# **TOGETHER**

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

## **SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2018**



Bergen congregation members all ready to start on the fourth of six Sundays picking up litter for the City of Bergen

## Who's Who

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Other clergy holding the Archbishop of Canterbury's Permission to officiate at Anglican Services in the Chaplain cyare: Trond Bakkevig, Geir Barlaup, Andreas Hilmo Grandy-Teig, Morten Grindvoll, Harald Grønnevik, Janet Heil, Stian Heggedal, Vebjørn Horsfjord, Ragnhild Jepsen, Siv Limstrand, Jørund Midttun, Jan Otto Myrseth, Tracy Rishton, Geir Sakseid, Steinar Skauge, Bodil Slørdal, Cecilie J. Strømmen, Mary Strømmen, 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, Joseph Chidindi, Eirik Duerr, Torhild Fikseaunet, Cheryl Hogarth, Sigrid I Kvaal, Penny Mietle, Philip Ringrose, Betty Short, 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 Beginnings and Endings (and Beginning Again)

I'm writing these Notes at a time of transition. It is a time of beginnings and endings.

For Church communities this time of the year always has a certain 'New Year' feel about it, with many activities starting up again after the summer break. It's a good opportunity, therefore, to thank those who give of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that all the various church programmes can begin again. Thank You!

However, this time of transition is especially marked this year. At the end of September we will say farewell to the Revd April Almaas. April has served the Trondheim congregation with great commitment and creativity for the past few years as Assistant Chaplain. We are very sorry to see her go, but we also congratulate her on securing a full-time position in the Church of Norway as Senior Priest of Ilen Parish, Trondheim.

I know that April will bring her very considerable gifts and abilities to this new post and we keep her in our prayers as she prepares for the move. We also keep our Trondheim congregation in our prayers as we continue the process of finding a new priest. With the help of our wonderful Licensed Readers (Priscilla and Susan), and the Revd Mary Strømmen, we will continue the full programme of services in Trondheim in the coming months.

Also ending about this time is our summer chaplaincy in Balestrand on the Sognefjord. For sixteen weeks – from mid-May to early September – a succession of locum chaplains has ministered in the beautiful St Olaf's church to the literally thousands of visitors who pass through the area every year. Sincere thanks to the seven clergy who made up the rota this summer. And 'thank you' too to Jostein Risa and the Revd Kjetil Netland, from the local Church of Norway parish, for their help and support. We will re-open the Balestrand summer chaplaincy on Wednesday 15 May 2019 (Mark your diary!).

In terms of new beginnings, we were delighted to welcome two new Priests with Permission to Officiate to help out in our Oslo congregation. The Revd Cecile Strømmen was officially welcomed on Sunday 1 July and the Revd Morten Grindvoll presided at the Eucharist for the first time at St Edmund's on Sunday 26 August. Welcome Cecile and Morten!

All of these comings and goings remind us that while 'here we have no abiding city' (Hebrews 13:14) we must nevertheless persevere through the inevitable beginnings and endings, and new beginnings, of life. Moreover, as the Irish poet Brendan Kennelly put it so beautifully, we are not left unaided on this journey:

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending that always seems about to give in something that will not acknowledge conclusion insists that we forever begin.

> God bless – Darren Revd Darren McCallig Senior Chaplain

## Bergen notes

It has been a wonderful summer here in Bergen as we enjoyed the very rare phenomenon of more sunny days than rainy! In fact, the sunny weather could not have come at a better time. To our astonishment we have not been rained on substantially during any of our scheduled litter pick-up days. We even had to apply sunscreen one day and a few of us (including myself) were caught complaining about the heat! Those of us here in Bergen are very pleased to share a picture from our litter pick-up project on the front cover of this edition of *Together*.

The litter pick-up project is going exceptionally well, and to be quite honest, the workload is not as much as we had anticipated. Only a few hours each Sunday once a month, which includes a time for food and fellowship afterwards at the home of a congregant who just by chance happens to live in the centre of the assigned area.

As a church leader, I have discovered over the years that if you take the time to look closely enough at pretty much anything a congregation does together, you will see God's hand at work. This even includes things like picking up litter! For example, before we head out to pick up litter we split up into groups of two or three, and I am reminded of how Jesus sent out the twelve disciples two by two. The twelve disciples sent out individually would surely have covered more ground than six groups of two, but they may not have gotten very far on their own. Sent out in pairs, the disciples were able to encourage and challenge one another, remind one another of what Jesus had said, taught and showed them about the good news and the kingdom of God.

Interestingly enough, on the very first Sunday of our litter pick-up project, a group of three decided to split up, and soon thereafter one of them got lost! This project is reminding all of us here in Bergen about how much we need one another and how important it is that we stick together. After all Jesus did not work alone, he called people just like ourselves to accompany and work with Him along the way.

