

TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

October 2024 — January 2025



The theme of this issue is:
'Going beyond'

Who's Who

SENIOR CHAPLAIN	The Revd Canon Joanna Udal c/o The British Embassy, Postboks 4005 AMB, 0244 Oslo oslochaplain@osloanglicans.no	22 69 22 14
ASSISTANT CHAPLAINS	The Revd Martin Chirume (Stavanger) stavangerchaplain@anglicans.no Trondheim: vacant Bergen: vacant bergenchaplain@anglicans.no	90 75 44 32
CHAPLAINCY SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Susan J Boyd Safeguarding@anglicans.no	93 06 90 68
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER OSLO	Sharon John Sharon.t.john@gmail.com	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER BERGEN	Molly Rydström bergensafeguarding@anglicans.no	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER STAVANGER	Vacant	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER TRONDHEIM	Susan J Boyd	93 06 90 68
READER IN TRONDHEIM	Susan J Boyd	93 06 90 68
READER IN BERGEN	Iris Evans-Bjørnø	55 18 67 34
ARCHDEACONRY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES	Jill Almvang (Oslo), Mark Hamer (Stavanger), Ana Duerr (Bergen)	
CHAPLAINCY CHURCHWARDENS	Barbara McIntosh Chaplaincywarden@anglicans.no Juliet Chukwuma Chaplaincywarden@anglicans.no	
ASSISTANT CHURCHWARDENS	Annet Jasmine Karkada and Peter Pang (Oslo) Vacant (Stavanger) Logan Boese (Trondheim) Barbara McIntosh (Bergen)	
CHAPLAINCY ENVIRONMENT OFFICER	Esmé Knagenhjelm	
<i>FORSTANDER</i>	Ingeborg Wörheide forstander@anglicans.no	92 82 68 84
OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS	Andrew Thomas (Hon secretary) Sigrid Kvaal (Hon Treasurer), Sarah Denieul (Stavanger), Norah Kaggwa Kwagala (Bergen), Jane Todd (Stavanger), Johanne Bjørnsdotter (Trondheim)	
CHAPLAINCY YOUTH OFFICER	Norah Kaggwa Kwagala	
YOUTH GROUP OSLO	Vacant	
YOUTH & CHILDREN STAVANGER	Vacant	
SUNDAY SCHOOL BERGEN	Norah Kaggwa Kwagala	
SUNDAY SCHOOL TRONDHEIM	Caroline Cheng	
YOUTH MENTOR TRONDHEIM	Priscilla Ringrose	
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	John Chapman chapmanmusic@aol.com	
CARETAKER	Peter Ekeuluabia	
TOGETHER EDITORIAL TEAM	Joanna Udal, editor-in-chief; Ingeborg Wörheide and Beth Winther-Noble, editorial assistants	

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

all readers, Ekene Agbalakwe, Hilde Chapman, Eirik Duerr, Sigrid I Kvaal, James Malumboj, Barbara McIntosh, Penny Mietle, Benn Mughisha, Peter Pang, Lynel Aurora Reyes, Philip Ringrose, Betty Short, Owen Thomas jr, Leanne Trekvold, Rune Torsvik, Sarah Warner Vik, Linda White, Ingeborg Wörheide.

For further information see our websites: www.osloanglicans.no, www.bergenanglicans.net,
Stavanger: www.domkirkenogpetri.no and Trondheim: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8468.

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

From the Senior Chaplain

Generosity, abundance and courage are evoked by “Going beyond”, the theme of this issue of Together. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount he explains how he has come not to abolish the law but to fulfil it and to go beyond what was the accepted teaching of the day. As we read Chapters 5-7 of St Matthew’s Gospel, we hear Jesus explain about this going beyond: “You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; (Mt 5.43-45a)”. Jesus’ challenging teaching connects to the heart of the gospel, with Jesus’ willingness to lay down his own life for us while we were sinners, while considered enemies and still “far off”.

His famous instruction “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile” gives rise to the much loved English idiom “to go the extra mile”. It’s believed that in Roman-occupied Galilee at the time of Jesus, the local population could be stopped by soldiers and forced to carry Roman goods and equipment for a mile. But Jesus says not to stop there, but to go the extra mile too, an act of dignity, charity, and freedom but which would require stamina all the same.

Stamina has not been lacking from members of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway this summer. Notably in Joshua’s pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostela which went further than an extra mile along the route from Porto in Portugal to Santiago, some 280km in total. Perhaps this might inspire some us to walk the St Olav’s way to Trondheim next summer, at least in part? Eirik’s summer placement at the Notting Hill Carnival must have required another kind of stamina, helping to manage and minister to the long lines of those seeking to use the church’s facilities. What a lively and horizon-expanding event to be part of!

