

# **DECEMBER 2017–FEBRUARY 2018**



Photo: Gitte Bjergskov Kjærulff

**Together, by God's grace, we will be a Christ-like community of love** From the *Re-dedication of the Ministry of the People of God* in the Licensing Service held at Saint Edmund's on 22 October 2017.

## Who's Who

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Other clergy holding the Archbishop of Canterbury's Permission to officiate at Anglican Services in the Chaplaincy are: Trond Bakkevig, Geir Barlaup, Andreas Hilmo Grandy-Teig, 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, Mary Strømmen, Harald Svendsen, Julius Tabi, 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, Helen Campbell, Joseph Chidindi, Eirik Duerr, Torhild Fikseaunet, 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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## The Senior Chaplain's Notes Called Together

My dear friends,

You'll have noticed that the masthead on this issue of our newsletter – my first as your Senior Chaplain – has changed. The reason is simple. The newsletter is called 'Together' because we are called together – called together by God to be sisters and brothers in faith in this Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway.

It is a beautiful and a demanding calling. Our Archbishop Justin Welby put it in memorable terms in a recent sermon. The vocation of a Christian community, he said, is to give people an opportunity to recognise two things: (i) the complexity of each other; and (ii) the simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything. I elaborated on the Archbishop's statement at my first meeting of the Church Council in late October. I'd like to share with you a little of what I said:

#### 1. Recognising the complexity of each other.

This is the great challenge of any Christian community! Getting to know each other, really know each other. Getting to trust each other and respect each other; acknowledging that we are all different. We have different talents, different skills, and different aptitudes. And we also have different weaknesses, different little foibles, and different idiosyncratic imperfections.

Of course, in our context here in Norway, that complexity is further complexified (if I may put it like that) by the fact that we come from a myriad of different national backgrounds, different cultural backgrounds, linguistic backgrounds, denominational backgrounds, and educational backgrounds – I could go on!

And here in Norway, we also have the added challenge of distance. It's a long way from Bergen to Trondheim for example. I put the journey into Google Maps and the route it suggested for the drive was over 1000 km and scheduled to take 13 hours! These distances give lots of opportunities for miscommunication and misunderstanding, and the situation is not always helped by technology. How often do we misinterpret an email message because we don't have all the visual clues and signals which go with face-to-face conversation?

# 2. The simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything

This is, of course, absolutely key. And, what I really like about Archbishop Justin's phrase is his use of the word 'simplicity' – the simplicity of keeping Christ at the centre of everything. I'm no mind reader, so I don't know why exactly he chose that word, but it seems to me to be very significant.

Because, in the context, I don't think the Archbishop means 'simplicity' as in 'easypeasy' or simplicity as 'facile' or simplicity as 'making no demands on us.' I think he means simplicity as directness, simplicity as in 'Aha, now I get it. It's obvious when you think about it.' I think he means simplicity as in the one thing needed, the one thing to focus on, the heart of it all.

In fact, I did a check in the Oxford English Dictionary, and in past centuries a 'simple' – to use the noun version of the word – was a medicine made up of just one ingredient – a medicine made using just one herb or plant. Simple. One thing. The one thing that's truly necessary.

The beginning of a new ministry in a new place is always a time of change and apprehension – not only for the priest, but also for the congregations! I hope that, in the years ahead, we will be mindful of the glorious complexity of each other. And I also pray that we will recognise the profound simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything. May the God who has called us together give us the grace to do just that. *Revd Darren McCalliq* 

Senior Chaplain

#### Trondheim notes Death is the side of life which is turned away *from* us and not illuminated *by* us.

-Rilke

Outside, brightly coloured autumn leaves wave wildly in the wind before falling to the ground. The piles of leaves and the withering foliage signal that yet another growing season has ended. These remind me of an article I read recently, about the spiritual practice of gardening. It was argued—in a world so keen to vilify and deny aging and death—that watching the decline of plants, while secure in the knowledge that after the winter comes the spring, is a deeply Christian practice. I believe that the point of being church together is not to fake happy and play 'church nicey nice'. Rather, a vital part of being in a community of faith is to hold space for one another, in loving honesty, amidst life's realness; and to encourage one another with reminders of the Spirit's constant companionship and of heaven's hope.

Accordingly, this past October, Revd Mary Strømmen and I co-lead Trondheim's first Grief Group. A number of us gathered weekly to discuss Granger Westberg's book *Good Grief*. A book that argues that in addition to death, we experience grief at the loss of a career, relationship, life phase, etc. Many found the October group to be enriching.

