

TOGETHER




The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

JUNE–AUGUST 2019



Pictured outside St Edmund's Church is this year's group of confirmands along with Bishop Robert (centre), the Senior Chaplain (second from left) and Churchwardens (first and second on right). The person pictured taking a picture is the Bishop's wife! (Photo: Coral Morgan).

Who's Who

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Trond Bakkevig, Geir Barlaup, Andreas Hilmo Grandy-Teig, Harald Grønnevik, Janet Heil, Stian Heggedal, Vebjørn Horsford, Ragnhild Jepsen, Siv Limstrand, Jørund Middtun, Jan Otto Myrseth, Tracy Rishton, Geir Sakseid, Steinar Skauge, Bodil Skjoldal, Cecilie J Strømmeren, Mary Strømmeren, Harald Svendsen, Helene Selvik Thomas, Fredrik Ulseth.

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

all readers, Ekene Aqbalakwe, Abbas Bahiraei, Hilde Chapman, Eirik Duerr, Torhild Fikseanet, Cheryl Hogarth, Sigrid I Kvaal, Penny Miete, Philip Ringrose, Betty Short, Owen Thomas, Rune Torsvik, Linda White, Ingeborg Wörheide.

For further information see our websites: www.osloanglicans.no, www.bergenanglicans.net,
www.stavangeranglicans.net, and www.trondheimanglicans.net.

The diocesan website is www.europe.anglican.org, and the Church of England's website is www.cofe.anglican.org.

Donations and payments to the Anglican Chaplaincy

may be made to bank account 7029.05.14973.

For further details contact a chaplain or Sigrid Kvaal, treasurer

The Senior Chaplain's Notes

I am writing these notes shortly after returning from this year's Diocesan Synod which was held at the Cardinal Schulte House, just outside Cologne in Germany. The four-day conference (from 10 to 13 June this year) brings together clergy and lay representatives from across our widely dispersed Diocese, along with our two Bishops, our Archdeacons and various senior Diocesan staff.

It was my first time to attend such a gathering in this Diocese and there was much business to be conducted in a very full agenda. However, for me, one of the 'takeaways' from the event was the proposed Diocesan 'Rule of Life'. Dr Clare Amos, who has been offering her considerable gifts to the Diocese for the past three years in the voluntary post of Director of Discipleship, presented the concept to the Synod and I, in turn, commend it to you.

As Clare herself outlined to us in Cologne, the concept of a Rule of Life is a tried and tested Christian practice. While it has its roots in monasticism, many Christians of all traditions, including Anglicans, have found that adopting a simple 'rule' can be a valuable aid towards shaping and structuring their lives, enabling them to walk more closely with Christ. Simply put, the 'Rule of Life' presented to us at Synod has four elements: Knowing God; Growing in Christ; Building community; and Living beyond ourselves. These were fleshed-out, at Synod, as follows:

Knowing God: There are many different ways of knowing God and growing in such knowledge. However, a willingness to take part in worship with other Christians, to receive Christ in the sacraments, and a readiness to make this a regular priority of life, is fundamental.

Growing in Christ: To commit ourselves to regular prayer and intentional study of our faith, and where possible to seek guidance from another (a 'spiritual director') to resource us as we seek to journey with Christ.

Building community: To find ways consciously and positively to contribute to the building of community, both among Christians and within wider society, is an important commitment required of Christ's disciples. It will require sacrificial offering of time, money, skills and talents.

Living beyond ourselves: At its heart 'living beyond ourselves' means sharing with others

something of the transformation we have experienced through our own journeying with Christ. It could involve us sharing our joy in the Gospel with those outside the Christian community; it could mean a commitment to work with a variety of others for the wellbeing of our world; it could mean seeking to build bridges between our work and our faith.

As you can see, the rule is not intended to be detailed or overly prescriptive. It is, however, offered to us by the Diocese as a tool which might – in the words of Clare Amos – 'offer a gentle and tentative reminder of the different facets that our journey with God needs to draw on.' I understand that, in due course, further information on the Rule will be available on the Diocesan website. Please do seek that information out if you feel it might strengthen and deepen your life of faith. And finally, I share with you a prayer written to accompany this initiative – it speaks rather beautifully of our calling as Christians, and in particular our calling as Christians in this diverse Diocese in Europe.

