

# TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

**FEBRUARY–MAY 2023**



The theme  
of this issue is  
'Community  
and  
Fellowship'

Oksana and the Sagene art  
project –see page 11

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## From the Senior Chaplain

**God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 19)**

I'm very grateful to the Anglican Chaplaincy's Stavanger congregation for proposing the theme of Community and Fellowship for this issue of Together. It's a very relevant theme for each of us and for our life together as a Chaplaincy and as our different congregations. It also raises very real questions as to what these terms can mean when we are very geographically dispersed, as is often the case around Norway.

The theme emerged from our reflections on the beginning of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In the verse quoted above we see that it is God who calls us into fellowship – we can rejoice that it is God's initiative – and we see that this fellowship belongs to and is focused around our Lord Jesus Christ. This calling is transformational because we are called to be saints, not alone, but 'together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.' (1 Corinthians 1.2) Our fellowship crosses mountain ranges and long distances within Norway but also transcends national borders and even continents to be a fellowship of all those who call upon Jesus's name.

We are blessed as Anglicans to be part of a visible expression of this fellowship in the worldwide Anglican Communion, a fellowship of sister churches around the world where we celebrate our mutual belonging to Christ and shared witness to him in the world amidst our great diversity of cultures and language. In his reflections on attending the Archdeaconry Synod, Mark Hamer reminds us that, closer to home, our own Diocese in Europe also reflects this diversity as well as offering valuable resources through which we may support and learn from each other.

Stephanie Blanchard picks up the rich diversity within our congregations themselves in terms of both background and stage of life. Here building community is aided by the passionate intention that 'no one should feel excluded, lonely or unwelcome. Rather the contrary, everyone has something special to bring into the fold.' Different activities such as Bible Studies and dining-out evenings offer opportunities to get to know one another and to build up fellowship. Pat Cove points to the challenge of maintaining fellowship

when living far from others within the Chaplaincy. This is a real challenge for us here in Norway. In certain respects the pandemic has resulted in new opportunities to connect together, such as the Bergen congregation's Wednesday midday prayer on Zoom, also offered to others interested to join this fellowship from around the Chaplaincy. Sunday services on Zoom at different times from all our regular congregations offer another way to connect with our worship, and virtual coffee afterwards has now become quite a fixture!

Fellowship can be helped to flourish through opportunities to get to know one another. But as Revd Sheila Rosenthal reminds us, community and conflict are rarely far apart from each other. One key question is how we can live well with such conflict. As the Collect for Ash Wednesday teaches us, our transgressions may be transcended through seeking God's mercy and forgiveness.

The new fellowship to which we are called is marked by God's grace. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul invokes grace from God upon the church community at Corinth and encourages them: 'I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind.' (1 Corinthians 1.4-5)

As part of the Church, our communities point beyond their own fellowship towards Christ. We are called to help build up a wider sense of community and belonging wherever we find ourselves. The Christmas carol services we offer play an important part in this, attracting many who we may not otherwise see often but for whom these celebrations offer an important connection. The celebrations draw people together and offer hope. In addition to our regular congregations, we led services of Lessons and Carols in December in Oddernes church in Kristiansand, in Hundvåg church in Rogaland, and in Bragernes church in Drammen. We very much hope to be able to resume such a service in Tromsø as has long been enjoyed in Elverøy church in the past.

Another example is participating in local creative activities, such as Oksana's participation in a community art group, resulting in an exhibition of both Ukrainian and Norwegian art works together. Certainly the choir of St Edmund's has offered much valued fellowship and community to many over the years, and continues to do so along with the Christmas choirs which form annually in some of our congregations.

And the long-standing Ladies' Fellowships of Drammen and St Edmund's continue to offer a regular bright ray of friendship which is warmly looked forward to.

Even our best efforts at fellowship and community will inevitably have their limitations, but in all things we look to the grace of God to provide for what we lack. After all grace is God's gift to us. So we never cease to pray that 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.'

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

### Bergen notes

Greetings from Bergen! We had a wonderful Advent and Christmas here in Bergen. It was especially joyful to hold both of our carol services in-person in Korskirken and Mariakirken for the first time in two years. As always, we are deeply grateful to the Christmas Choir, to David Weaver for his accompaniment and our choir-master, Roger Martin, for all the time and effort they put into making the carol services such a tremendous gift to the entire Bergen community. Our Christmas Day service in Mariakirken was also well received, with numerous visitors from around the world in attendance. Since the last edition of Together, we have also celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving the 90th birthdays of two long time members. Rosemary Lund, born in Sunderland, England before moving to Edinburgh, who is known best for her creative and inspiring work with the Bergen Amateur Dramatic Society (BADs) and her wonderful singing in church, celebrated her 90th on 1 October. Frances Valeur, a native of Glasgow, Scotland and a faithful church member known for her calming presence and delicious shortbread cookies at the church coffee hour celebrated her 90th on 21 December. Congratulations to Rosemary and Frances on this immense milestone in their lives and for all the gifts and graces they have both brought to our congregation over the decades.