Our Anglican Congregation in Stavanger has a new and colourful horizon in the form of the red church, St Petri, which the Church of Norway’s Stavanger Diocese has kindly made available for our use on a Sunday morning now that their con-

gregation has moved into the newly reopened and renovated Stavanger Cathedral, ready to celebrate its 900th Anniversary in 2025. Our Chaplaincy Council is excited to be holding a special in-person meeting in St Petri at the beginning of the autumn to celebrate and encourage our congregation in its new city centre location and outreach.

Going beyond the call of duty was seen with the Bergen congregation’s Creationtide hike, litter picking other people’s litter, not just their own, along the way. Their support for the Church Extension at St Luke’s Church, Muni, in Arua in Northern Uganda has also taken their attention and giving beyond the local church to sisters and brothers in our worldwide Anglican Communion, but with a very personal connection through Molly who grew up there.

In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that Jesus has already gone before us as “pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12.1-2) and has opened up for us “a new and living way”, going beyond our human limitations to follow him into God’s living presence. (Hebrews 10.20). We have been delighted to be reminded of our invitation into this living way through the baptism as we have celebrated the baptism of children into the holy Church of God in Bergen, Stavanger and Balestrand. They remind us of our upward call in Christ towards our loving God and towards entering his loving presence for eternity. All these instances of “going beyond” remind us of this final pilgrimage of the journey home to our heavenly Father.

Rev'd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Bergen notes

Well, summer has come, at least according to the calendar, and gone and we’re still here, i.e. not flooded out! Summer is actually an important time for our congregation as every Sunday we welcome visitors from around the world at Mariakirken for worship, and at Mariastuen for fellowship after the service. We’ve been told by many that we are a very welcoming bunch!

With Rev’d Kirk’s departure on 1 May, Senior Chaplain Joanna led us in worship on 5 May and,

perhaps more notably, has arranged for clergy cover such that we have had a Eucharistic service at least once a month. Revd Fredrik Ulseth, a retired Norwegian priest, has graciously and enthusiastically travelled to Bergen from Kristiansand twice in the past 4 months to lead us in worship, including Pentecost Sunday! Iris participated in the annual ecumenical service at Kristkirketomten on Pentecost Monday. The Anglicans have been a steady presence at this service for many years.

In June we had the privilege of having a priest lead us in Eucharistic services for the first 4 Sundays. Rev'd Barbara Moss used to serve in Gothenburg, Sweden and I'm aware she found her knowledge of Swedish to be helpful when navigating around Bergen. She's an avid hiker and she and I went on a couple of hikes together, a memorable one being a return hike to Fjellhytten, where we were caught in a downpour in the final 20 minutes. The weather was luckily better on June 9th, the date of our 2nd annual garden party at the home of parishioner Paddy, but it was poor enough that the 25 or so of us who gathered were indoors, ie. not in the garden. We enjoyed ourselves none-the-less, playing games and singing along to a few songs from Uganda which Molly and Denis presented for us with Denis on guitar, and of course enjoying the spoils of a potluck meal



A collage of photos taken June 9th

In July, we were grateful that Fr Martin took the time to travel up from Stavanger on two different weekends to lead us in Sunday worship. We finally

had the opportunity to meet in person, ie. Those of us on Chaplaincy Council had met him on Zoom a few times. We very much look forward to establishing a closer relationship with Fr Martin.

One constant during this interregnum period for which we are very grateful is the presence and leadership of our Lay Reader Iris, who has joyfully led us in Services of the Word when a priest has not been available. Iris is a mainstay here in Bergen and has been for over 30 years! She has given me her full support for the two times I have led the congregation in a Service of Morning Prayer, and I have received welcome and valued advice and help from both Joanna and Martin. A little outside my comfort zone, it's been rewarding to serve in this way.

As for outreach, we've had two Beetle drives this summer, with all monies raised going towards the church expansion project at Molly's home church in Uganda. We enjoy ourselves so much; this time Molly took a video to send to the project committee. Further, there is a plan to hold a Christmas raffle this year, with all proceeds ear-marked for this cause, as usual. I encourage you to read the separate article about the church expansion project.

We are thankful our music director, Roger, has been recovering well. We've been very fortunate that long-standing congregants David and Lasma have been able to play organ on occasion and new congregant Johan has filled in the gaps by providing music on the piano, with rousing jazz-inspired postludes based on popular American hymns. Most leave church with a light step and a big smile.

A young Kenyan couple approached us in August regarding the potential baptism of their baby daughter before they flew back to Kenya in late September for the remainder of the mother's maternity leave. We are so glad that Joanna could come from Oslo to preside at this baptism in early September; it was a truly joyous occasion, and the parents have expressed how much they feel a part of our church community already. We warmly welcome them.

To mark Creationtide, we: i) went for a short walk close to Mariakirken after the service on September 8th, demonstrating stewardship by picking up litter along the route, and ii) are planning a Harvest Festival potluck lunch on October 6th.