Jesus our Way, Lord of the journey,
Surprising stranger of the Emmaus Road,
Guide to the spacious welcome
of your Father's home,
Companion both of our sorrows and our joys.
We thank you for these lands
in which we are both guests and hosts.
Walk together with us,
Enabling us to be true signs of your presence.
Stretch our hearts and minds and spirits,
Open our eyes and set our hearts on fire
with love for you,
To share with you
in transfiguring this cherished world,
For your honour and glory. Amen.

Ordination to the Diaconate

Many congratulations and best wishes to our ordinand, Torhild Fikseanet, who will be ordained Deacon in the Church of God, Deo Volente, on Saturday 29 June at Chichester Cathedral. She will serve in the parish of Heathfield in that diocese. May God bless and sustain her in her ministry.

Revd Darren McCallig



Bergen notes

Eastertide greetings everyone – Epiphany is not usually the most eventful time in the life of most congregations, but that wasn't the case this year in Bergen. Epiphany ended with a real splash for us when the sprinkler system was triggered in Mariakirken, sending large quantities of water seeping into in the back right corner of the nave. The reason the sprinkler system went off was because a technical room on the second floor overheated to 68°C due to some kind of technical malfunction. Thankfully, the water damage was only minimal and the church was closed for only a couple of Sundays. This was quite the relief as we expected the church to be closed for a much longer period of time. Repairs to the damage continue even to this day. In the end though, it was a 16th century model ship that hangs from the ceiling that took in the most water.

While the water issue in Mariakirken was very concerning to all of us, the beginning of Lent began on a very joyful note with our second annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year's supper was actually held on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and was well attended in spite of not having a Sunday service due to Mariakirken being closed. Hearty congratulations again to Øvind Fredriksen who currently reigns as the Bergen Anglican Church pancake flipping champion! Our Lenten book study had another good turnout this year. The selected book by Henri Nouwen entitled *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular Age* was very well received and spiritually enriching for everyone who participated. The study was again bookended with a soup supper and compline.

In May, we were disappointed to find out that we did not receive the litter pick-up project again this year as we had hoped. We discovered that organisations who apply are picked through a random selection process. Maybe next year!

As I write to all of you, we are now in the fourth week of Easter and we are already seeing an increase in attendance at our services with visitors to Bergen. It is truly incredible that on every Sunday of the year, I can look out into the congregation and see faces that I have never seen before. In the summer months, I might see whole sections of the church filled with faces I have never seen before! You know, during the summer months here in Bergen we are reminded of just how important our ministry is, not only because of all the visitors we receive at our

services, but also because we know that nearly all of the other churches in the Bergen city centre do not even hold services in July. What an important opportunity it becomes for us to witness to Christ's love and grace!

Wishing the entire Chaplaincy a wonderful summer and a Spirit-filled season of Pentecost.

Revd Kirk Weisz
Bergen locum chaplain

Stavanger notes

Meister Eckhart, the fourteenth century German mystic, is reputed to have once claimed that even if the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you', it will be enough! One may have questions about such a sweeping statement, but nevertheless it is certainly good to have an 'attitude of gratitude'. And it's particularly appropriate to record here our grateful thanks to those who have taken services in Stavanger in the last few months.

In terms of Sunday morning services we have been blessed to have been led in worship by the Revd John Newsome (acting Archdeacon for our part of the Diocese), the Revd Tracy Rishton, Lay Reader Susan J Boyd, Lay Reader Iris Evans-Bjørnø, the Revd Morten Grindvoll, the Revd Mary Strømmen, and the Senior Chaplain. Thank you one and all.

We are also very grateful to those who took part in a very special Good Friday ecumenical service held under our auspices in Stavanger Cathedral on Friday 19 April. Pastor Joeli Baleiwai, Fr. Juan Carlos Roldan and Pastor David Fresch from other Stavanger international congregations took part and read lessons at what was a very moving act of worship. *Tusen takk* to them all.

It's also very important to pay tribute to our Youth Worker, Denise, and the members of the Stavanger church committee for all their hard work and dedication. And finally, thanks too to our Diocesan Bishop, Robert Innes, who travelled to Stavanger on the afternoon of the Confirmation Service in Oslo (on 26 May), to lead us in worship in the chapel at NMS that evening.