We now find ourselves in the middle of Epiphany and enjoying this season of realisations and revelations before the many happenings of Lent begin. The end of Epiphany will be special for us this year as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple with our first ever Candlemas service in Mariakirken on Thursday 2 February. We will be joined by our senior chaplain Joanna Udal. As we turn our

hearts and minds toward Lent, our congregation is looking forward to our Shrove (Sunday) pancake lunch in Mariastuen on Sunday 19 February. It will include our second annual pancake flipping context and pancake race! Then on Ash Wednesday we will hold a joint ecumenical service with the Norwegian congregation in Mariakirken. Each year we begin the season of Lent with the Mariakirken congregation and conclude the season joyfully with them on Easter morning. Lent study preparations are underway. The study will be bookended with a soup and bread supper and compline. During Holy Week we will hold a Maundy Thursday communion service, a Good Friday Tenebrae service, and Easter morning with the Norwegian congregation. Lots to look forward to as we move into the season of Lent and beyond. Blessing to all.

*Revd Dr Kirk Weisz, Bergen Assistant Chaplain*

### Stavanger notes/jottings Community and Fellowship – a few thoughts

When Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians (Ch 1:9) that they were called into the fellowship of God's son, Jesus Christ, he was addressing a group of people who had stopped meeting and were expressing their differences. Whilst the Stavanger Anglican community have experienced some tough challenges over the last few years, one thing is for sure; God's spirit is with us and the desire for fellowship and unity has not only survived but is flourishing!

In early December Mark led the lovely Christingle service for a sizable group of youngsters and their families. This is a much-loved tradition in the Anglican calendar which Stavanger Anglicans have always sought to uphold. Our hope is that the number of our children's activities will grow as more families join us in the year coming.

The pandemic safely behind us, we could finally come together, unmasked, to celebrate our traditional Christmas Carol Service on 23 December with rehearsed readers, musicians and ushers in attendance. Unlimited numbers were invited to sing in the choir and to fill the pews of the beautiful St Petri church. It was such a joy to herald the Yuletide with a robust airing of those cherished carols which have withstood time. This Anglican Church-hosted service is an event which the larger Stavanger community has adopted as one of its traditional hallmarks of Christianity, serving not only internationals but Norwegian



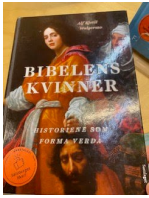


Carol Service at St Petri

nationals as well, many of whom arrive early to ensure a seat! 'Jul e' ikkje jul uten dette!'

Our heartfelt thanks to Joanna who came from Oslo to lead the service so beautifully.

Fellowship continues in 2023 with numbers



not just growing slowly in our physical Sunday services, but also in a very healthy interest for the Ladies Bible studies (initiated by Juliet) currently on alternating Tuesday evenings. Hosted and led by a different enthusiastic heart

every time, these evenings are proving to be informative, encouraging, and great fun as we unpack 'Women of the Bible' together.

Such meetings, ending in prayer, are perfect opportunities to get to know each other on a whole different level, and they complement the ladies' dining-out evenings, which started last year and are successfully forging ahead into 2023. When Jesus assured us that 'where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there' (Matt:18,20) the possibilities for sharing and building one another up are endless. Simple pot-luck lunches and bric-a-brac sales are just a few of the ideas being mooted as opportunities for fellowship and a more visible community presence this year. Our congregation is made up of a cross-section of wonderful people from whom we can all learn so much. We are of different ages and nations, professionals, students and pensioners alike, and it is our passionate hope that no one should feel excluded, lonely or

unwelcome. Rather the contrary, everyone has something special to bring into the fold.

Whilst we eagerly await the arrival of our new assistant chaplain later in the Spring, we will continue to welcome and gratefully soak up the teaching of our loyal and much-appreciated clergy and lay people, who consistently support and encourage us. A huge collective thankyou as always, to Joanna, Geir, Morten and Andre.

*Stephanie Blanchard, Stavanger*

## Trondheim notes

The highlight of the last few months has been normality returning. Our round of sales for Christmas and the Carol Service took their familiar patterns and we enjoyed welcoming people to both.

The goods and goodies sales are usually well attended and this year was no exception. We had rainy cold weather so the inside sales of jams, marmalades, mince pies and cakes, coffee and tea etc. went better than the outside sales of craft goods but we still made a respectable sum. Many thanks to the folk who put up tents, served food and generally were fantastic ambassadors for our small community here.

The Christmas Carol service was fun with the cathedral choir in truly excellent voice this year. We are delighted and privileged to have such a cracking group of singers to lead us. Every year our congregation's readers are joined by a chap who has read for us for over a decade. His father died this year and the family came from Hitra and Trondheim to the cathedral to say their farewells. This too was a privilege to be involved with.

