

OUTPOST

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

MARCH–MAY 2017



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Persons authorised by the Bishop to assist in administering the sacrament of Holy Communion are: all readers, Ekene Aqbalakwe, Abbas Bahiraei, Helen Campbell, Joseph Chidindi, Eirik Duerr, Torhild Fikseunet, Cheryl Hogarth, Sigrid I Kvaal, Peter Lane, Penny Mietle, Philip Ringrose, Betty Short, Rune Torsvik, Linda White.

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.

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For further details see page 10**

The Senior Chaplain's otes

God works with what is not finished

Auguste Rodin is a famous sculptor with museums dedicated to him in Copenhagen, Paris and Philadelphia USA. If you have seen *The Thinker* or *The Burghers of Calais*, you have seen Rodin's work.

We might think Rodin worked in a tidy and planned way. An exhibition a few years ago in Copenhagen showed something very different. Often he formed an idea and began to work on it but then found he could not take it any further. Many times he did not know how to finish what he had begun. His studio was strewn with works just begun, half completed or set aside because he thought he would never see how to finish them.

But then someone would ask him about a new work that they wished to commission from him. With what they needed in his mind, he could see new ways to adapt or develop some of his unfinished pieces that he had set aside. New energy and imagination returned to him. He worked with what was near to hand. Even then, many of his famous works are not 'finished', because he deliberately leaves some of the stone uncut so that the figure 'emerges' as a creation from the uncut stone.

God works well with what is not finished. In many of our efforts and in much of our faith and life, we are unfinished. Rarely do we have the sense of having completed anything and rarely do we feel that we are the perfect finished person. The world around us also looks less and less finished with more and more places of uncertainty and injustice. But this opens the way for God to be able to work through what we are and what we try to do. God can shape and be present as we continue to develop from what we are now. God works with what is possible and near to hand and seeks to help us to take it further.

This Lent and Easter let us look at all the unfinished aspects of our lives, ourselves and

our efforts. Let us lay them open to God in prayer and worship. We can let God see if there are ways God can work with us to bring us towards the new Easter life that God promises and wishes us to have. We may become a little more finished!

The Ven Dr Brian Russell
Senior Chaplain



Bergen notes

Once again our service of Nine Lessons and Carols in both Korskirken and Mariakirken were beautifully done by the Christmas Choir and well attended by the community. These services continue to be two of the most eagerly awaited Christmas concerts of the season in Bergen. The service at Korskirken also serves as an important time for local mission for our congregation as the collection at the service of nearly 4,000 kr. was given entirely to *Bergen Bymisjon*. In addition, Christmas gifts were again prepared by congregants and offered to the Bymisjon at the end of the service. These gifts included various clothing and toiletry items for people in need during the winter months which were then handed out at Korskirken on Christmas Eve. The carol service in Mariakirken was exceptional and the raffle in Mariastuen raised over 7,000 kr. for our congregation. Our Christmas Day service in Mariakirken proved again to be important for our members and visitors to Bergen alike, as we had nearly 50 in attendance.

As we look ahead to Lent, we begin our preparations with The Porvoo Conference on the Reformation which is being held in Bergen on 25–28 February with Mariakirken as one of the main locations for worship and lectures. Our congregation will be involved in various ways during the conference as well. On Sunday 26 Feb at 18:00 there will be a Joint Service with the Norwegian congregation in Mariakirken. This will serve as our main worship service for that Sunday and also as the evening service for the Porvoo conference. The organizers of the conference are showcasing this service as a good example of how a Joint Porvoo service can be



conducted between two different congregations. Our congregation will host a reception after the service with a variety of finger food in a potluck style. This is a way for our congregation to show hospitality to the conference attendees and to show gratitude for our partnership with the Norwegian congregation in Mariakirken.

In addition, on Monday 27 February our congregation will hold a Choral Evensong service (the first time in several years) in Mariakirken at 18:00 as a part of the Porvoo conference. Then, as we enter into the season of Lent, we will hold the first ever Joint Ash Wednesday service on 1 Mar with the Norwegian congregation in Mariakirken at 18:00. Kirk will also be holding a Lenten book study in Mariastuen beginning on Monday 7 March and will continue each consecutive Monday during Lent leading up to Holy Week. The study will be bookended with a soup and bread supper and a compline service for participants.

For Holy Week, our congregation will make a visit to the Bergen Bymisjon for a meal and hand washing service for Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday service at 11:00 in Mariakirken, and then our regular Joint Service with the Norwegian congregation at 11:00 on Easter Day in Mariakirken. Our congregation is slowly beginning to feel settled and at home in Mariakirken, especially as our relationship with the Bergen Cathedral Parish deepens, and we continue to seek imaginative and faithful ways forward together in mission and ministry. From all of us here in Bergen, we look forward to reading about the ways in which God is at work in your ministries throughout the Chaplaincy and we wish you all a blessed Lent and Easter season!