This autumn Trondheim Anglicans had three other firsts: 1) A youth and parent led Bible Sunday with pumpkin prayers, a Bible hunt, a drama and music from Christy Ringrose; 2) Movie Nights for our ASF (Anglican Student Fellowship) at Moholt Aktivitetshuset, where we showed *The Ultimate Gift* in September and *Chariots of Fire* in November and hosted Kahoot quizzes. 3) We initiated contact with the military garrison at Værnes, and will have with us the Military Chaplain at our Remembrance day service, and a mixed company of Norwegian and American military personnel present to perform military honours at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the British War Graves.

To start off the church year in Advent, we will enjoy another first, a visit from our new Senior Chaplain, the Revd Darren McCallig. Followed the next Sunday by our annual Christingle service, at which we are delighted that Sigmund and Sarah Vik and Andrew Fleming will again coordinate a pop-up orchestra. A few days after that is our Festival of Lessons and Carols which is celebrated together with the Cathedral Choir, and on Christmas Day the Viks will again provide music as well as Christy Ringrose doing a *Fischy Music* piece with the children.

After Christmas as we enter into the darkest days of the winter. During this time, we will gather for our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake party and joint Ash Wednesday service with the Cathedral/Vår Frue congregation. Then we will meet weekly to share soup and break bread together, in our Lenten Book Group, ending each time with Compline, where we sing into the darkness the *Nunc Dimittis* 'May Christ be our friend in the daylight, our peace through the night.'

May Advent's hope, joy, love and peace be with you now and always!

Revd April Maja Almaas Trondheim assistant chaplain

#### Bergen notes

Greetings everyone! It has been an eventful autumn here in Bergen! While I have never been particularly interested in competitive cycling. I can say that I have been to the 2017 Cycling World Championships! This was merely a contextual phenomenon for everyone in Bergen, of course, as Bergen played host for a week in September to the races. The championships turned out to be a huge success for the city, although it created a logistical nightmare for most residents as the city center was closed to traffic for the entire week! The road closures in the city center created problems for many congregants trying to make their way to Mariakirken on Sunday mornings. However, the championships offered us the opportunity to work upon one of our primary mission goals, which is to provide a service in English to the many visitors who come to Bergen. In addition, the Bergen Cathedral Parish, with whom we partner in ministry in Mariakirken, created a 'fan zone' in Mariastuen, where they broadcast the races and served coffee and waffles to visitors. Mariakirken was also open to the public free of charge (they usually have to pay 50 kroner to look around) during the races. This provided a peaceful place of spiritual refuge from the cycling madness outside! Overall, the races were an exciting time for those interested in cycling, and well, rather frustrating for those with little or no interest at all!

The life of our congregation returned to normal after the championships ended. We had a wonderful fall festival on Sunday 7 October, in which congregants gave generously with food to donate to the local Salvation Army. We then broke bread together in *Mariastuen* with our annual Harvest Festival potluck lunch. Another exciting highlight in the autumn was the resurrection of the Beetle Drive! Holding a Beetle Drive has a long history in our congregation, but it had been some time since the church had held one. It was brought back to life in order to raise funds for a church building project we support in Uganda. We held a Beetle Drive on the last Sunday of each month throughout the autumn. It is a great way to have a little fun together and support an important international mission project.

On 12 November, Remembrance Sunday, our lay reader Iris led a very moving service in *Mariakirken*, and afterwards numerous members attended the annual commemoration service at the war graves in Møllendal. As the season of Advent draws closer, we are already making preparations for our two big carol services in *Korskirken* and *Mariakirken* in December. These services continue to be two of the most anticipated Christmas choral events in Bergen. Also, as the church has done in years past, we will be bringing back the Christingle service to begin the season of Advent. So, with much to look forward to here in Bergen we wish you all a joyous Advent and Christmas season!

*Revd Kirk Weisz Bergen locum chaplain* 

#### Stavanger notes

Greetings from Stavanger.

We have had a time of remembering and giving thanks this autumn. Our new style café church has worked well with many of our regular services that need a café type set up. Harvest festival was one of those times when the layout of people around tables worked well, both for giving thanks through our prayer and worship and for enjoying fellowship with our refreshments. This year members of the congregation had made up some lovely gift baskets with produce and goodies. We had a lovely time after the service auctioning them off to raise money for the White Nile congregation in Finland.

November's café church we hope will provide another good forum for our Shoebox Sunday. This year we are again filling and wrapping shoeboxes with gifts for children in Romania, as part of Operation Christmas child's worldwide effort. Last year they gave away over 11 million shoeboxes to needy children across the world.

At the time of writing, our Remembrance service is coming up again soon. We will be having services at the Eiganes and Sola war graves as usual. This year is special because it's the 75th anniversary of Operation Freshman. We had a very special VIP visit on 24 October, when his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent came to show respect to the fallen from Operation Freshman and to meet some of the people here who honour their memory each year. He is an elderly man now, but we were amazed by his stamina to make a two-day visit to Norway honouring the fallen from this operation. He took care to meet and speak to all the people present and was pleased with the friendly reception from the Stavanger community. Our thanks go out to our Consul Thomas Falck, and Nicola from our Embassy for all the organisation and to the City of Stavanger for hosting a reception at Ledaal after the service, where retired wing commander Peter Jeavons gave a poignant talk about the tragedy.