As you'll see from the middle pages of this magazine, we are inviting folks to attend other English-speaking local churches in July and we will return with our usual pattern of services in August.

We continue to hold all in Stavanger in our prayers.

Revd Darren McCallig, Senior Chaplain

Trondheim notes

Greetings to all our readers from rather wintry May weather in Trondheim. However, we can look back on some extra warmth during Easter and at the same time express warm thanks for all the help and support from our previous locum, Revd Jan Jensen, for the three months that he was with us from February to April. He led us through Lent, leading several of our studies on Jane Williams's book *The Merciful Humility of God* – we appreciated his words of wisdom in developing those sometimes difficult chapters. We were also very grateful for his help with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services; the latter included a reading during the traditional ecumenical procession of the Cross through the centre of Trondheim to the Cathedral. Easter celebrations and then Jan's final service on the second Sunday of Easter when he performed as an accomplished pianist in a mini concert/postlude.

And so on to clean-up sessions of the rented flat and the welcoming of our next locum, Revd Ian Eglin and his wife Caroline. They will be with us until the end of June. With the ups and downs of holiday times ahead we hope and pray for a more permanent situation towards the autumn. In between we will try and keep things on track with our usual weekly services. Having recently had a theological book sale we now plan on a normal sale with refreshments on Saturday 1 June in Waisenhuset from 12:00–15:00. Pentecost on 9 June will be up in the hills

at Fjellseter Kapell with hopefully some summer weather, some extra music and special blessings for those newly confirmed.

We send our best wishes and thanks to all who are helping us out during this interim period and a special thank you to our Chaplain Darren for all that he does for us in addition to all his other ministerial duties.

Priscilla Beck

Licensed Reader (Lay Minister)

Oslo notes

This year's Pentecost service at St Edmund's will live long in the memory. On the morning of Sunday 9 June, our little church building was filled with folks wearing either their national costume, or an item of red clothing (red being a liturgical colour associated with the Holy Spirit).

The reason for all this sartorial splendour was our *'Many Voices, One Spirit'* Pentecost celebration. In a first in recent years for our congregation, the Sunday morning service celebrated our wonderful unity in diversity through hymns, prayers and readings from Argentina, England, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Then after the service the celebrations continued with an international pot-luck lunch featuring food from all corners of the globe. It was a tangible and tasty expression of the amazing diversity in our local family of faith, and a reminder that difference is not something to be feared, but rather something to be celebrated.



Pictured (in their national costume, or wearing an item of red clothing) is just a small section of those who attended the Pentecost Service at St Edmund's. (Photo: Guy Morgan)

			Oslo		Bergen		Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim	
JUNE												
Sun	02	Easter 7	11:00	All Age Service with Holy Communion	18:00	Choral Evensong	Acts 16:16-34 John 17.20-26	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer <i>Chapter House</i>	
Sun	09	Pentecost	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Acts 2.1-21 John 14.8-17[25-27]	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	
Sun	16	Trinity Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Romans 5.1-5 John 16.12-15	10:30	Fellowship Meeting	18:00	Holy Communion <i>Cathedral</i>	
Sun	23	Trinity 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Galatians 3.23-29 Luke 8.26-39	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	
Sun	30	Trinity 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Galatians 5.1,13-25 Luke 9.51-62	10:30	Holy Communion		No Anglican Service (Services in the Norwegian Church)	
JULY												
Sun	07	Trinity 3	11:00	Service of the Word	11:00	Eucharist	Galatians 6.[1-6]7-16 Luke 10.1-11,16-20	Please see stavangeranglicans.net for details og local services in English in Stavanger in the month of July		18:00	Evening Prayer <i>Chapter House</i>	
Sun	14	Trinity 4 Sea Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	Colossians 1.1-14 Luke 10.25-37			11:00	Service of the Word <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	
Sun	21	Trinity 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Colossians 1.15-28 Luke 10.38-42			18:00	Holy Communion <i>Cathedral</i>	
Sun	28	Trinity 6	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	Colossians 2.6-15[16-19] Luke 11.1-13			11:00	All-Age Holy Communion <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	
AUGUST												
Sun	4	Trinity 7	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Colossians 3.1-11 Luke 12.13-21	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer <i>Chapter House</i>	
Sun	11	Trinity 8	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Hebrews 11.1-3,8-16 Luke 12.32-40	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	
Sun	18	Trinity 9	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Hebrews 11.29 - 12.2 Luke 12.49-56	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Holy Communion <i>Cathedral</i>	
Sun	25	Trinity 10	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Hebrews 12.18-29 Luke 13.10-17	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion <i>Vår Frue Church</i>	