*Revd Kirk Weisz
Bergen locum chaplain*

Stavanger notes

Hello everyone – greetings from Stavanger. Although things have been harder for us in Stavanger recently, with fewer expatriate workers living in the area, we have had much encouragement in our Church community. Recently some of our ladies' group decided that they would try and encourage our existing members to be better connected to one another and to try and organise events that would invite people not actively part

of our congregation to join in. So Amanda, Juliet and Yunita have formed a social committee and retitled the Ladies' study group the *Ladies' Connect Group*. They have now committed to meet every second Friday and welcome other ladies in the community to come along.

In addition they have started organising events that other people can come along to (not just the ladies). So far we have had a family 'Happy hour' at *KaffeKanna*, a lovely new café owned by the Gilje family. We met at 17:00 one Friday and most of us didn't leave until after 19:00, making it more of a 'Happy two hours!' Then two weeks ago we had a film afternoon after church. We all contributed to a bring and share meal and then watched a film *The Blind Side* starring Sandra Bullock. It was a good event with a positive theme of sharing and thinking about others.

It seems as if God has been looking after us as well. I was shocked one Thursday morning when a friend phoned me and said there had been an arson attack on Bethel, the building we use. Someone had broken in at five o'clock in the morning and heaped furniture and books and started a fire. Fortunately the emergency services got there quickly, and despite thick smoke the fire was quickly extinguished. I was worried that we would lose our building but it turned out that there was little damage, with none of our equipment affected. Our service went ahead as usual on Sunday morning

We move into Lent with a positive feeling that we as a congregation can be an active, welcoming and vibrant community, and God has blessed us in one another.

We shall be having our usual special services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday at 18:30 in the Bishop's chapel. There will be a united ecumenical service of reflections on the 'Stations of the Cross' on Good Friday, and we hope to continue to welcome others into our community.

The months ahead will bring many challenges, and we are looking forward to welcoming the deanery synod to Stavanger in September for the first time ever.

*God bless you all.
Revd Peter Hogarth
Stavanger assistant chaplain*

Trondheim notes

He can bring thy Summer out of Winter, though thou have no Spring.

I love these words by John Donne, from his 1624 Christmas day sermon at St. Paul's. These are times of contentious global politics; times when we daily see frightening news of war and need; times when we often feel frustrated and helpless. For me, Donne's words are a reminder that even in the winters of our lives – in those dark times in which when we cannot even feel the hope of spring – that even then, our loving and compassionate God can bring us to a place of summer.

The church year supports our faith journeys by reflecting the ups and downs of the human experience. Alleluia is a joyful word – it means 'Yes', 'Thank you', 'God be praised.' It's a word that we use often in church, especially at Easter. In our lives we certainly have happy 'Yes' times. But we also have 'not-so-yes' moments – times of failure, defeat and mourning. Soon, the Church will enter into the reflective season of Lent. In Trondheim our Lay Reader in training, Susan Boyd, will help the children to 'bury' the A-L-L-E-L-U-I-A letters again. And, our congregation will fast from the use of this word until Easter morning dawns. Though echoing life's ups and downs, the message of the liturgy remains consistent – we are not alone. God journeys with us through every season.

Our congregation will start the Lenten season with our traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake party. On Ash Wednesday we will hold a Porvoo Service with Holy Communion and ashing together with the Nidaros Cathedral & Vår Frue Church Congregation – the Nidaros Girls' Choir and artwork of Håkon Bleken will be present at this service. Throughout Lent we will hold our usual Lenten study group, accompanied this year as last with international soup and bread suppers and Compline to close. On 3 March our Lay Reader, Priscilla Beck, and I will participate in a service of prayer marking the Women's International Day of Prayer in the new St. Olav's Catholic Cathedral. On Maundy Thursday we will again hold a Porvoo Service of Holy Communion and foot washing with the Nidaros Cathedral & Vår Frue Church Congregation and Bymisjon in Vår Frue Church. On Good Friday we will participate in Trondheim Christian Council's Ecumenical Good Friday

city walk, for which we will bake hot cross buns ☺. We will also mark Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday in Vår Frue Church.