The litter pick-up project is wonderful for fundraising and a great way to care for God's creation, however I am starting to see that this project goes well beyond that. One Sunday a month we gather together, we are given just a few things, we put on a reflective vest, we each get a large black trash bag, a pair of plastic gloves and then we are sent out in small groups of two or three. We could each go out alone and maybe cover the area more quickly, but we would miss out on the joy of getting to know one another better and the opportunity to encourage one another in the task God has called us to. We have discovered that while we go out looking for trash, we always return with something much more precious.

The litter pick-up project is not over yet as we still have three more Sundays to be sent out! We are also excited about welcoming the Chaplaincy Council in October and continuing on with the ministry God has called us to in Bergen. Wishing all of you every blessing during the autumn season!

Revd Kirk Weisz Bergen locum chaplain

## Stavanger notes

Hello Everyone.

In many ways it has been a lovely summer.

We have settled into our use of NMS. We joined together with the Baptist church and the International church to share summer services in St Petrie in the city centre. August saw us welcome our chaplain Darren to launch our first service back at NMS with café church. Sadly we have been told that we can no longer have the lovely office at the British school but we are hoping to negotiate something with NMS, who have been so helpful.

We have also had to say goodbye to several devoted families and members. It was a joy to pray blessings for them and wish them well as they move onto new things but sad to see them go. We now face a new and challenging autumn. There is a busy round of welcome events at NATO and at the schools where we hope to welcome new people to our community.

It has been reassuring not to have lost our close ties with the Cathedral, and I have been invited to one of their clergy retreat days where they reflect on the spiritual disciplines that they use as individuals to sustain themselves in ministry. I was honoured to be asked to lead their evening worship and am looking forward to the event.

There will be many of our usual special events coming up. Teaming up with NSBC and SIC for a community BBQ in September, Harvest festival coming up in October and Shoebox Sunday in November.

We are glad to be continuing our Bible club at the British school and with the help of the youngsters that come, have produced some new and we hope inviting publicity material.

It was sad to wish farewell to Anne Howells, Principal at the British School but I was delighted by the warm reception I received from her replacement Dr. Stephen Bizley. We hope that we can continue the long and close relationship with the school and I was delighted to have been invited to set up dates for us to come and lead school assemblies this autumn.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Trondheim community. Wishing April every success in her new position and praying for our congregation as they move towards a new future.

In all your work and in the changes ahead we wish you a blessed autumn.

With greetings from Stavanger –

Revd Peter Hogarth Stavanger assistant chaplain

## Trondheim notes

My deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God I have been allowed to catch.

- Henri Nouwen

As the new academic year begins, Trondheim is filled with new students, faculty and visiting researchers. At this time of years, we have a tradition of joining the University Chaplains of NTNU in an event called Open Cathedral. This event welcomes hundreds of new university students into Nidarosdomen,

(Norway's National Cathedral), and gives them free tours of many of the generally closed chapels. This also gives us a chance to inform students about our ASF (Anglican Student Fellowship) and welcome them to be involved in it.

The start of a new semester also brings with it the start of our English language Sunday School gatherings, involvement in the City Mission's (Bymisjon) ecumenical Taizé services, and the Anglican Book Café. For the third year in a row we will join with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network (and Christians around the globe) in prayer for our shared planet by holding a Season of Creation service up at Fjellseter Chapel in Bymarka on 9 September, followed by a Community Bring and Share meal (for more info see http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/ resources/season-of-creation.aspx). Also this autumn we will celebrate Bible Sunday in October with a youth led service, and in November we will mark Remembrance Day at the British War Graves at Stavne Kapell.

Last semester a group of men in our congregation met regularly to discuss John Pritchard's fabulous little book: Why Go to Church? This book is part of SPCK Publishing's Little Book of Guidance series, which includes titles such as: How can I believe?, How do I pray?, Where on earth is heaven? and many others. Happily, this semester there is interest from others to do the same!

As for myself, it was with sadness that I resigned from my post as Assistant Chaplain in Trondheim, effective the close of September 2018. I have accepted a 100% position as Senior Priest of Ilen Parish in Trondheim, and will begin there on 1 October. I have loved my time working in the Chaplaincy and care very deeply for Trondheim's Anglican Congregation. I plan to continue to be active within the Chaplaincy, as I will be granted PTO (Permission to Officiate) as an Anglican priest throughout the Diocese of Europe – something that I look very much forward to.

Many thanks to each of you who have made my time as Assistant Chaplain a lovely experience – it has been an honour to share in your lives and ministries. May God bless, inspire and refresh you today and always!

