Rui, Oslo
David Graham Nicholson, Trondheim
Michael George Davey, Oslo
Wendy Kristoffersen, Kristiansand
Bjørn Massey, Løvenstad
Judith Amdal, Hafrsfjord
Tore Nygaard, Stavanger
Olive Moe, Drammen

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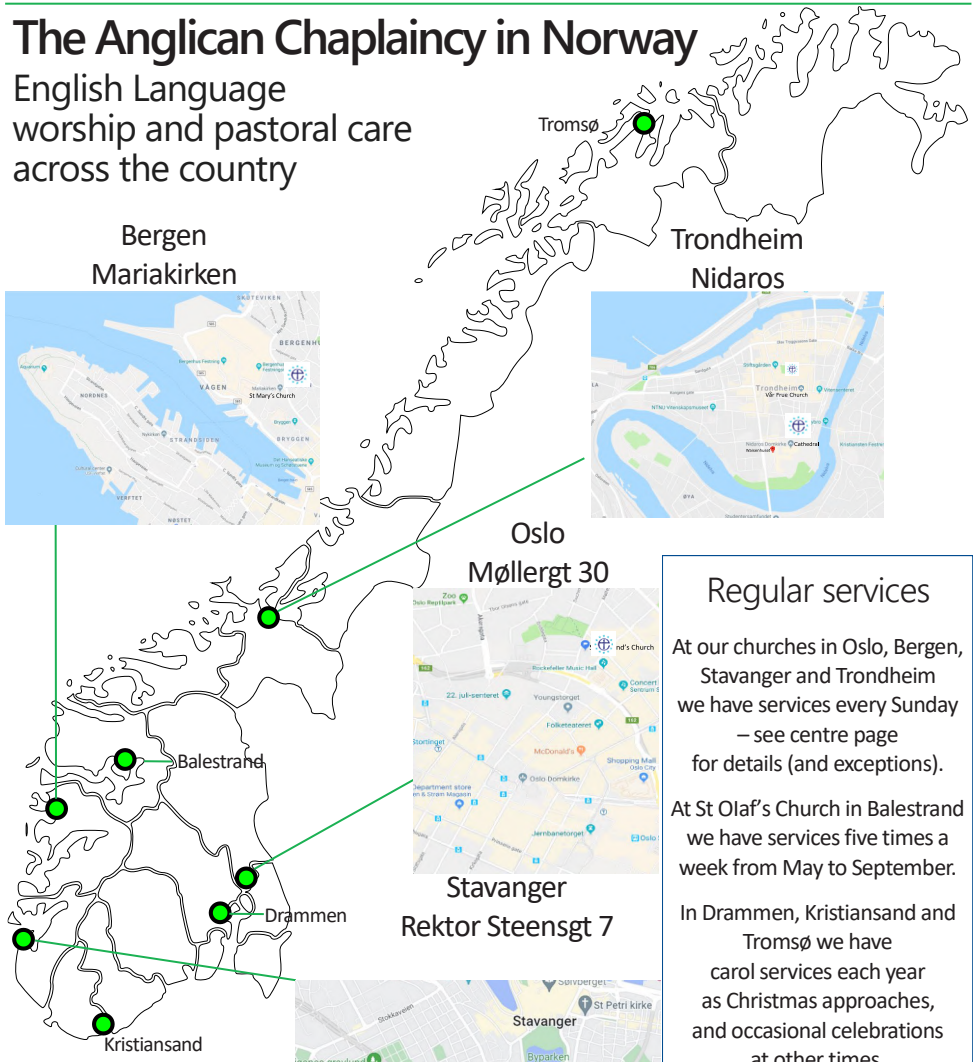
The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

English Language
worship and pastoral care
across the country



Diocese in Europe

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.