In my sermon at the service, I drew on some words from Chiara Lubich, an Italian Christian who founded the worldwide Focolare movement. She often speaks of how as we come closer to God we also find ourselves coming closer to those around us, and *vice versa*. It is, she writes, as if God is the sun and each of us is an individual ray of that sun. And the closer those rays come to the sun, the closer they come to one another. And the closer they get to one another, the closer they get to the sun.

This, I believe, is the same dynamic that we see at play at Pentecost as portrayed in Acts Chapter Two. The Disciples – newly filled with the Holy Spirit – are brought deeper and deeper into relationship with God. And they are also – as the miracle of communication across different languages makes clear – brought closer and closer to those around them. In other words, the Holy Spirit enables communication where before there was only miscommunication – it brings understanding where before there was discord. Boy how we could do with some more of that,

in our world, in our churches, in our local communities and, often, in our own families.

The theme of faith, fellowship and food continued the following Sunday when we had our famous Summer Picnic. Once again the Brooks family hosted this splendid event and we express our thanks to them for opening their home in this way. Even the wet weather couldn't dampen our spirits as we enjoyed a delicious lunch, a BBQ and the simple joy of sharing good food and good conversation with good friends!



Reader Ministry

Congratulations to Ekene Agbalakwe, who has been accepted for Reader Ministry (Lay Ministry) training in the Diocese. We have for several years now benefitted from Ekene's contributions to St Edmund's – not least as a faithful choir member and as coordinator of our after-service Bible Studies. We wish him every blessing in this next phase of his Christian life.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Emy Benjamins, a faithful member of our Chaplaincy, who was ordained Deacon in the Norwegian Church on Tuesday 5 March at Grytten Kirke, Rauma. Pictured, left to right, are: Deacon and diaconal

adviser of the diocese, Toril Holm; Anglican priest Mary Strømmen; Emy's husband Martin Benjamins; Dean of Kristiansund, Gerd Anne Aarset; Local dean Erling Nevland; Emy Benjamins; Deacon Rune Singelstad; and Bishop of the diocese of Møre Ingeborg Middtømme (Photo: Einar Strømmen).



Looking Ahead

As we head into the summer and the holiday season, I am reminded of a saying I heard some years ago about the importance of Sabbath rest. Apparently, it is often said that 'It's not so much that the Jews keep the Sabbath: it's that the Sabbath keeps the Jews!'

I take this to mean that the practice of a regular, unavoidable period of rest and recreation is absolutely essential to survival – it keeps us, it maintains us. It reminds us that we are called to make a life, and not just a living. It reminds us – in the words of the old cliché – that we are human 'beings' and not human 'doings'. It reminds us, most importantly of all, that we are loved and valued by God for who we are, and not for what we do.

May I wish you all a refreshing and rejuvenating summer break.

*Revd Darren McCallig
Oslo Chaplain*

Words of Encouragement from Bishop Robert

It was standing room only in Saint Edmund's when our Diocesan Bishop, Robert Innes, paid his first ever visit to our congregation – and to Norway. The Bishop had travelled to Oslo for this year's Confirmation Service, where seven candidates took the next steps on their journey of faith.

In his sermon to the packed church, Bishop Robert spoke words of encouragement. Firstly, he spoke of how it is a great encouragement to him – and to all adult Christians – to see a new generation declare their desire to follow Christ.

He then spoke about the challenges which we face in our lives and how God does not leave us to face those difficulties alone. In particular, said Bishop Robert, God sends his Holy Spirit to be with us always: 'The Holy Spirit makes the distant God real. The Holy Spirit makes the transcendent God personal. The Holy Spirit makes the invisible God intimate. And so at the heart of this service today is the Bishop's prayer for you, our candidates, to receive the Holy Spirit.'

Moreover, continued Bishop Robert, God also gives us the gift of the Church to support and encourage us. 'God's love,' he explained, 'is made known tangibly through the love we

receive from our Christian brothers and sisters. And in Confirmation you are made full communicant members of the world-wide church and in particular the Anglican part of that church. We are a community of some 80 million people ... that means that wherever you travel you won't be far from an Anglican church where you can find fellowship and support.'