At the time of writing, we look forward to worshipping at the Bergen Cathedral with their local

congregation in mid to late September, when they will be visited by their sister church in Southwark, UK. Pre-Covid, this joint service was held bi-annually, alternating between Bergen and Southwark, so it appears the tradition is resuming post-Covid.

To finish off September, the four Anglican Chaplaincy of Norway Council members who reside in Bergen will travel to Stavanger to attend an in-person council meeting, and to celebrate with the local congregation their move to the more centrally located St Petri Church from the Cathedral and St Petri menighetshus. A bright future awaits our friends in Stavanger!

And a bright future awaits us here in Bergen as well! Growth is rooted in change, which the Bergen congregation knows from experience. We have shown ourselves over and over to be a resilient (and welcoming!) bunch, and with the continued support of our Senior Chaplain, we will do our best to further the church's mission in our small corner of the world.

Barbara McIntosh, Chaplaincy warden and Bergen warden

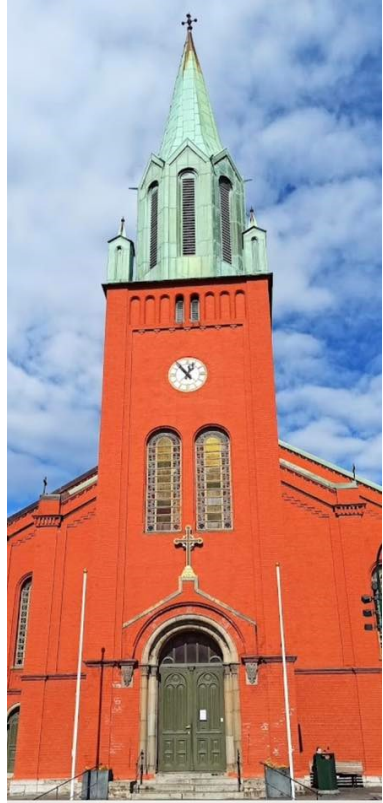
Stavanger notes

My neighbour is my landlord. Throughout summer, my neighbour was away on summer holiday. One of his friends came and saw me working on his garden, and he said, "Oh you are in my friend's garden? It's good to have a house keeper while you are away" So I became a house keeper from that day.

On his return after a month, he found his crops and yard in good state and offered me a bottle of wine and naturally I don't take wine. I remember someone saying to me but you drink wine at Church to which I replied that it wasn't wine but the blood of Jesus (it's a topic on its own) in my view I maintained his garden out of love and nothing else.

On the 1st of September, we moved to St Petri and our neighbours are the Lutherans, Methodists, etc, and I am wondering what kind of neighbours are we going to be? I am glad that we have been co-workers with them for a long time and have been working together during festivals such as the 9 lessons & carols service, Good Friday and Pentecost service. Now they are a stone throw away and

we are looking forward to working together more for the good of the gospel.



St Petri, Stavanger

We have started preparations of this year's 9 lessons & carol services behind the scenes to be held at St. Petri or at the Cathedral we will decide together later, and together with our neighbours we will once again praise God. A neighbour at home, a neighbour at work, a neighbour at church is important if we are to enjoy life. I can't imagine how life is like without a neighbour.

One day Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbour?" His response to the question was a story and at the end he asked the same question, "Who was this man's neighbour?" (Luke 10.25-37) And I am tempted to ask "Who is my neighbour?" Autumn is here and winter is coming please enjoy.

*Rev'd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain,
Stavanger*

Trondheim Notes

The Trondheim Anglican community would like to begin by thanking all of those who assisted with leading worship over the Summer. We had a wonderful time meeting pilgrims and sharing in Fellowship with one another.



Nidaros Cathedral Rose window, Trondheim

We had a full summer and our Reader Susan has been working with the Cathedral to discuss holding more joint services, like the service on August 4th with Senior Chaplain Joanna and the Norwegian Church. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees appreciating the collaboration. We continue to see great potential in combining our summer Sunday services with the Church of Norway, especially considering the diverse student, tourist, and pilgrim population.

Over the summer we also had the opportunity to hold worship in both the Waisenhuset and the Archbishop's Chapel. The Archbishop's Chapel provided a unique setting that perfectly complemented the reflective nature of morning prayer. The morning prayers in August were a success, with children participating and enjoying the time for chat and refreshments in Waisenhuset.

Messy Church continues to thrive, with around five families expected to join this autumn. We are excited to welcome a new family, although one family will be away for a year.

Our Cathedral services were well attended throughout the summer. A highlight was the joint service on the first Sunday in August, led by Senior Chaplain Joanna and Sokneprest Andreas, which saw 75 attendees. Bishop Robert's visit was particularly appreciated, and Joanna's participation in the beginning of Olsok provided a great opportunity for further connecting with the community.

This Fall will be busy with many more services and our annual Christmas sale. We look forward to continuing to worship and engage with our community.