The Remembrance Day service is always a special day: invariably the sun shines and there is a frost as we gather round the graves of those from sunnier climes (the Anzacs) and from the British Isles, some known by name, most 'known only to God'. This year of course there was a double sadness as the war with Ukraine persists. At our harvest festival we were joined by a Ukrainian and his Russian wife who gave us a pertinent and poignant understanding of the harsh effects of conflict.

We have a new assistant church warden, Logan, who replaced Peter, now gracing the Oslo congregation with his skills. Logan has a theology degree and is now learning the joys and mysteries of being an Anglican!

Our monthly series called The Anglican Academy continues with talks on the Hardanger Fiddle by Sigmund Warner Vik, a professional violinist and leader of the Trondheim Chamber Orchestra. We had a private conducted tour of

the cathedral by our dear friend and cathedral verger Sjur, who took us to the depths and the heights of the crypt and towers. Erin came back from Oslo and gave us a talk on her work as an artist plus a guided tour of her exhibition here in a prestigious gallery in the city. We hope to continue this series in the new year.

Sadly we have had to say farewell to too many people moving on and our numbers are depleted and we miss the richness of voice and enthusiasm. We sing well here, so much so that a visitor asked if we were a choir! Over the last 12 months we have lost 7 friends to moving on but we are pleased to welcome several new faces to our little gathering. We include among these some kids who attend Messy Church once a month in Waisenhuset.

Our community is not large in number and sometimes I wonder how long it can remain viable, but I am constantly surprised and uplifted by the dedication of a small but determined cadre of Anglophones, committed to being the Anglican Church in Trondheim, so well done us, here we are – still!

*Revd Sheila Rosenthal, Trondheim Assistant Chaplain*

## Oslo notes

There has been much joy at St Edmund's in celebrating Christmas and in retelling the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem. For our youngest children, it was their first time to celebrate the nativity, unimpeded by Covid restrictions, while for others they barely remembered times 'before'. Dressing up as angels, shepherds and kings caused great delight, as did singing 'Hark now, hear the angels sing, a new king born today'. Thank you to our Children's Church for sharing this joy.

The church has been filled with carols over the Christmas period. The traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols brought fine singing and a near full house once more, followed by festive cheer in the Crypt. This was supplemented by an evening of Carols by Candlelight involving a variety of Christmas poems as well

as carols for everyone to join in with a fundraising café in the crypt afterwards. Thank you to our choir, musicians and readers for bringing so much joy to our worship.

On Christmas Eve a courageous band gathered, well wrapped-up, to sing carols on the church steps in minus 12 degrees C.

Fundraising

has become an important focus with the launch of the St Edmund's Crypt Appeal to enable long-overdue work in improving facilities and disabled access (see article). The St Edmund's Bazaar held in November at the Swedish Church was a fine community-wide effort towards this, with the café and produce stall proving themselves as popular as ever. Further fundraising events are being encouraged as well as grant applications and generous free-will offerings. We are hugely appreciative of everyone's support.

Other celebrations have included our Patronal Festival with the Feast of St Edmund, 20 November, falling on a Sunday. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Tor B Jørgensen of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain as our preacher, who linked King Edmund's death as a martyr to Christ's suffering on the cross, and to enjoy a Bring and Share lunch together afterwards. The Service of Remembrance was held at St Edmund's on 13 November with the British, Ghanaian and South African ambassadors and the president of the Australian Association all in attendance. This was followed by a short ceremony in Vestre Gravlund. Also in November we marked Global Week with an ecumenical service at Trefoldighet Church highlighting the need to 'shed light' on modern slavery, and hosted at St Edmund's the Board Meeting of the Norwegian Christian Council.

We are thankful that our traditional prayer pilgrimage could resume for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our walk on 19 January began at St Edmund's with prayers of reconciliation and continued via the Swedish Margareta Church, the Greek Orthodox Church and St Olav's Catholic Cathedral before ending with the blessing and warming refreshments and fellowship at Trefoldighet Church.



Carol-singing outside  
St Edmund's on Christmas Eve



Nativity at St Edmund's



Unity Prayers set off from St Edmund's  
and end in Trefoldighet

The St Edmund's Ladies Fellowship has been glad to resume activities, with a late November meeting at St Edmund's and a gathering for coffee on 30 November at United Bakeries at Paleet. In Drammen the Ladies Guild met in October for Holy Communion at Bragemes Church with further fellowship over a shared lunch, while the Drammen Carol Service on 6 December was very well supported and the music led beautifully by members of St Edmund's Choir. We are very grateful to Christine Wrobel who has been handed on the baton by Kaye Westing to organise this much-loved service and festive refreshments afterwards. Our connections with Drammen have also been strengthened through the presence of Sudanese Anglicans who have been resettled in the area from Ethiopia. It has been a great joy to hold baptisms and a Christmas celebration for the Maban community from South Sudan and we are very grateful to Bragemes Church for their support.