Blessings to us all as we journey together towards Easter and on to summer – Pax,

April Almaas

Trondheim assistant chaplain

Oslo notes

A highlight of December consisted of the two carol services which we offer. First, we held the fiftieth year of the carol service in Drammen – and what an event this was! The church was full and there were 200 people at the reception afterwards. We had five Church of Norway clergy present alongside the Senior Chaplain, including the current Dean and those who have served at times during the last fifty years. Twenty members of the St Edmund choir came. And to mark the occasion, we published a booklet called *Singing the Carols of Christmas for the fiftieth time*, produced by and for our Drammen Ladies Guild! It describes the services and the work of the Drammen Ladies Guild over the last fifty years, with some amusing photographs. Copies are available; please let Brian our senior Chaplain know if you would like to receive one.

Secondly, the carol service at St Edmunds and Christmas Day at St Edmunds drew very large congregations, with many people new to St Edmunds coming for the first time. It is a sign that we are becoming more visible and known in Oslo, which is very encouraging. The Children's Nativity and the Christingle service were also excellent occasions and well supported.

Another highlight this year was the evening on 19 January for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The 'pilgrimage' walk included Holy Trinity Church of Norway, the Roman Catholic Church of St Olav, the local Greek Orthodox Church, St Edmunds and the finally the Swedish Church. We had 'one church service' held in five churches. The American Lutheran clergy joined us leading the part at St Edmunds, and the Latvian and Finnish congregations joined in leading the part at the Swedish Church. In all, over 80 people from the congregations joined in the walk. It is so important to look ahead and point to the unity we seek, even though at this time practical difficulties will hold back the vision from becoming a reality.

			Oslo		Bergen		Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim	
MARCH												
Wed	01	Ash Wednesday	18:00		18:00	St Mary's Church Joint Service	Joel 2.1-2,12-17 John 8.1-11	18:30	Bethel unless specified Bishop's Chapel	18:00	Porvoo Communion Cathedral	
Sun	05	Lent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Family Communion	Genesis 2,15-17; 3.1-7 Matthew 4.1-11	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House	
Sun	12	Lent 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Genesis 12.1-4a John 3.1-17	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church	
Sun	19	Lent 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Exodus 17.1-7 John 4.5-42	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Communion Cathedral	
Sun	26	Lent 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Ruth 1,6-19 John19, 25b-27	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	All Age Service of the Word Vår Frue Church	
APRIL												
Sun	02	Lent 5	11:00	Family Communion with puppet ministry	11:00	Communion	Romans 8, 6-11 John 11, 1-45	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House	
Sun	09	Palm Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Philippians 2, 5-11 Matthew 21, 1-11	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church	
Thu	13	Maundy Thurs- day	19:00	Communion and imposition of ashes			1 Corinthians 11, 23-6 John 13, 1-17; 31b-35	18:30	Service Bishop's Chapel	18:30	Porvoo Communion Vår Frue Church	
Fri	14	Good Friday	10:00	Joint service with American Lutherans				13:00	Service Cathedral	13:00	Walking Service with Trondheim Christian Council	
Sun	16	Easter Day	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 10, 34-43 John 20, 1-18	10:30	Family Communion	11:00	Communion Vår Frue Church	
Sun	23	Easter 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Family Service	Acts 2, 14a; 22-32 John 20, 19-end	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church	
Sun	30	Easter 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 2, 14a; 36-41 Luke 24, 13-35	10:30	Family Communion		Sorry, no service (5th Sunday)	
MAY												
Sun	7	Easter 4	11:00	Family Communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 2, 42-end John 10, 1-10	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House	
Sun	14	Easter 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 7, 55-end John 14, 1-14	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	Service of the Word Vår Frue Church	
Sun	21	Easter 6	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 17, 22-31 John 14, 15-21	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Communion Cathedral	
Thu	25	Ascension	19:00	Ascension Day service			Acts 1, 1-11 Luke 24, 44-end					
Sun	28	Easter 7	11:00	Confirmation and communion	11:00	Communion	Acts 1, 6-14 John 17, 1-11	10:30	Communion with Children's & Youth Church	11:00	Service of the Word Vår Frue Church	

Looking ahead

We are excited to have another confirmation on Sunday morning 28 May, when Bishop Paul will again come from Whitby in England to be our Bishop for the day. Confirmation preparation for young people is happening and there is still time to prepare any adults who seek confirmation.

Before then, we have *Lent and Easter*. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday at 19:00 in St Edmunds on Wednesday 1 March. We will have a devotional service with a chance to dedicate ourselves anew to Christ and to our Faith.

During Lent we will have bible study in church at the font after coffee every Sunday, led by Ekene and chaplain Brian. Brian will also lead Lent groups at 19:00 at the chaplaincy flat on Tuesday 28 March, and then on Monday 10 April, Tuesday 11 April and Wednesday 12 April, the last three being during Holy Week.

