

TOGETHER

The magazine of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

October 2025 – January 2026



The theme of this issue is:
'Vocation'

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

From the Senior Chaplain

To have a sense of purpose in life is a beautiful thing. People of various faiths or none often long to have a defining purpose at their core. This can help as a framework for ordering how we live, for setting our goals and knowing our priorities. Christian vocation rests on the desire to be part of God's loving purposes for the world, and to set Jesus Christ as the pattern of our calling.

Christian discipleship comes in sorts of shapes and forms. Our faith teaches that God calls us even before we are aware of God's calling. In St John's Gospel when Jesus first addresses Nathanael, he tells him he has already seen him sitting under the fig tree, and he has sized him up as a would be disciple, as one "in whom there is no deceit." (John 1.47) It's a strong assertion that God calls his people. As St John says, God loved us first, (1 John 4.19) and we seek to respond to that love with love, and with the offering of our lives in loving service. To go further, we are called by God as the people that we are, and God has a loving purpose, or vocation, for each of us. It's a lifetime's task for each of us to discover the shape of that vocation and to open ourselves to being used and transformed by God according to his loving purposes.

The ordained ministry of the Church reminds the whole people of God of our calling as "a royal priesthood", as servants one to another and to the most needy. It's a special privilege for us to have a newly ordained Deacon sharing in the ministry of the Chaplaincy, reminding all of us, whether lay or ordained, of Jesus' example which he bids us follow. Revd Jacob Quick was made Deacon in the Church of God at a moving ordination service in our diocese's Pro-Cathedral in Brussels on 29th June, the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. We are delighted to welcome him to Norway together with his wife, Revd Annie Bolger, who will serve as an Assistant Chaplain among us.

So "Vocation" is a fitting theme for this issue of Together, since vocation may be to the ordained ministry of the Church but is also expressed in so many different ways and ministries and paths of life. We hope you will enjoy reading about some

of these in this issue, including Iris from Bergen on her call to be a Lay Reader and Emma on the call to Confirmation, Esmé on our calling to care for God's creation, Eirik on how vocation looks while training for ministry, as well as hearing from Jacob and Annie on their journeys. Beth encourages us all to be open to our vocation and to dare to venture along new paths. Vocation is both a gift and an invitation from God. We will usually feel ill-equipped of ourselves, but it is God who will equip us and provide for the particular to which he calls us.

So Cardinal and now St John Henry Newman described it towards the end of his life:

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

Let us help each other and ask for the Lord's help in pursuing the life-long adventure before us.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

Stavanger notes

Autumn is upon us! The leaves are turning, the air is crisp, and here in Stavanger congregation, we continue to enjoy a steady and faithful rhythm of fellowship. Attendance has remained constant, and we are delighted to see more and more of you

joining us online, whether through our Facebook page or our congregation's webpage. It's wonderful to know that even when not physically present, we are still gathering as one community.

This season also brought a new change in our worship space. After much thought, we have relocated from St. Petri to the Menighetshus. While we dearly loved St. Petri, it proved just a little too big for our number, making it difficult to hear and sing together. Now, in the more intimate setting of the Menighetshus, we can lift our voices in song with joy and clarity, just as a family should.

Preparations are also well underway for one of the highlights of our year: the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. We are thrilled to announce that Stavanger Cathedral will once again be our venue, and even more so that the Bishop of Stavanger will grace the occasion. Mark your calendars, the service will be held on December 23rd, and we cannot wait to celebrate this festive tradition together.

We also want to pause and give thanks for those who keep our congregation life so vibrant. A heartfelt thank you to Rev. Geir, who is always present to lead us in worship whenever our assistant chaplain is unavailable, your steady presence is a true blessing. To our talented pianists, Caroline and Veronica, we owe much gratitude for filling our worship with music that lifts our spirits week by week. A warm thank you as well to Jane, who has graciously agreed to serve as our local Safeguarding Officer, helping us ensure our community remains safe and welcoming for all. And of course, to the rest of our committee members, your dedication and behind-the-scenes efforts keep everything running smoothly. Well done, and thank you!

In our ministry team, we are rejoicing in the presence of Rev. Jacob and are eagerly looking forward to welcoming Rev. Annie later this month (September). We are truly blessed to have such leadership among us, and we pray for their fruitful ministry here in Stavanger.