The Feast of Candlemas on 2 February, known also as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, looks both back through Epiphany to the birth of Christ and also forwards to his passion, death and resurrection. Already we are planning for the Easter Season with the Confirmation Service to be held at St Edmund's on 23 April. Confirmation preparation has begun for both adults and young people. Before then we look forward to keeping a holy Lent with an inten-

tional time of study and devotion with our Lent Course, 'Home away from home – Hearing God's voice in a foreign land'. More details to follow, but this is planned at St Edmund's on Monday evenings, with the possibility of listening in on Zoom. We look forward to keeping this holy season together.

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Oslo Chaplain*

## Fellowship and Community – a reflection

God is God of everyone. He made us social people, not to be alone or isolated. He made us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. God created us to be in relationships with other people. We all need community.

In Matthew 18:20 we are told that the Holy Spirit is present whenever believers gather together. 'For where two or three gather in my name there am I with them.' In Acts 2:42 we read, 'And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers', and in 2:44 'And all that believed were together and had all things common' (the things in common including Christian beliefs).

Each of us has something that the others do not have and vice versa. We lift each other up but we also bear their burdens. (Galatians 6:2 – 'so bear ye one another's burdens, and fulfil the law of Christ.') When we are together we grow in relationship to God. In fellowship within our community we can follow the path of Jesus.

For those who have no community and no fellowship – which today is normal, as people mostly now do not live together in tight communities – things can look bleak. It can be a huge challenge when we live far from any others within our church community. However, there are possibilities with modern technology. How can community and fellowship be built and sustained using this technology? Can virtual coffee and services become real community and fellowship?

Church Fellowship comes from living within a church community. Can we find ways to do so even while living far apart? In John 15:15 Jesus said of those baptized, 'I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. I have called you friends, for all I have learned from my Father I have made known to you.' On becoming a Christian

			Oslo		Bergen		Readings	Stavanger		Trondheim	
FEBRUARY											
Thur	02				18:00	Candlemas Eucharist	Malachi 3.1-5 Luke 2.22-40				
Sun	05	3 before Lent	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 58.1-9a Matthew 5.13-20		TBC	11:00 18:00	Zoom/Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	12	2 before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Genesis 1.1-2.3 Matthew 6.25-end	10:30	Holy Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Sun	19	Next before Lent	11:00	Sung Communion Pancake Lunch	11:00	Holy Communion Pancake Lunch	Exodus 24.12-end Matthew 17.1-9	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Wed	22	Ash Wednesday	19:00	Sung Communion	18:00	Ecumenical Service	Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 Matthew 6.1-6,16-21			18:00	Joint Service with Cathedral
Sun	26	Lent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Genesis 2.15-17,3.1-7 Matthew 4.1-11	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
MARCH											
Sun	05	Lent 2	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	Genesis 12.1-4a John 3.1-17	10:30	Service of the Word Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Zoom Service /Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	12	Lent 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Exodus 17.1-7 John.4.5-42	10:30	Holy Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	19	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Exodus 2.1-10 John 19.25b-27	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Sun	26	Lent 5	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 37.1-14 John 11.1-45	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
APRIL											
Sun	02	Palm Sunday	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 50.4-9a Matthew 27.11-54	10:30	Holy Communion Menighetshuset	11:00 18:00	Zoom Service/Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House
Thu	06	Maundy Thursday	19:00	Sung Communion	18:00	Holy Communion	Exodus 12.1-14 John 13..1-17,31b-35			13:00 18:00	Service at Vår Frue Holy Communion Cathedral
Fri	07	Good Friday	11:00	Joint service w ALC	11:00	Tenebrae Service	Isaiah 52.13-53.12 John 18.1-19.42				Joint service w Cathedral
Sun	09	Easter	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Ecumenical Service	Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 28.1-10	10:30	Family Communion Menighetshuset	11:00	Service at Vår Frue
Sun	16	Easter 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word	Acts 2.14a, 22-32 John 20,19-end		Virtual	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Sun	23	Easter 3	11:00	Confirmation Service Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts.2.14a, 36-41 Luke 24.13-35	10:30	Family Service Menighetshuset	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	30	Easter 4	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 2.42-end John 10.1-10		No service	18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
MAY											
Sun	07	Easter 5	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 7.55-end John 14.1-14	10:30	Virtual	11:00 18:00	Zoom Service /Facebook Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	14	Easter 6	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 17.22-31 John 14.15-21	10:30	Service of the Word Menighetshuset	18:00	Evensong Chapter House
Thu	18	Ascension Day		No service	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 1.1-11 Luke 24.44-end				No service
Sun	21	Easter 7	11.00 10.00	Sung Communion Opening Balestrand	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 1.6-14 John 17.1-11			18:00	Holy Communion Chapter House
Sun	28	Pentecost	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion	Acts 2.1-21 John 20.19-23			11:00	TBA



we are all brothers and sisters of Jesus, as we follow him. Together we have fellowship with the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. Fellowship builds Unity. Churches in Unity with one another result in churches becoming stronger. As individuals in a community, we enjoy fellowship by eating and praying together and helping each other and so have unity. Unity helps friendship, faith and love for each other in keeping with the rule of Matthew 7:12 – Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. In Matthew 5:16 we see how our Christian community and fellowship can serve as an invitation to others Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