We will have our special service with a presentation for Mothering Sunday on Sunday 26 March.

Our puppet ministry will offer the address during the Family Communion service on Sunday 2 April, and we again thank our 'puppet masters' Guy and Coral Morgan.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the distribution of crosses on Sunday 9 April. This is followed by our evening communion service at 19:00 on Maundy Thursday 13 April. On good Friday 14 April we have our annual joint service with the American Lutheran Congregation at 10:00, and this year it is the turn of St Edmunds to host. And then the climax is Easter Day at 11:00 on 16 April.

The Annual General Meeting of the Anglican Chaplaincy is held after the service on Sunday 23 April, leading into our staff residential meeting in Oslo.

Ven Brian Russell
Oslo Chaplain

Drammen notes

Singing Christmas carols for the 50th time



Tuesday 13 December in Strømsø church was both a memorable and a very special occasion. The Ven Brian Russell had carefully planned the service together with organist and choirmaster John Chapman and the Drammen Ladies Guild (DLG).



Mari Chapman sang the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* before St Edmunds church choir led the procession down the aisle, followed by clergy from the Norwegian church: Dean Kjell Ivar Berger,

current and former parish priests Terje Ellingsen, Per Oscar Berg, Jo Inge Bolstad and Per Erik Brodal, and our own chaplain Brian Russell.

The lessons were read by members of DLG and sokneprest Jo Inge Bolstad. Everyone appreciated



Brian's 'Pause for thought' which he held after the reading of the lessons.

There were about 200 in church; some of us had been at all the carol services since 1967. Apart from Guild members and British men with their families we have always been pleased to welcome Norwegians, who seem to enjoy singing all the well known and loved carols with us. All of us look forward to the annual carol service and meeting everyone year after year.



A wonderful spread of refreshments given by many generous people (sausage rolls are always popular) were enjoyed in the church hall after the service and although it was only the middle of Advent, we all went home feeling the Christmas spirit.

The first carol service was held in 1967 in Betania chapel, which was later demolished. Ever since 1968 we have held the service on alternate years in Bragernes and Strømsø churches.



There have been many Anglican clergy who have made the journey to Drammen to attend Guild meetings, services and various other activities. Their support has always been and is still appreciated very much. Not only have the clergy visited Drammen

but St Edmunds church choir and organist have always been present at the carol service. This time we were delighted to welcome the choir and other church members from Oslo. It was wonderful to have you all with us on 13 December. Thank you one and all.



Our connection with St Edmunds church started in 1958 when Hjørdis and Cecil Harper were married there. They met several Brits – myself included – and in 1958 the first Even-song of many to follow took place in the chapel adjoining Bragernes church.

We have a lot for which to thank the Norwegian church and Anglican church, for the close cooperation and friendship we have enjoyed all these years.

Revd Hugh Picton was with us when the Drammen Ladies Guild was started in 1967, but left Oslo just before we held the first carol service. Then Revd Brian Horlock arrived in January 1968. The Guild held monthly

meetings for 40 years, by which time many friendships had been formed, and many still meet today. Thus the Guild continues in a slightly different form with various groups that meet regularly, all helping to arrange the highlight of the year that means so much to each of us.

Wishing all readers of Outpost a Happy and healthy 2017,

*On behalf of Drammen Ladies Guild.
Kaye Westeng.*

From the registers

BAPTISM



Bethel, Stavanger

Sunday 18 December 2016

Einar Victor Osayande Gjølvaag

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please submit
material for
the next edition
of Outpost
by
Sunday 30 April

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

for
Kids



1

Love God more than
you love anything else.



2

Don't make anything in your
life more important than God.



3

Always say God's name with
love and respect.



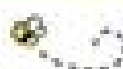
4

Honor the Lord by resting on
the seventh day of the week.



5

Love and respect your
mom and dad.



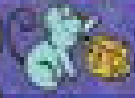
6

Never hurt anyone.



7

Always be faithful to your
husband or wife.



8

Don't take anything that
isn't yours.



9

Always tell the truth.



10

Be happy with what you have.
Don't wish for other people's things.



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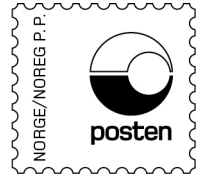
Welcome

**to our concert series in
St Edmunds Church
on Saturdays at 17:00,
organised by the
organist and choirmaster
in collaboration with the
Norwegian Academy of Music**

**English tea & scones
are served from 16:15**



A stop-press photo of the delegates at the Porvoo conference in Bergen



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