Finally, as part of the wider Christian community, we have joined in the global Season of Creation. Through our sermons, we have been joyfully link-

ing the themes of Trinity and Creation, reminding ourselves of God's handiwork in the world around us, and our responsibility to care for it faithfully.

With grateful hearts, we continue to walk together as a congregation, whether gathered in person, connected online, or joined in prayer. May this autumn season bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of God's presence in all creation.

*Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain,
Stavanger*

Bergen notes

It gives us great joy to share with you the latest happenings in our Bergen congregation. We are delighted to report that the faithfulness of our regular members continues strong and steady. At the same time, we have been blessed with a noticeable increase in visitors, on some Sundays, they have even doubled our usual numbers!

What a joy to see our family growing and our fellowship hall buzzing with new faces. We are also grateful for the enthusiastic participation of students who have joined our congregation. Two of them, currently studying music, have generously offered their talents to play the organ during our services. Their contribution is deeply appreciated, and it is a delight to hear youthful energy blending into our worship.

As for the joyful sound of bells, we are grateful to Iris, Barbara, and Kristin, who faithfully ring them. They have been our "keepers of sound," and we are currently seeking to expand the team with more bell ringers. The more hands, the merrier the chimes!

Our fellowship after the service continues to be a warm and lively part of our Sundays. Many of you take turns in preparing especially Myla, Molly, Linda, Margaret, Norah, Ane and Penny. We thank you sincerely for this shared ministry of hospitality. It makes the coffee taste better and the conversations sweeter.

While we celebrate together, we also continue to stand in compassion with those among us who

are mourning the loss of loved ones. As a church, we have sent flowers and cards on behalf of us all, reminding our dear members that they are not alone in their grief. At the same time, we have been sending birthday cards to share in the joy of life's milestones.

We also take a moment to mention Joshua, who has now moved away from Bergen. Joshua served faithfully on our committee and contributed in many ways to the life of this congregation. We managed to send him gifts as a token of gratitude and to wish him well on his new journey. He will be greatly missed, but always remembered with fondness.

Looking ahead, our much-loved Carol Service will not take place on 14th December this year, as Mariakirken is not available. However, preparations are already underway, and the committee will decide a new date soon. Rest assured, once the date is confirmed, all details will be advertised so that we can gather in full festive spirit.

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Rev. Jacob and Rev. Annie here in Bergen. Rev. Annie will also be visiting us in October, and we look forward to her presence and ministry among us.

As autumn colors brighten our days, we find joy in this season and look forward to the blessings of winter. Together, we journey in faith, fellowship, and thanksgiving.

*Revd Martin Chirume, Assistant Chaplain,
Bergen*

Trondheim Notes

The new academic year has begun with Julia representing us reading at the Student Service in the Cathedral, and we were glad to offer a welcome to new international students at the Anglican Cathedral Eucharist in mid-August and with refreshments and socialising afterwards.

Messy Church has continued monthly in the Waisenhuset with regular families attending. We are de-

lighted at the birth of Linus to Logan and Veroinka and hope they may have the chance to come and sample our activities in due course!

Trondheim was the centre of national celebrations for the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea at Pentecost. Our Senior Chaplain Joanna represented us in an ecumenical service in the Cathedral and in a panel discussion with church leaders from the Catholic and Methodist churches as well as the Church of Norway. It was a blessing for us that Trinity Sunday was the week of our evening Anglican Eucharist in the Cathedral so we could sing there not only Holy, holy, holy to the tune Nicaea but also Bishop Geoffrey Rowell's Hymn to the Trinity in a rousing celebration of the special anniversary.

We are grateful to Torhild and Mary for leading our services during the summer, and for the opportunity to join in the Cathedral Healing Eucharist which concluded the St Olav celebrations.

Lay reader Susan Boyd, Trondheim

Oslo notes



A key part of Anglican life—barbeques!

Our Christian calling has been at the heart of our services and activities over the summer months. Celebrating Pentecost with music from around the world reminded us of **our calling to the community of God's Church in all its rich diversity**. We heard friends "in our own languages speaking of God's deeds of power" while we tasted delicious cuisine from a variety of countries.