In our church community and fellowship let us therefore remember the words of Ecclesiastes 4:9–12:

- 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.
- 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.
- 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?
- 12 and if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

*Pat Cove, Nøtterøy*

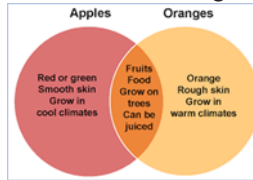
## Community and Fellowship

It seems a simple title, community and fellowship but, as with so many English words, it ain't what it seems.

In my Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (which is shorter **only** because it is not as long as the full OED but still runs into 2 hefty volumes of tiny print,) there are 13 pages of definitions that begin with com, a Latin word that means together. From combat to comrade there are definitions of words that have a sense of linking together. I have more to do than count the exact number of entries (writing this piece now being one of them!) but with some exceptions the things we do together are vast – and not all of them – like the first one mentioned – are friendly engagements. Ironically as well as prophetically, community can include combat

and its twin, conflict (con is another section based on the idea of together, let's not go there).

We all belong to different communities, and were we to draw those circles – venn diagrams – that link us to things, we would see how much



overlap there is between us and the communities we are part of. Church, school, work, home, family, transport, language and so on.

Or if we were to set up a word cloud of how we define community we might be surprised at how many different activities and/or people we have in common – a phrase that says it all – have in common.



Fellowship is another not-what-it-seems word. Its origins lie in finance when more than one person shares the cost of an enterprise. (The word 'liturgy' is Greek, from the production of plays for great religious festivals and means 'work of the people' but the liturgist is the person who paid for it to happen.) In church then the fellowship is not the common experience of following Christ put that of putting our hands into our pockets (or getting out the phone to make a Vipps payment – something unique to the Norwegian community). It has evolved though to mean comrade and companion – see the comm words section! A comrade comes from the word camarada someone who shares a room with you and companion is someone with whom you share or break bread com plus panis – bread, as in panis angelicus.

This, community and fellowship, is after all then a description of us as Christians. We share bread in a single room and we sustain our community with care and money. From the humble beginnings of friends grew an institution of world dominating size – which takes us back to combat sadly; Catholics against Protestants and the Western Church against the Eastern, Evangelicals against Anglo-Catholics and the genders in dispute – matriarchal, patriarchal and more besides.

But right from the off there was difference amongst the followers of Christ. Jesus is in the midst where 2 or 3 are gathered – and maybe he has a whistle in his mouth ready to signal 'foul' – ever thought of Jesus as a referee? Maybe we

should, would He send you off the pitch or just show you a yellow card? As we approach Lent, the magnificent Ash Wednesday collect comes to mind, composed (for surely it is music to our hearts) by that great fellow and companion of the English church, Thomas Cranmer. It may be said every day through Lent, indeed it should be said, for it teaches us of both community and fellowship, the costs paid and the benefits given to us by Christ:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

*Revd Sheila Rosenthal*

## Building community through art

Creative activities can bring people together from different backgrounds and experience in a beautiful way. In December in Oslo, a special exhibition opened at Nær Café in Sagene involving a group of Ukrainian artists who find themselves in Norway as refugees, and a group of Norwegian creative artists, together with their Greek art tutor. I was lucky enough to be invited along by Oksana Tiulnieva, a young Ukrainian woman who wor-



Oksana and art exhibition

ships with us at St Edmund's and whose art works were among those exhibited. Oksana first arrived in Bergen from Kyiv and worshipped with our Bergen Congregation in Mariakirken. So when she moved to Oslo she was put in touch with us at St Edmund's. She may have missed the frequent gatherings of the språkcafé in Mariastuen but Oksana is

always a friendly presence over coffee in the Crypt at St Edmund's after the Sunday service. She has also become a key person in the art project, not only as an artist but also acting as interpreter at the official launch of the art exhibition.



Sagene art groups and tutor

The art groups have met regularly in Sagene through the autumn and have developed a real camaraderie of their own. The Ukrainian group experimented with Norwegian subjects such as the Northern lights as well as more traditional Ukrainian themes in their flag's colours of blue and yellow. Some of the Norwegians went for more abstract themes and use of colour. Each can work at their level with various techniques such as acrylic painting, watercolour, oil and coloured pencils to experience the joy of creation in a safe and social environment. Their tutor is an artist herself specialising in art and drama therapy for refugees and has extensive experience as an art educator with elderly and vulnerable groups.