PAX – April Revd April Maja Almaas Trondheim assistant chaplain

## Oslo notes

There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and father of all.

With these words, drawn from Ephesians 4:4-6, Bishop David Hamid welcomed everyone present to the Service of Confirmation sat Saint Edmund's on Sunday 17 June. The large congregation had come together to support our three candidates – Christoph, Sian and Miria – as they took the next steps on their pilgrimage of faith.

As Bishop David pointed out in a subsequent blog post, the service reflected the wonderful diversity of our church community. Noting that the candidates came from English, Sri Lankan / Norwegian and Ugandan backgrounds, he also added for good measure that the priest was Irish and that the Bishop was Scottish/Burmese!

After a very moving service during which the Bishop laid his hands on the candidates, and prayed 'Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit' we made our way to the home of the Brooks family for the annual Saint Edmund's summer picnic. And even though the weather was not especially co-operative, nothing could dampen our spirits as we enjoyed the afternoon together. Thank you Michael and Pamela and Lawrence for allowing us to use your beautiful home and garden for the event.

We had other great days of celebration in recent weeks when we celebrated the Baptism of Eila Taylor Kolden (daughter of Lynetta and David) at the end of July, and when we had a Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child for baby Gabriella Alice Neil (daughter of Sharon and Neil) at the end of August. May God bless them and keep then, and make his face to shine upon them.

## Looking ahead

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service will be on Sunday 9 September this year (followed by a Harvest auction in aid of the Shearly Cripps Children's Home in Zimbabwe) and we will hold a Service of Choral Evensong as part of Oslo Culture Night on Friday 14 September. The event, which is Oslo's biggest one-day festival, is a great opportunity for us to welcome many visitors to our beautiful church building.

				Oslo		Bergen	Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim
					•	SEPTE	MBER			•	
Sun	02	Trinity 14	11:00	All Age Service with Holy Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	James 1: 17-end Mark 7: 1-8, 14, 15, 21-23	10:30	Café Church and Community BBQ (NMS)	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun	09	Trinity 15	11:00	Sung Communion Harvest Thanksgiving	11:00	Holy Communion	James 2: 1-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 7: 24-end	10:30	Holy Communion and Children's Church (NMS)	11:15	Season of Creation Communion Fjellseter Chapel
Sun	16	Trinity 16	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	James 3: 1-12 Mark 8: 27-end	10:30	Family Communion (NMS)	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Sun	23	Trinity 17	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	James 3: 13 - 4: 3, 7-8a Mark 9: 30-37	10:30	Holy Communion and Children's Church (NMS)	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion Vår Frue Church
Sun	30	Trinity 18	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion Harvest Festival	James 5: 13-end Mark 9: 38-end	10:30	Family Communion (NMS)		Sorry, no service (5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday)
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Sun	07	Trinity 19	11:00	All Age Service with Holy Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12 Mark 10: 2-16	10:30	Café Church Harvest Festival (NMS)	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun	14	Trinity 20	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 4: 12-end Mark 10: 17-31	10:30	Holy Communion and Children's Church (NMS)	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion Vår Frue Church
Sun	21	Trinity 21	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 5: 1-10 Mark 10: 35-45	10:30	Family Communion (NMS)	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Sun	28	Trinity 22 (Bible Sunday)	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5 John 5: 36b-end	10:30	Holy Communion and Children's Church (NMS)	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion Vår Frue Church
			·			NOVE	MBER				
Sun	4	All Saints	11:00	All Age Service with Holy Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Revelation 21: 1-6a John 11: 32-44	10:30	Café Church Shoebox Sunday (NMS)	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun	11	Remembrance Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	10:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 9: 24-end Mark 1: 14-20	11:00	Remembrance Service Eiganes Graveyard	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion Vår Frue Church
			14:15	Act of Remembrance Vestre Gravlund	12:00	Act of Remembrance War Graves, Møllendal		12:00	Act of Remembrance Sola Cemetery	13:00	Act of Remembrance Stavne Chapel
Sun	18	2 before Advent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 10:11-14[15-18]19-25 Mark 13: 1-8	10:30	Family Communion (NMS)	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Sun	25	Christ the King	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37	10:30	Holy Communion and Children's Church (NMS)	11:00	All-Age Holy Communion Vår Frue Church

Then, in November we will mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War on Remembrance Sunday (11 November). After the 11:00 Sung Communion at St Edmund's there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves at Vestre Gravlund at 14:15. All are welcome.