We have again appreciated the support of our PTO clergy with the bishop's permission to officiate for us, with Fredrik Ulseth, Morten Grindvoll, and

Helene Selvik helping us out during the summer months as well as our friend and neighbour from Margareta Church, Per Anders Sandgren, joining this august team. Thank you for reminding us of **our calling to the unity for which Christ prayed.**

We have enjoyed lunchtime fellowship and celebrations of Holy Communion with the Drammen Ladies' Guild in both June and August thanks to the hospitality of our friends at Bragernes Church in Drammen. The Guild's tenacity and care for one another over so many years reminds us of **our calling to friendship and faithfulness.**

The St Olav celebrations with festive pilgrimage to Sarpsborg inspire **our calling as a pilgrim people**, while Revd Fadi Diab's visit from St Andrew's Church in Ramallah in the West Bank, and Revd Kasta Diep from the Warsaw/Kyiv Chaplaincy point to **our calling as peacemakers and to pursue justice.**

Revd Jacob Quick's arrival among us as curate at St Edmund's following his ordination as deacon has been a very tangible reminder **of the calling of the whole people of God to serve.** Whether we are ordained or not, we are called to follow the example of Jesus who came not to be served but to serve. Already during his first month he has been able to participate in 2 house blessings and 3 baptisms, not to mention the festive choir party in John Glazebrook's garden.

Our calling as stewards of God's creation has inspired our creationtide hike which went ahead enjoyably despite the wet weather and a lively interactive lecture by Jacob on God and the climate crisis.

Offering a choral evensong service for Oslo Kulturratt renews **our call to thanksgiving and worship.** These continue to be at the heart of what we do and we are so grateful for everyone who contributes to our worship in any way. Our Families' Barbecue in Frognerpark reminded us of God's bountiful gifts in nature and in his abundant provision for us. For these and all his mercies, God's holy name be praised!

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain, Oslo

An introduction to Revd Dr Jacob Quick and Revd Annie Bolger



Revd Annie and Revd Dr Jacob

We are honoured to join the community of St Edmund's and the Chaplaincy of Norway! It is fitting that the theme for this edition of Together is 'vocation' because vocation is precisely what brought us here. To introduce ourselves, we both grew up in the United States, in very committed evangelical Protestant families. Annie is originally from upstate New York, and Jacob is from Dallas, Texas (though he's lived in seven states over the years). We met in Chicago, Illinois, where we completed our undergraduate degrees in theology. After a few years of studying together and getting to know each other, we were engaged and married.

We spent our first few years of married life in Chicago, but moved to Leuven, Belgium in 2015 for further studies. At that point, we were both wrestling with God and with our faith, and we felt that God was calling us to a different way of discipleship. Once we moved to Leuven, we started attending the Church of England chaplaincy of St Martha & St Mary's. It felt like we'd arrived to our spiritual home. Just months after attending the chaplaincy in Leuven for the first time, we both followed a confirmation course and were con-

firmed in the Church of England. Below is a bit more about our individual journeys:

Annie's story...

"After I was confirmed in May 2016, my priest in Leuven encouraged me to discern vocation to the ordination through an internship scheme called the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES). From 2016-2018, this MES internship provided a framework for me to engage with the Church of England's discernment process. Meanwhile, I was able to work on a research master's in theology at KU Leuven. I was selected for training in 2018 and trained at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, UK. I was made a deacon in 2020, in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and began my curacy* at the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Brussels, Belgium. After my curacy ended in 2023, I remained at the Pro-Cathedral for two more years as an assistant chaplain.

There are many things I enjoy about this vocation: there are the ordinary and mundane things that keep me grounded, like the rhythm of praying Morning and Evening Prayer, and various administrative tasks, and visiting lovely people over cups of tea. I love being alongside people as they take steps in their journey of faith, following Christ in baptism and confirmation, and for some, marriage or ordination or the religious life. Living out my calling as Christian means promoting the interests of the marginalized and the poor, trying to protect the earth, and noticing how God's presence makes every day holy.

I enjoy reading books (audiobooks at the moment!) and playing games, going to the sauna, eating cheese! Yum! I'm currently trying to learn about lino-cutting."

Jacob's story...