Logan Boese Trondheim Assistant Warden

Oslo notes

This summer has provided fine opportunities for connecting the life of St Edmund's church within the landscape and culture of the city of Oslo. As the days start to shorten, the church has been filled for Choral Evensong with those exploring the riches of Oslo Kulturnatt. On the Eve of Holy Cross Day, those attending were uplifted with music of C.V. Stanford and S.S. Wesley, while the highlight was a new set of Preces and Responses written by our organist John Chapman.

Proclaiming God's praise in music and song was at the heart of our festive celebrations for the 140th Anniversary of the completion of St Edmund's. On the weekend of 29th/30th June we were excited to welcome the Choral Scholars of St Martin's in the Fields in London for their visit to Oslo. Following afternoon tea on the Saturday they gave an inspiring evening concert in St Edmund's with music both joyful and sublime. On Sunday morning they sang together with St Edmund's choir at the 140th Anniversary Eucharist which was a memorable experience for everyone.



Joint choir rehearsing for the 140th anniversary service.

Bishop Kari Veiteberg, Bishop of Oslo, was our guest preacher, encouraging gratitude for the vision of those who built our church in Oslo to bring people together to worship in English.



Sigrid, Bishop Kari, and Revd Joanna.

After festive refreshments in the crypt, many of us continued onwards to take the ferry to the island of Hovedøya on Oslo Fjord where the first church in Norway dedicated to St Edmund was built in the Middle Ages, and was used by Cistercian monks from Lincolnshire in England who built their monastery there. The monastic ruins are currently under research and renovation but we were able to hold outdoor prayers in the glorious sunshine.



Outside prayers on Hovedøya.

After returning by the local fjord ferry, our praises continued in Oslo Cathedral where Choral Even-

song was celebrated in the Anglican tradition together with Trefoldighet Church, with the St Martin's Choral Scholars singing inter alia a set of Preces and Response composed by Trefoldighet's music director Marius Skjølaas.

St Edmund's has enjoyed a further opportunity to raise our profile in the city's Mangfoldfest, a celebration of the diversity of faiths and cultures found within the city held on 8th September. We chose to share a stand with the Quaker community in Oslo who offered colouring for children and also helped make origami cranes and boxes with us. We found ourselves beside friendly neighbouring stands: a Hindu priestly family originally from Sri Lanka offering the chance to dress in beautiful saris, and women from the Islamic Cultural Centre sharing a colourful variety of sweets and savouries.

We enjoyed venturing beyond Oslo to the Lillomarka Nature Reserve for a Creationtide hike - being observant and thankful for all God's gifts in creation. It was also a great team building exercise to ensure all out party made it safely round the forest routes and home again. Many thanks to everyone who participated.

As a new academic year began for schools and universities, we were glad to welcome newcomers to a Families Barbecue in Frogner Park and to refreshments after our One World Prayers in St Edmund's in which we shared about and prayed for many troubled places in the world. Being such an international community ourselves gives us a particular opportunity and calling to be informed and pray for the many situations so needful of peace. We look ahead towards the changing seasons, to the St Edmund's Bazaar, and towards advent and the start of a new Church year.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain, Oslo

Tempting Fate in Bergen

To mark the Season of Creation and show stewardship of the beauty of the city around us, a small group of Bergen folk, plus a visiting couple from the UK, ventured out after coffee hour in early September under cloudy skies, plastic bags and plastic gloves in hand. We ended up picking up so much rubbish, included a pepper spray canister, a fingernail cutting (we had some eagle eyes in the group) and, not surprisingly, a ruined umbrella

			Oslo		Bergen	
OCT						
Sun	06	Trinity 19	11:00	All Age Service/ Harvest Festival	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	13	Trinity 20	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	20	Trinity 21	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	27	Trinity 22	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
NOV						
Sun	03	All Saints	11:00 18:00	All Age Service Sung Communion Service of Light	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	10	Remembrance w Act of Remembrance	10:30	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	17	2nd before Advent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	24	Christ the King	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
DECE						
Sun	01	Advent 1	11:00	All Age Service/Sung Com- munion w Christingle	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	08	Advent 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	15	Advent 3	11:00 18:00	Sung Communion 9 Lessons and Carols	18:00	9 Lessons and Carols
Tues	17					
Sun	22	Advent 4	11:00	Sung Communion w Nativity play	11:00	Service of the Word
Mon	23					
Wed	25	Christmas Day	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	29	Christmas 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
JAN						
Sun	01	Epiphany	11:00	All Age Service/ Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	08	Epiphany 1 Baptism of Christ	11:00	Sung Communion`	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	15	Epiphany 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Unity Service
Sun	22	Epiphany 3	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion

Readings		Stavanger		Trondheim	
OBER					
Joel 2.21-27 and Matthew 6.25-33	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Hebrews 4.12-16 Mark 10.17-31	10:30	Family Service St Petri	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset	
Hebrews 5.1-10 Mark 10.35-45	10:30	Family Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Cathedral	
Hebrews 7.23-end Mark 10.46-end	10:30	Service of the Word St Petri	11:00	HC Chapter House	
EMBER					
Revelation 21.1-6a John 11.32-44	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Jonah 3.1-5, 10 Mark 1.14-20	08:00	Commemoration Service Eiganes Cemetery	11:00	Remembrance Service War grave cemetery Stavne kirkegård	
Hebrews 10.11-25 Mark 13.1-8	10:30	Family Service St Petri	18:00	HC Cathedral	
Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14 John 18.33-37	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	11:00	Online gathering	
MBER					
Jeremiah 33.14-16 Luke 21.25-36	10:30	Family Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Baruch 5.1-9 Luke 3.1-6	10:30	Family Service St Petri	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset	
Zephaniah 3.1-14 Luke 3.7-18	10:30	Service of the Word St Petri	18:00	HC Cathedral	
			18:00	Carol Service Cathedral	
Micah 5.2-5a Luke 1.39-55	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	11:00	Online gathering	
	18:00	Carol Service Cathedral/St Petri			
Isaiah 9.2-7 Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-20	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	11:00	Holy Communion Var Frue Church	
1 Samuel 2.18-20,26 Luke 2.41-52	10:30	Family Service St Petri		No Service	
UARY					
Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Chapter House	
Isaiah 43.1-7 Luke 3.15-17,21-22	10:30	Service St Petri	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset	
Isaiah 62.1-5 John 2.1-11	10:30	Holy Communion St Petri	18:00	HC Cathedral	
Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Luke 4.14-21	10:30	Service St Petri	11:00	Online Gathering	

that we didn't manage to get very far away from Mariastuen, our fellowship hall. That was a good thing, in fact, as the sprinkles encountered very soon after venturing out turned into proper drop-lets of rain after only 25 minutes. We were grateful to be just around the corner from Mariastuen at the time, so we headed back there to continue our discussions and dry out a little, while cleaning up after coffee hour. Rain is part of God's gift of creation, much needed for growth of plants more than humans(!), but never-the-less we can marvel at the miracle of rain. In Bergen, we cannot avoid it, so we may as well embrace it!

Litter picking team!

Barbara McIntosh, Bergen

From Porto to Santiago: a meaningful walk



Joshua and his fellow pilgrims

"The Christian people are a pilgrim people: by the Almighty we are made, and to the Almighty all human beings aspire to return. It is this pilgrimage that is at the heart of the human experience: in many ways, it is the reason for living."

I experienced a smaller pilgrimage this June when I and a friend completed the Camino de Santiago to Santiago, in Spain. The burial place of the Apostle James, Santiago has attracted pilgrims for 1,200 years, from all parts of Europe and now the world. For the Spanish, the Apostle is their patron saint, who watched over them during centuries of Moorish domination. For Europeans, St James is a reminder of the Continent's ancient Christian heritage. And yet for Christians of all types, the Apostle James is a continual testimony

to the historicalness of the Christian faith: the Apostles and first disciples were flesh and bone human beings who walked with the Lord and physically entered the drama of human history.

All of this was manifested to me this summer. For twelve days over 280 KM, we walked from Porto, in Portugal, to Santiago, in Galicia, Spain, laughing, praying, meditating, pondering, and pushing our bodies, minds, and spirits to their limit. In pilgrim hostels and hotels, pensions and homestays, my fellow pilgrim and myself experienced the ancient hospitality of the Way as we trekked villages, beaches, mountains, fields, and cities in order to reach the Apostle. Along the Way we prayed at churches, shrines, monasteries, and roadside chapels, taking into our hearts the centuries upon centuries of hopes and prayers of pilgrims of yesteryear.

We met people from the four corners of the world, from all backgrounds, ages, and creeds. Some were older, and some young; some were devout Christians and others of no particular faith; still others were Africans and Asians, united with their American and European co-pilgrims in the Way. Of every race and creed we met, and of every life disposition imaginable. It was a true "gathering of the exiles."

Twelve days after we set off from Porto Cathedral we arrived at the Cathedral of Saint James in Santiago. We received our Latin certificates of completion, enjoyed the Pilgrim's Mass, said a prayer at the actual tomb of James, enjoyed lunch at the Hostal dos Reis Católicos, and headed home. Twelve days of intense meditation came to an end. But, in most ways, the journey had only just begun: we had to now take what we learned and felt in our hearts and spirits and live the values of the Camino.

The Camino de Santiago was one of the most important moments of my life. It was not just my first pilgrimage, but helped me to connect with a good friend once more, as well as enter into communion with my fellow human beings on the road. Would I complete the Camino again? Absolutely. I took a bit of the Norwegian Chaplaincy with me on the Way, for when I arrived in Santiago, I said a prayer for all the people that call the Chaplaincy and Norway home. I took our mosaic lives with me, and laid them in the final home of the Great Apostle.