The creative arts have long been recognised for the community and well-being they help create. As a report of the Sagene exhibition observed, 'After the creative session follow conversations that promote creative development, good community and belonging.' Perhaps there are things which can help us grow as worshipping communities, through creativity and participation together? And perhaps we could inspire others by offering the next venue for some of the paintings to be displayed?

*Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain*

## What does the Synod have to do with us?

I have been a member of the Church of England all of my life and have often heard about things such as 'Deanery Synod', but have never really known what they were, or why we had them. A tiny bit of research told me that the word synod comes from the Greek meaning 'assembly' or 'meeting'.

This synod, held in Stuttgart in October 2022 was a meeting of two Deaneries; the Nordic and Baltic Deanery (of which we are a part) and the Deanery of Germany. This is apparently the first time in over 20 years that the two Deaneries have met together, making it an Archdeaconry Synod. The joy of this expanded meeting was tempered by the twin shadows of Covid and the war in Ukraine that shaped many of the discussions over the synod. As a lay member of the synod, I arrived on the Friday, whilst the clergy had already been in Stuttgart for a day.

The synod began, for me, with a Bible study by Dr. Clare Amos on the theme of ‘Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity’. She began the study with the verse from



Erlöserkirche, Stuttgart

Luke; ‘Were not our hearts burning within us, while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ (Luke 24.32). Her follow-up question to this verse was, ‘What passage from the bible makes your “heart burn”?’ A profound and important question, and one that maybe changes with time and circumstances.

We heard several reports from things that have happened in the diocese and in the wider Church. The World Council of Churches’ Assembly had met recently in Germany and we heard a report from Archdeacon Leslie on that and his presentation of The Journey in Servanthood – The DNA of a Confident Church, which was

launched at the Assembly. We also heard an update on the Churches’ racial justice group, it’s important work going forward and news of a conference to be held on the theme in 2023.

The German deanery environmental officer, Revd Canon Christopher Jage-Bowler, gave a heartfelt presentation on the churches drive to become carbon neutral and how we all need to change our lifestyles, if we are to protect God’s creation. His message was ‘do less’ – less travel, less consumption, eat less meat. I was maybe not the only one to sit a little less comfortably in their seat having travelled from Norway to this synod? More necessary, but at times uncomfortable updates followed with sessions on safeguarding and finance.

A bit of inspiration was provided on day two with a presentation by Revd Stephen Walton and Revd Canon Joanna Udal on ‘Mission and Evangelism’, while Dr. Amos led another bible study on the theme ‘Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity’. The Archdeaconry also formally recognised the 20-year episcopal ministry and service of the Rt Revd Dr David Hamid, the longest serving Bishop in the Church of England.

The synod ended with an ecumenical service at which Bishop David presided and the Lutheran Dean of Stuttgart, Søren Schwesig, preached. A nice ending to a good and busy synod!

There were many interesting discussions, prayerful moments and important issues raised



Stuttgart City Hall

during the synod. However, for me, the most important realization that I came to during the synod is how we in Norway are part of a huge organization, the Diocese of Europe. The Diocese has many resources available to us in our own individual chaplaincies and wants to engage with us and help us in our ministry of spreading God's word. We had many moments of fellowship, sharing our faith (and hopes for the England football team) and sharing food together. I also found out that Archdeacon (Revd Canon Dr) Leslie can really belt out a tune!

A pilgrimage of justice, and ministry.

*Mark Hamer, Stavanger*

## What can we do towards Christian Unity?

Our Chaplaincy Council considered this question when we met together on Zoom from around Norway during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Shared worship and common witness play an important part in our life as the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway. 18–25 January each year is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which gives us an excellent opportunity for fellowship with our brothers and sisters of the other churches in our places.

In Trondheim this involves a whole week of prayers and activities. Susan Boyd is very involved in the planning as a member of the Trondheim Christian ecumenical committee. One of the committee's aims is to try and get more churches involved so as to become closer despite differences. So this year's topic was prayer, with each church being able to explain and then use its forms of prayer. Over two evenings there were twelve different forms of prayer! From the Anglican tradition, Revd Sheila Rosenthal contributed the collect as a prayer form.

On the Sunday morning, different churches were involved in the prayers in the Cathedral service, with retired bishop Per Erik Dahl invited to preach and Sheila and Susan participating. The evening Anglican service was very much based on church unity, with the Salvation Army leader reading a lesson and special Church unity prayers composed by Linda White.