This year is also special because Natalie Grimer, grandniece to one of the victims of the operation, will once again be present on behalf of Driver Ernst Pendlebury's brother, who recently passed away in Australia.

We look forward to our usual Christmas services in Stavanger, Christingle, Nativity and of course the Nine Lessons and Carols in Stavanger Cathedral.

God bless you this winter.

Revd Peter Hogarth Stavanger assistant chaplain Oslo notes

The first thing I must do – in these my first Oslo notes – is say a sincere 'thank you' to all those who have welcomed me to Norway and to my new post in the Anglican Chaplaincy. If I was to begin to name names, we would have to print a supplement to this newsletter! However, I should give a particular mention to the members of the Church Council and all the various office holders for the enormous amount of work they have done in helping me to settle in and find my feet.

Being the 'new boy' means that I have to spend lots of time asking questions, learning names and enquiring about how things are done. This takes some humility on my part and bucket-loads of patience on the part of those who have to answer all these queries! Thank you, one and all.

The Licensing Service on 22 October was a very special and, for me, a very moving occasion. Thank you to Archdeacon Colin and Area Dean Nick for leading the service with such grace and warmth. Thank you to all those who travelled long distances to be there on the evening. And thank you to those who worked behind the scenes to make it such a memorable ceremony – followed by a very splendid reception.

In many ways, the Licensing Service was just the sort of spiritual boost which we needed to

			Oslo		Bergen	Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim
					DECE	MBER				
Sun 03	Advent 1	11:00	Sung Communion and Christingle	11:00	Christingle Service	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-end	10:30	Christingle Service	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun 10	Advent 2	11:00	Sung Communion and Nativity	11:00	Eucharist with choir	2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	10:30	Christmas Nativity Service	11:00	Christingle Service Vår Frue Church
Tue 12		19.00	Drammen Carol Service (Bragernes Church)						18.00	Festival of Lessons and Carols (Nidaros Cathedral)
Fri 15							18.30	Kristiansand Carol Service (Oddernes kirke)		
Sat 16				15.00	9 Lessons and Carols (Korskirken)					
Sun 17	Advent 3	11:00 18.00	Sung Communion 9 Lessons and Carols	18.00	9 Lessons and Carols (Mariakirken)	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	10:30	Holy Communion with Children's Church	18:00	Communion Chapter House
Sat 23							18:00	Service of 9 lessons and carols Cathedral		
Sun 24	Advent 4	11:00	Sung Communion		Sorry, no service	Romans 16:25-end Luke 1:26-38		Sorry, no service		Sorry, no service
Mon 25	Christmas Day	11.00	Sung Communion	11.00	Eucharist	Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14	10:30	Christmas Morning Family Communion	11.00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church
Sun 31	Christmas 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21		Sorry, no service		Sorry, no service (5th Sunday)
					JAN	JARY				
Sun 07	Epiphany	11:00	Family Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	10:30	Café Church	18.00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun 14	Epiphany 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Revelation 5:1-10 John 1:43-end	10:30	Holy Communion with Children's Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church
Sun 21	Epiphany 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Bilingual Communion Cathedral
Sun 28	Presentation	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Hebrews 2:14-end Luke 2:22-40	10:30	Holy Communion with Children's Church	11:00	All Age Service Vår Frue Church
					FEBR	UARY				
Sun 4	2 before Lent	11:00	Family Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Colossians 1:15-20 John 1:1-14	10:30	Café Church	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun 11	Next before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	10:30	Holy Communion with Children's Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church
Wed 14	Ash Wednesday	18.00	Holy Communion	18.00	Ash Wednesday Service	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	18:30	Service of Ashing	18.00	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun 18	Lent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	1 Peter 3:18-end Mark 1:9-15	10:30	Family Communion	18:00	Communion Cathedral
Sun 25	Lent 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Eucharist	Romans 4:13-end Mark 8:31-end	10:30	Holy Communion with Children's Church	11:00	All Age Communion Vår Frue Church

set us up for the weeks to come – weeks which are filled with many important events and beautiful services. At the time of writing these notes, we have just had a very successful and enjoyable Christmas Bazaar ('thank you' to all involved) while arrangements for the various Advent and Christmas services are being put in place. As you can see in the list of 'Upcoming Events' there is the ever-popular Drammen Carol Service at 19.00 on Tuesday 12 December (in Bragernes Church this year) as well as the Christingle, Nativity and Nine Lessons and Carols services in Saint Edmund's itself.