I encourage each member of the Chaplaincy to take up their pack and pilgrim shell, and to “hit the road” to Santiago if at all possible. Or, if desired, to the Tomb of St Olav in Trondheim, here in Norway. Pilgrimage is the chief calling of all Christians and human beings. It is at the heart of who we are and how our faith manifests itself in the world. For, as I began to understand this summer, there will come a time in the future when we all begin the final pilgrimage home to our Father.

We already have some interest in walking part of the St Olav's Way to Trondheim in 2025. Please contact the Senior Chaplain if you may be interested.

Joshua M. Reinke, St Mary's Church, Bergen

Carnival and Christ



Carnival ministers and their assistant!

I am sitting in the pews, feet aching from standing the whole morning. Holy frankincense mingles with the sweetly smell of “devil’s lettuce” coming from outside. The silence of morning mass has drowned in a deafening afternoon bass that makes the church windows rattle. In front of me: the altar, Jesus, clothed in a royal robe, serene, expressionless. Behind me: A queue of people, clamoring, laughing, clothed in no more than colorful threads that show more than they conceal. The too-strong rum punch I’m drinking with my jerk chicken lunch is a far cry from the subtle communion wine and wafer I had earlier that morning.

As ordinands in training in the Church of England, we are sent on two placements during our studies. This is my second year at the Eastern Regional Ministry Course (ERMC), which is the year we do our first placement. This placement is meant to be carried out in the context of church ministry, and when we were given the option to do our placement ministering to the Notting Hill Carnival, I immediately thought this sounded like a great opportunity to expand my horizons.

And indeed it has been a week and a half of expanded horizons: The first week was spent in All Nations College in Ware, where ERMC arranged its annual summer school, marking the beginning of a new academic year. As a second year student, the theme of the summer school was “Christianity in Multi-Faith contexts”. In practice, this meant learning about other faiths, and visiting several other places of worship, including Bhaktivedanta Manor, founded by George Harrison himself, which now houses a healthy Hare Krishna community. It was a week of much reflection, thinking about the role of our own faith in a world where there is seemingly a smorgasbord of faiths to choose from.



Carnival wings in the church

After summer school, those theoretical reflections gave way to the very practical reality of being an assistant minister at St Thomas Kensal Town, a church situated directly in the middle of the Notting Hill Carnival, which the vicar, Fr. Sam Cross, has seen as an opportunity for ministry. Every year, he opens the doors of the church, mainly providing clean toilets in exchange for modest donations to the church food bank, but also offering a place of prayer, refuge and blessing for the several million people who attend the carnival.

For three days, twelve hours a day, he and his team keeps the church building open, talking to carnival goers, keeping the toilet rolls stocked and the sinks clean, as well as attempting to maintain the peace in the bathroom queue that, during the most intense period, could last for half an hour - not the easiest thing to endure for pressed carnivalers.

The Notting Hill Carnival started in 1959, then as a response to the Notting Hill race riots the year before. Then, as today, it was a celebration of Caribbean identity and culture in the face of their hardship, and it has remained a colourful and joyful event full of fantastic music, fantastic costumes, and fantastic food. It was beyond anything I have ever seen - the crowds passing St Thomas church during the three-day carnival period is estimated to be of roughly the same number as the population of Norway. Being part of the ministry team at St Thomas during this event was a blessing in many ways.

I was blessed to meet so many people - some very chatty indeed, others not interested in small-talk at all. I was blessed to be able to bless: In the aftermath of a fight that broke out in the middle of the queue, I sat praying for someone who regretted losing their temper in church and wanted God to give her patience. I was blessed to experience the food, the music and the joyful atmosphere of the Caribbean culture. I was blessed to work with a lovely group of people who offered me hospitality and openness during my stay. And I was blessed to be given such a unique opportunity for a church placement.

The placement has also given me theological perspectives to carry with me. The context of the placement presented a strong contrast between what we call holy and what we may think of as profane, and it struck me more than before that true holiness is the humility of God. God descends to us, not so that we can be blown away by his awesome power and majesty, but so that He can share His life with everyone. As much as we imagine ourselves to be “keepers” of that holiness, Jesus’ life and teachings showed us that God wants to be spent, not kept. As I move into this second year of studies, I hope to be able to carry a morsel of that humility with me as I encounter the sheer variety and diversity of God’s world and the people in it - no matter what they believe.

Eirik Gjerløw, Oslo

Church Expansion Project in Uganda

Bergen member Molly Rydstrøm came to Maria-kirken and became ‘one of us’ after moving from Sweden, but she is originally from Muni in Uganda and still has strong family ties there, including her mother, sister and many nieces and nephews.