In closing, he spoke about how the recollection of his own Confirmation Day – at age 15 – was still a sustaining memory for him and how he hoped it would be the same for the seven candidates.

'I hope that your lives will be filled with sunshine. But darker days may come, as they come to most of us at some time or another. And if and when that happens to you I hope that you'll be able to look back on your Confirmation Day as a time when you knew for sure the love of God and the love of the church community for you ... I hope the experience of today will be, for you, a treasured memory. And I hope you will always be able to draw strength and protection from that.'

We send our warmest congratulations to this year's candidates – Amritha, Chidinma, Chioma, Daniel, Eric, Favour and Lisa – six from the Oslo congregation and one from the Trondheim congregation; and we look forward to welcoming Bishop Robert back to Norway again in the future.

Balestrand Summer Chaplaincy

Our summer chaplaincy at Balestrand officially began this year on Sunday 19 May. The clash with the 17 May celebrations may have reduced the numbers travelling from the other congregations for the opening weekend, but it did nothing to decrease the enjoyment of those who made the journey to the Sognefjord.

Local Church of Norway Deacon, Kjersti Brudvik, led the Sunday morning service alongside our Senior Chaplain, with singers from both the Bergen and Oslo congregations lending their voices to the worship at St Olaf's Church.

This beautiful building – constructed in the traditional stave-style – has an amazing history. It was built in memory of Margaret Sophia Green, an English woman and mountaineering pioneer who travelled to Norway in the late 1880s and married local hotelier, Knut Kvikne.

As the daughter of a Yorkshire vicar, it was Margaret's sincere wish to see an 'English' Church in Balestrand to cater for the many English and English-speaking visitors to this beautiful part of her adopted country. And although her untimely death meant that she did not see her dream fulfilled, her widowed husband, Knut realised his wife's ambition, and the church opened for worship in 1897.

And so, ever since, a rota of visiting clergy has travelled to Western Norway each summer to take services in Saint Olaf's throughout the tourist season. The link with the Kvikne family has also endured, with Knut's descendants in the family-run hotel providing accommodation and a warm welcome to the visiting priests. It is estimated that some 20,000 people visit Saint Olaf's each year.

As usual we are very grateful for the wonderful support we receive from the local Church of Norway parish (Kjetil Netland and Jostein Risa

in particular) as well as from the folks at the Kviknes Hotel (especially Mulla Kvikne and her family). We are also very grateful to our team of locum chaplains. This year's list includes some new faces and as well as some long-standing stalwarts – David Bruce, Nick Howe, John Roden, Lynda Barley, Mary Blair, Martin Riley and Janet Heil.

The locum clergy lead five services in St Olaf's each week, as follows: Compline on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 21.00; Evening Prayer on Saturdays at 21:00; Holy Communion on Sunday mornings at 10:00; and Evening Prayer on Sunday evenings at 21:00. This year's 'season' has been extended, with the final Sunday service to be held on Sunday 15 September.

Pictured inside Saint Olaf's, Balestrand (next page) are members of our Bergen and Oslo congregations along with Deacon Kjersti Brudvik and the Senior Chaplain.

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

The Church of England



THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY IN NORWAY

Archdeaconry of Germany and Northern Europe

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- A diligent and compassionate pastor
- A strategic thinker, collaborator and builder of community
- An ecumenist who enjoys working with people from a wide variety of different backgrounds, cultures and traditions

For an informal conversation and/or profile, full information and application form, please contact:

The Revd Darren McCallig
Senior Chaplain, the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway
Telephone: +47 22 69 22 14
Email: oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no