In fact, it always seems to me to be one of the great ironies of Advent that, at a time when we are invited to slow down and look inwards, many clergy and church volunteers are at their busiest! Might this be the year when we decide to step out of the crazy 'run-up' to Christmas and adopt a slower pace? Perhaps then we'd be better placed to catch a glimpse of that love, joy and peace which comes down and through and onto all of us.

An expectant Advent and a happy Christmas to you all.

#### Looking Ahead

The annual Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Thursday 18 January, starting at 18.30 at the Greek Orthodox Church. This 'Prayer Walk' comprises one church service held in five different church buildings. In addition to Saint Edmund's, those taking part will participate in prayers in *Trefoldighetskirken* (Church of Norway), Saint Olav's (Roman Catholic Church), the Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox Church) and *Margaretakyrkan* (the Swedish Church).



Revd Darren McCallig Oslo Chaplain



Fri 22 Dec Birralee International School

Christmas service in the Cathedral at 10:30

Upcoming events

Trondheim

14–21 Jan Ecumenical Week of Prayer of

Christian Unity: www.xnbnneuka-q1a.no Sun 21 Jan Sunday school with refreshments.

*Waisenhuset* 11–12:30 Sat 3 Feb Book café community fest with

books, cottage pie, cakes and white elephant gift exchange. *Waisenhuset* 13–16:00 Sun 4 Feb Sunday school with refreshments. Waisenhuset 11–12:30

Tue 13 Feb Shrove Tuesday pancake party. *Waisenhuset* 16–18:00

Thu 22 Feb Lenten Book Group gathering (No 1 of 5) with soup and Compline. Waisenhuset 18–20:00

#### Kristiansand

Fri 15 Dec Carol Service in Oddernes Church 18:30

#### Bergen

Sat 16 Dec Carol Singing in Korskirken 15:00. Sun 17 Dec Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in St Marys Church 18:00

#### Stavanger

Sun 3 Dec Christingle (Bethel)

Sun 10 Dec Crib Service (Bethel)

Sat 23 Dec Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in Stavanger Cathedral

Sun 24 Dec No service

Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day Family Communion (Bethel)

#### Drammen

Tue 12 Dec Carol Service 16:00 in Bragernæs Church

#### Anywhere else?

As long as there is space, we should be able to include any upcoming event of interest to *Together* readers.

You never know who is travelling where ...

## From the registers

## DEATHS

Sheila Bothner-By, **Høvik** 

died on 31.8.17, aged 76

Frank Marcus Voits Trondheim

died on 4.9.17, aged 85 Revd. April Almaas & Lay Reader Priscilla Beck held a funeral for Frank Marcus Voits at Svanholm on 12 September. Frank was a beloved, long-term member of Trondheim Anglicans and former member of our Congregational Committee. He will be sorely missed by many.

> Rosamund Margaret Cappelen Oslo died on 18.9.17, aged 89

# Visit by the Duke of Kent



photo: www.cwgc.org

Ahead of the seventy-fifth anniversary of one of the most daring raids of the Second World War, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, paid his respects at the graves of Commonwealth servicemen buried at Oslo and Stavanger.

In November 1942, an attempt was made to destroy the hydroelectric power station at Vermork in Telemark, where heavy water was produced for German atomic research. The mission was codenamed Operation Freshman. Two gliders and an aircraft engaged in the raid crashed in southern Norway. All those aboard, Royal Engineers of the 1st Airborne Division and members of the Commonwealth air forces, were either killed in the crash or died later at the hands of their captors.

Stavanger (Eiganes) Churchyard contains the graves of 25 servicemen who died in the raid. A further seven are buried in Helleland Churchyard and five are buried in Oslo Western Cemetery.

On Tuesday 24 October, the Revd Peter Hogarth led a short act of remembrance in Stavanger when the Duke laid a wreath. On the following day, the Revd Darren McCallig led a smilar service, where again the Duke paid his respects.



# Archdeacon Colin Williams (centre) with clergy and readers at the licensing service



Photo: Gitte Bjergskov Kjærulff

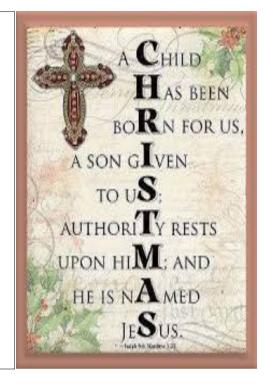


# Pru's

Strøket 9, 1383 ASKER 66 75 80 66/ 99603734 (outside the main entrance to Trekanten Centre)

Aran knitwear & fleeces with embroidery (horse, tractor, sheep, etc.) for children from 1 year and adults Leisurewear by Alice Collins,

Hammerschmid, Tulchan, Gardeur, Brandtex, Erfo, Lana, Wallmann ... Larger sizes by Verpass Tartan kilts and trousers by Glaschu (Glasgow) SIZES 36–52 • QUALITY WITH PERSONAL SERVICE!







Retur: British Embassy 0244 Oslo