Molly quickly became a valued member of our congregation, joining the local committee and then taking on the role of Assistant Safeguarding Officer, a role well suited to this professional nurse who regularly interacts with vulnerable people. Molly made the local committee aware of a campaign which began in October 2017 to raise funds for remodelling of the existing building used by her home church, St Luke Church of Uganda – Arua, Muni. And she asked us if we could help. This church caters to some 1500 Christians, with an approximate total of 200 congregants at a total of 3 services each Sunday. In addition, there is good attendance at various group activities throughout the week. The building they currently use has previously undergone renovations, for example changing out the original thatched roof for corrugated iron, but more is needed, as the Christians wanting to gather there for larger occasions such as weddings, confirmations, and Easter and Christmas services are filling the large one room sanctuary to overcapacity.



Molly in traditional dress, with her daughter's Swedish boyfriend and her local great nephew

This is a far cry from the area that was cleared under a big fig tree in 1927 to create Ayivu London church, started by Englishmen who came to the West Nile Province to preach the gospel and teach Christian literacy to the local population. Weather conditions necessitated the move to a more permanent structure made with poles and mud (wattle) and a grass thatched roof (1934-38). Later the bigger structure in use today was built. The expansion project plans to literally expand the current building, extending the concrete floor in all directions, and building a second story to host children and youth activities.

Funding for the project has so far been provided by various associations such as Mothers Union, Christian Women Fellowship, boda boda riders (motorcycle riders offering passenger services), and professionals such as medics, teachers and engineers. Committed local Christians, even low-income earners, give what they can. A recent campaign saw a bag of peanuts sold and a chicken auctioned off, among other creative ideas, with some 2 million Ugandan shillings (\$550 USD) being raised. To date, \$54,500 USD has been used and a further estimated \$549,000 USD is required to complete the expansions. Completion was originally projected within 2023, but progress has been delayed due to Covid-19, inflation, the rising cost of materials and the quarter-annual demand for transfer of funds to the Diocese of Mvara.

The church is looking at various strategies in anticipation of completing the project in 2027, that is 100 years since its inception, including asking the Diocese to waive or postpone the quarter-annual demand and finding new sources of funding by approaching organizations and individuals who believe in the church's objective.



Labour is done by local Christian volunteers

The Bergen congregation has transferred more than 36000,- NOK over the past 3 years, with monies raised through participation in a Bergen commune sponsored litter pickup scheme (15000 nok), our Christmas 2023 raffle (a record breaking 15482 nok) and various Beetle drives.

We in Bergen will continue to focus our outreach efforts toward St Luke's Church, Muni and we are so glad that Molly brought this project to our attention. It is very inspiring to see the commitment of the local church community in Uganda and it warms our hearts to be able to directly impact the community of one of our own church family.

The project account Number: 3200119194, Account Name: St Luke Church Muni Youth Service Bank- Centenary Bank. For more details, contact us on the following mobile lines; +256 777152194 and +367777788817.

Email: dratre2004@hotmail.com
ondromagil@gmail.com

*Molly Rydstrøm
(BergenSafeguarding@anglicans.no)
and Barbara McIntosh, Warden, Bergen*

Creation Tide Hike to Lillomarka – 7th September



Our intrepid explorers

As part of our annual tradition, we celebrated this year's Season of Creation with a hike to the beautiful Lillomarka Nature Reserve. We were blessed with perfect weather—clear blue skies and sunshine—as ten of us set out on a 14 km hike from Solemskogen bus stop to Lilloseter.

Our trail took us through the beauty of God's creation. We were excited to see an abundance of mushrooms, serene flowing streams, and various bird species, including the highlight of spotting a woodpecker. To our delight, we even saw a toad along the way. Despite the moderate challenge of slippery, rocky paths, the group embraced the adventure with enthusiasm.

At Lilloseter, we paused for a picnic with stunning mountain views. There is also a café and facilities for both men and women, though we chose to enjoy our meal outside, soaking in the fresh air. Along the way, we also passed a beautiful lake where the sky mirrored perfectly on the water's surface, which was indeed picture perfect!

While the hike was lovely, some of us did encounter a few ticks along the way. However this did not stop us from picking delicious red berries and plenty of blueberries at regular intervals, which added to our trip's enjoyment.

Many thanks to Joanna for being such an excellent guide and to all the others who shared their experiences and insights through the trip.



Enjoying a rest on the hike

Overall, it was a wonderful time of fellowship, connecting with nature and one another during this Creation Tide season.

James and John, Oslo



Upcoming events



Chaplaincy:

6th/7th-9th November Deanery Synod in Tallinn

4th-7th December Racial Justice conference,
Bad Boll, Germany

Oslo:

6th October Harvest Festival

16th November St Edmund's Bazaar

18th-25th January Week of Christian Unity

Trondheim:

23rd November Christmas Sale

Carol Services

Sunday 1 December

Tromsø Domkirke at 18:00

Tuesday 10 December

Bragernes Church, Drammen at 19:00

Friday 13 December

Oddernes Church, Kristiansand 18:30

Saturday 14 December

Korskirken, Bergen at 15:00

Sunday 15 December

St Edmund's Church, Oslo at 18:00

Mariakirken, Bergen at 18:00

Tuesday 17 December

Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim at 18:00

Thursday 19 December

St Edmund's Church,
Carols by Candlelight at 19:00

Monday 23 December

Cathedral/St Petri Stavanger at 18:00



THE ANGLICAN CHURCHES IN NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK & FINLAND INVITE ALL CHILDREN TO
Choom, Children's Zoom

ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 9.40—10.15



From the registers

HOLY BAPTISMS



*Domkirke St Petri Menighetshus,
Stavanger*

Wilma Nathalia Bålfjord August 4th.