Other activities included a talk given in the Cathedral about our spiritual roots/*åndelige røtter* by Priest Petter Haldorf from Sweden; Taizé prayers; a pilgrim walk with Nidaros Pilgrims priest; a service in the Methodist

church and at the same time a Ukraine service in Our Lady's church. Susan Boyd was unable to take part in our Chaplaincy Council meeting as she was busy cooking for the finishing dinner and fellowship/*kjærlighetsmiddag*.

In Stavanger our Anglican congregation joined the Sunday service in St Petri church with the Church of Norway where they were warmly welcomed and invited to assist with Communion as well as a reading in English. Our diversity may also have reminded the local church of our unity in Christ which goes beyond nations and cultures.

In Oslo during Unity Week, the local churches around St Edmund's were glad to be able to resume their prayer pilgrimage to the different churches for the first time in three years. Global week each November also provides a strong ecumenical witness, as we plan and work together across churches and diaconal organisations around the issue of modern slavery. This past year we have also joined together to pray for peace in Ukraine, and for peace and the upholding of human rights at on the eve of the Nobel Peace Prize, at nearby Trefoldighet Church.

In Bergen, the joint service in Mariakirken with the Church of Norway will this year be followed by soup, and there are plans afoot for an ecumenical service on the feast of Pentecost. The Bergen congregation also work with KIA, Kristent Interkulturelt Arbeid, particularly to support refugees.

In seeking unity we can be enriched by receiving the spiritual treasures of others as well as offering from our own tradition. Our Carol Services and Evensong are popular Anglican traditions which others are often interested to share. We can also grow closer with other churches through our dialogue together with those of other faiths, and there is a particular opportunity to build relations with the Jewish community. To grow in unity requires us to be open towards others and in the styles of worship we encounter and are happy to use.

Unity is God's gift but we are called to pray and work for unity. The Week of Prayer is well supported but we long for unity for the other 51 weeks of the year. As Jesus prayed, may we all be one, as Jesus and the Father are one.

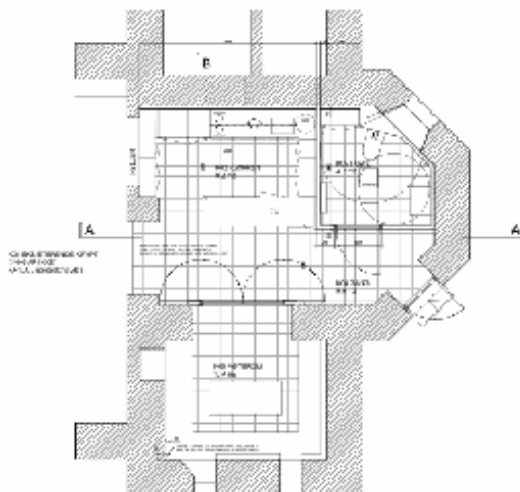
*Contributions from Chaplaincy Council members*





# St Edmund's Crypt Appeal

**Providing vital improvements and disability access to St Edmund's crypt and toilet facilities**



During the period until Easter 2023 we are engaging in intensive fund-raising to raise 1m NOK to complete these long-necessary improvements to the toilet and kitchen facilities at the East end of the crypt, in particular to provide disabled access and facilities. We already have 25% of this total. We are now looking for:

- generous free-will offerings;
- a wide range of fund-raising activities
- avenues for grant applications

Please consider what support you might be able to give.

All donations should be marked "Crypt Appeal". For tax efficient giving, make transfers to the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway account 7029.05.14973 or using VIPPS to St Edmund's on 28598.

IBAN: NO1770290514973      BIC: DNBANOKKXXX

Please contact the Senior Chaplain, Revd Canon Joanna Udal, re grant and fundraising opportunities on [oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no](mailto:oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no)



## Upcoming events



### Chaplaincy

1–5 March Lia Gard, Østerdalen  
 Gathering for young people (16–30)  
 22–23 March Norwegian Christian Council (NKR)  
 General Meeting, Drammen  
 Sunday 23 April Confirmation, St Edmund's, Oslo  
 Tuesday 25 April AGM (with election of the  
 new council), zoom  
 Sunday 21 May Opening of Summer Chaplaincy, St  
 Olaf's Church

### Oslo

Monday 13 February, Ukraine evening  
 Friday 3 March World Day of Prayer  
 Sunday 30 April, AGM, zoom  
 Saturday 6 May Religions Day  
 Sunday 7 May Coronation Celebration

### Bergen

Sunday 30 April AGM

### Taize Weekend in Norway's deep forests for youth and young adults

Getting to know others and seeking God  
 in the music and prayer of Taize,  
 in teaching and in silence

**1–5 March 2023**

If interested, contact your chaplain.