Finally, in terms of looking ahead, please add the date for this year's Christmas Bazaar to your diary. This annual fund-raiser will be held on Saturday 17 November at the Swedish Church (Hammersborg Torg 8B, 0179 Oslo) from 11.00 to 15.00. As in previous years, it's the place to be for all your festive favourites – mince pies, Christmas cake and pudding, homemade goodies, Christmas groceries, cards, handicrafts, toys, English books, collectables, and lots more. There will also be delicious refreshments from the cosy 'Loaves and Fishes' café, along with carol-singing from our fabulous Choir.

All in all, it promises to be a busy autumn here at St Edmund's, and so I hope we can keep in mind the words of the Dismissal from June's Confirmation Service – words which apply to all the Baptised – may we 'Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.'

Revd Darren McCallig Oslo Chaplain

## Meet our two new PTOs in Oslo

We have been delighted to welcome two new priests with Permission to Officiate (PTO) at St Edmund's Oslo, in recent weeks.

At the beginning of July, the Revd Cecilie Strømmen was welcomed with some special



prayers of blessing at the end of the Sunday morning service. Cecilie, who works at Church House in Oslo (the headquarters of the Church of Norway) holds both a Master's degree and a Doctorate from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. She was ordained in Geneva, in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre there, and served as a chaplain in the National Cathedral in Washington DC when she lived in the United States.



Then, some weeks later, the Revd Morten Grindvoll was likewise welcomed as a new PTO, and presided at the Eucharist at St Edmund's for the first time on Sunday 26 August. Morten is no stranger to our congregation, having attended St Edmund's before moving to the UK to study at Cranmer Hall, Durham and subsequently at Westcott House, Cambridge. Ordained Deacon in 2017 and Priest in 2018 he served as assistant curate in the Parish of Christ the King, in the Diocese of Newcastle, before moving home to Norway this summer.

We very much look forward to Cecilie's and Morten's ministry among us.

## Upcoming events

## Bergen

Sun 23 Sep Litter collection after coffee hour Sun 21 Oct Litter collection after coffee hour

#### **Trondheim**

Sun 2 Sep, Sun 21 Oct and Sun 4 November Sunday School (for 4–12 year olds) in Waisenhuset, 11:00–12:30. Sat 24 Nov Christmas Sale in Waisenhset. Sat 1 Sep Autumn Book Café, 13:00–15:00.

#### Oslo

Fri 14 Sep Evensong for Oslo Culture Night, 17:30.

## Bergen litter collection

As Kirk mentions in his notes, the Bergen congregation has this summer spent four Sundays – with another two to come – collecting litter in an outlying area of the city. This is a project run by the City of Bergen, both giving volunteer groups the chance to raise money and improving the environment in the city.

Blessed with no rain on any of the four Sundays so far, groups of varying size have turned out after the church service and coffee hour and spent a couple of hours picking litter. The people in the background are not waiting for a bus; the litter collected is placed behind the bus stop in black bags and collected by the refuse services the following day.

We are very fortunate that a member of the congregation who lives close by has generously provided cheese, biscuits and other delicious refreshments for the workers who have built up an appetite.







## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

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

## JOIN CHRISTIANS AROUND THE GLOBE AS WE PRAY AND TAKE ACTION

Date: 9 September 2018 Time: 11:15am Venue: Fjellseter Kapell (Buses leave from Kongens gate at 10:50 arriving at Fjellseter 11:04)

FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Trondheim's Anglican
Congregation welcomes you to an
All-Age Communion service at
Fjellseter Kapell in Bymarka as we
thank God for the earth and pray
for our common home.



www.SeasonofCreation.org



### Doctorate

Our Sunday school teacher in Bergen, Norah, successfully defended her PhD thesis in the field of space physics on Friday 24 August!

Congratulations Dr. Norah Kaggwa Kwagala on reaching this tremendous academic milestone in your life!

Norah had a wonderful reception later that day and a gift of nearly 10,000 NOK was raised for her so that she could return to Uganda at Christmas to celebrate with her parents and family.

We are all so proud of you, Norah.





## Pru's

## Strøket 9, 1383 ASKER 66 75 80 66 + 996 03 734

(outside the main entrance to Trekanten Centre)

Aran knitwear for adults XS–XXL Fleeces with embroidery (tractors, ponies, kittens, etc.) for children.

Other makes: Hammerschmid, Tulchan, Gardeur, Junge, Brandtex, Signature, LauRie, Erfo, Bloomings, Bæltekompagniet, Update Copenhagen, Ciso (larger sizes)

SIZES 34-52

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## From the registers



## **BAPTISMS**

**St Edmund's, Oslo** Sunday 29 July 2018 Eila Taylor Kolden

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

**St Edmund's, Oslo** Sunday 19 August 2018 Gabriella Alice Neil





Retur: British Embassy 0244 Oslo