St Olaf's, Balestrand

Magnus Johan Jebsen-Mercer August
11th.

Mariakirken, Bergen

Nia Zuri Odera 1st September

BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

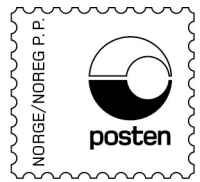
St Edmunds, Oslo

Anne Marie Danielsen and Andrew Hor-
swell

DEATHS

Jannet Clare Carlquist, Drammen

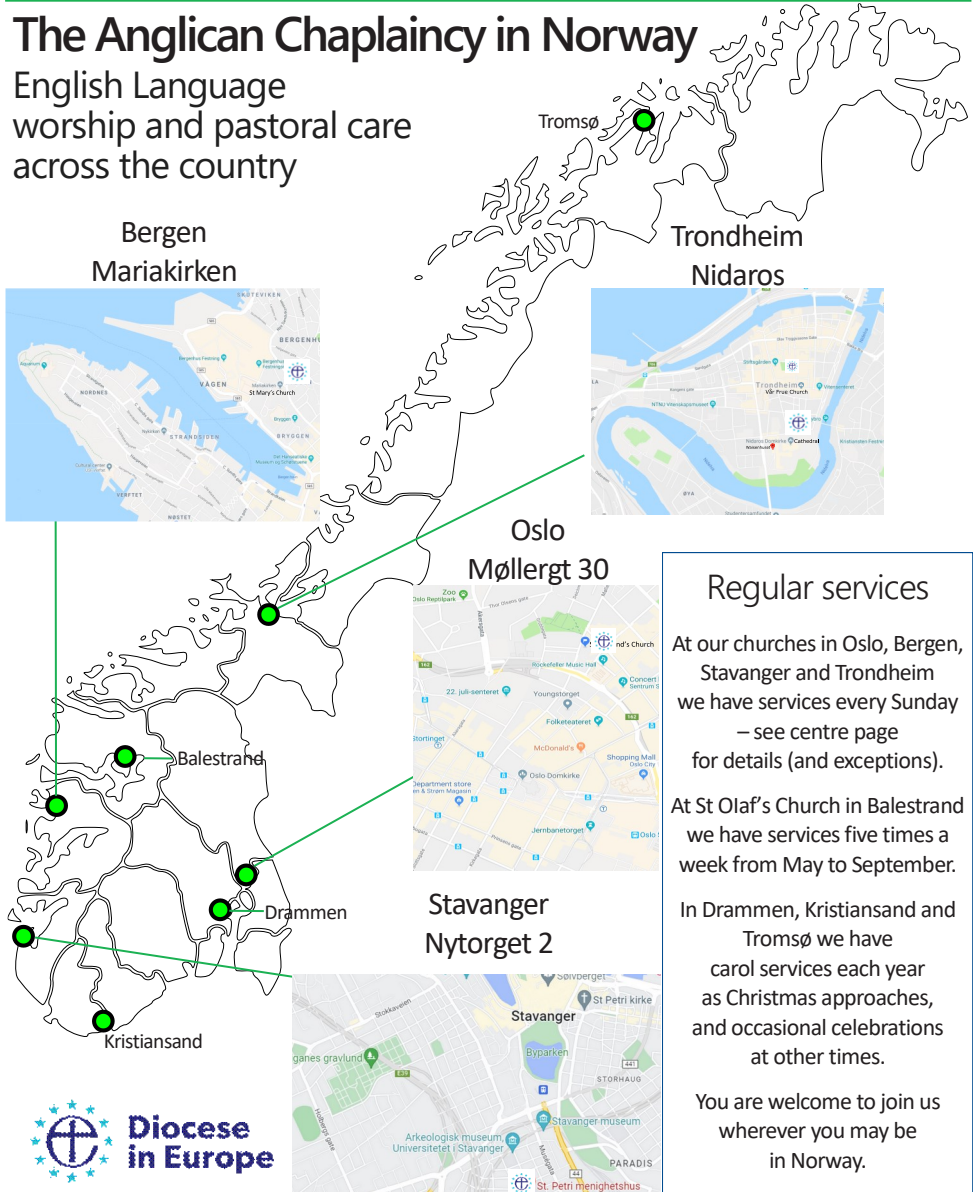




Retur: British Embassy,
Postboks 4005 AMB,
0244 Oslo

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.