Closing Date: Monday 1 July 2019

Interview date: To be advised

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From the registers

CONFIRMATION

by Bishop Robert



St Edmund's, Oslo

Sunday 26 May 2019

Amritha, Chidinma, Chioma, Daniel,
Eric, Favour and Lisa

FUNERAL

by the Senior Chaplain

Ullern Chapel, Oslo

Wednesday 6 March 2019

George Edmund Wallis



Upcoming events

Bergen

Sun 13 Oct, Harvest Festival, Eidsholmen hytte,
Grimseid 13:00–18:00

Oslo

Sun 8 Sep, Harvest Thanksgiving service 11:00

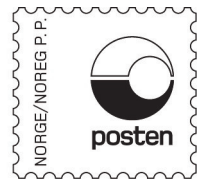
Trondheim

Sat 7 Sep, Book sale, Waisenhuset, 13:00–15:00



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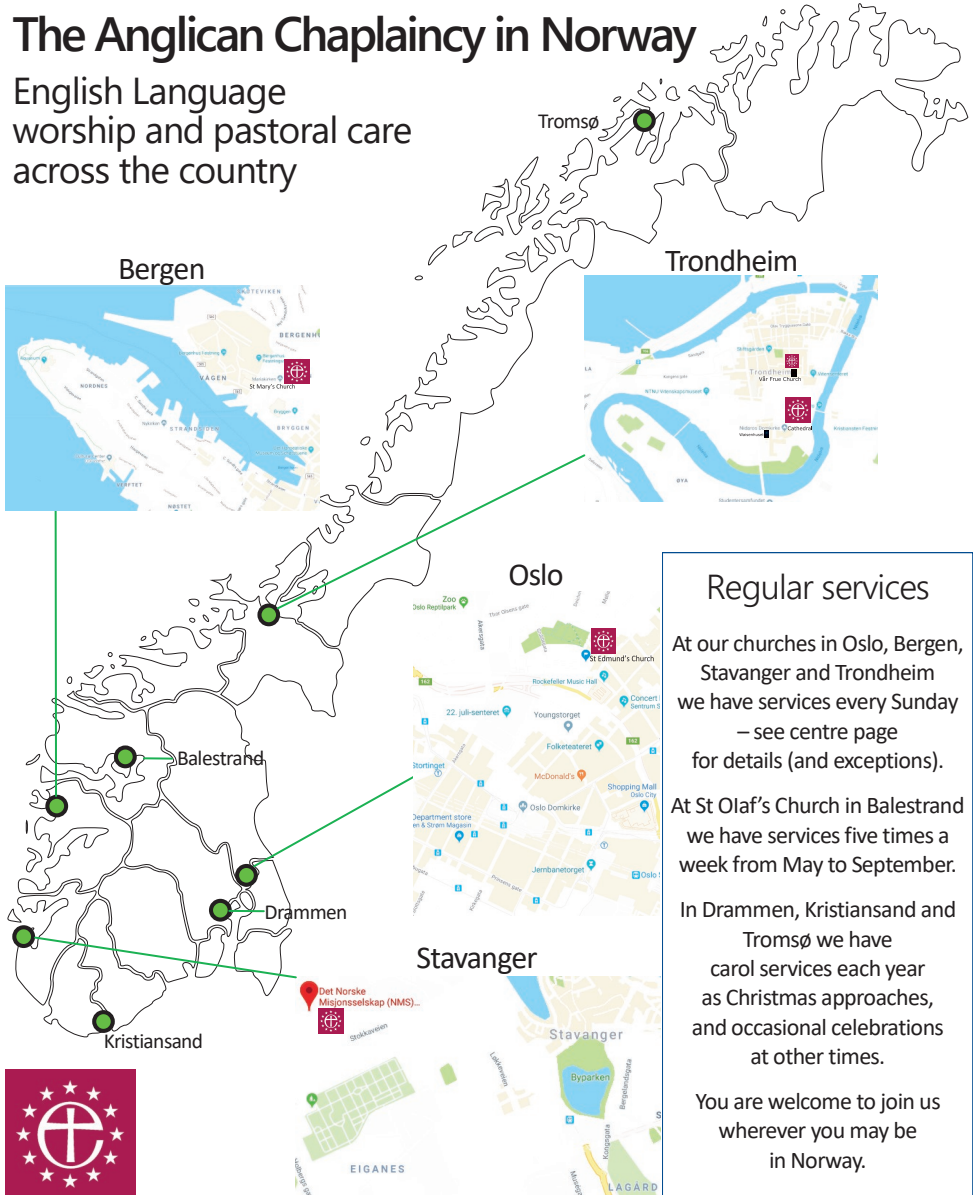
Please submit material for the next issue of *Together*
no later than **Sunday 4 August**



Retur: British Embassy
0244 Oslo

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

English Language
worship and pastoral care
across the country



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.