## From the registers

### BAPTISMS



#### Drammen

26 December 2022

Jalla Sadalla  
 Philimon Nimeri  
 Doctor Nimeri  
 Nama Barnaba  
 Nama Luke  
 Martina Luke  
 Abraham Unna

### THANKSGIVING FOR BIRTH

#### Oslo

Mikaela Sarah Neil  
 November 2022

### DEATHS



Ann Jennifer Giæver  
 6 January 2023

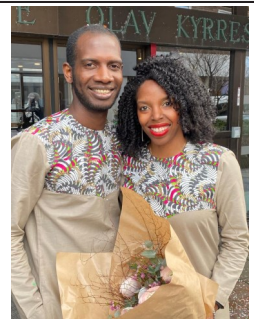
Very Revd Brian Horlock  
 December 2022

Roberta Wettre  
 November 2022

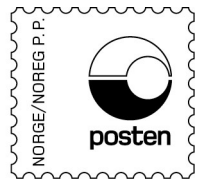
THE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY IN NORWAY, SUSAN, IRIS & NORAH INVITE ALL CHILDREN TO

## Choom, Children's Zoom

ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9.40–10.15



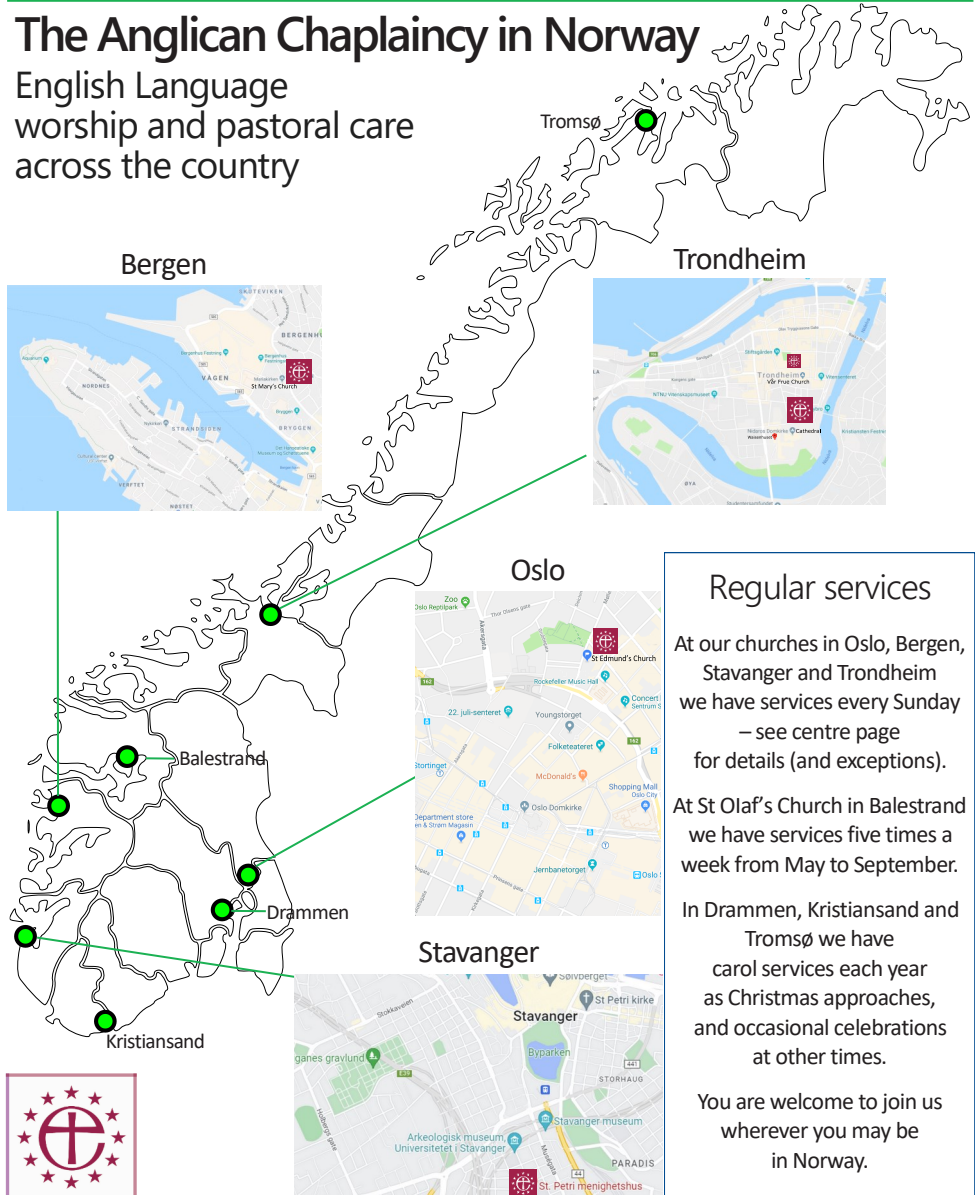
**STOP PRESS:** Tyeshia and Andy from the Stavanger congregation were married today, 27 Jan ↑



Retur: British Embassy,  
Postbox 4005 AMB,  
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.