"Meanwhile, I went on to complete an MPhil and a PhD in philosophy and lectured in the philosophy faculty in Leuven. During my PhD, I became a licensed Lay Reader at the Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Brussels, where Annie was serving her curacy. As I served primarily in preaching and teaching, I felt that God was calling me to ordained ministry. With the gracious support of the commu-

nity in Brussels, I discerned this call, which brought me to train for ordination at Westcott House in Cambridge, England. During my training at Westcott, the Diocese in Europe began discussions with me about where I could serve my curacy* (*a curacy is a three-year training period for recently ordained clergy, not unlike a doctor's residency.)

I was overjoyed when the Diocese recommended St Edmund's Oslo, with Joanna as my training incumbent. We collectively discerned that God was calling us here, the Council in Norway agreed, and God has been faithful! In early August, Annie and I moved from Brussels to Oslo. It is a great privilege to serve my curacy here in Norway and I cannot wait to see what God has in store! In ministry, I particularly love navigating challenging questions about faith in community, caring for creation, and discerning how we can all become our true selves in Christ.

Some of my hobbies include films (I love all genres and am always happy for recommendations), meeting animals of all kinds, and playing sports. I am also a die-hard Bruce Springsteen fan."

We are excited to get to know you over the next three years. We also look forward to exploring the Norwegian landscape by hiking, learning to ski, and visiting the various congregations across the chaplaincy. Thank you for your warm welcome and helping us to feel a part of this lovely community!

Revd Dr Jacob Quick, Revd Annie Bolger, Oslo

Training for ministry

I am now in my third and final year of ordinand training in the Eastern Regional Ministry Course (ERMC). In one way, I am really looking forward to being finished with assignments, evening classes and weekends spent in intensive learning. In another way, the time has really flown by, and it is a bit of a surreal feeling that, God willing, I will be ordained next summer.

Continued page 10.

			Oslo		Bergen	
OCT						
Sun	05	Trinity 16	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion Harvest Festival	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	12	Trinity 17	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	19	Trinity 18	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	26	Last Sunday after Trinity Bible Sunday	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
NOV						
Sun	02	All Saints	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	09	Remembrance Sunday	10:30	Morning Prayer with Act of Remembrance	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	16	2nd Sunday before Advent	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	23	Christ the King	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	29	Advent 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
DECE						
Sun	07	Advent 2	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion Christingle	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	14	Advent 3	11:00 18:00	Sung Communion 9 Lessons & Carols	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	21	Advent 4	11:00	Sung Communion Nativity Play	11:00	Holy Communion
Thurs	25	Christmas	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	28	Christmas 1	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
JAN						
Sun	04	Epiphany	11:00	All Age Service Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	11	Baptism of Christ	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion
Sun	18	Epiphany 2	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Service of the Word
Sun	25	Conversion of St Paul	11:00	Sung Communion	11:00	Holy Communion

Readings	Stavanger		Trondheim	
OBER				
Habakkuk 1.1-4; 2.1-4 Luke 17.5-10	10:30	Holy Communion	11:15	Harvest Festival Fjellseter
2 Kings 5.1-3, 7-15b Luke 17.11-19	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Genesis 32.22-31 Luke 18.1-8	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Jeremiah 14.7-10, 19-end Luke 18.9-14	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
EMBER				
Daniel 7.1-3, 15-18 Luke 6.20-31	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Job 19.23-27a Luke 20.27-38	08:00	Commemoration Service at Eiganes cemetery	10:45	Morning Prayer Stavne Cemetery
Malachi 4.1-2a Luke 21.5-19	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Colossians 1.11-20 Luke 23.33-43	10:30	Holy Communion		Online Gathering
Isaiah 2.1-5 Matthew 24.36-44		No service		Online Gathering
EMBER				
Isaiah 11.1-10 Matthew 3.1-12	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Evening Prayer Chapter House
Isaiah 35.1-10 Matthew 11.2-11	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Isaiah 7.10-16 Matthew 1.18-25	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Isaiah 9.2-7 Luke 2.1-14[15-20]	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Holy Communion Vår Frue kirke
Isaiah 63.7-9 Matthew 2.13-23		No service		Online gathering
UARY				
Isaiah 60.1-6 Matthew 2.1-12	10:30	Holy Communion		Online gathering
Isaiah 42.1-9 Matthew 3.13-17	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Messy Church Waisenhuset
Isaiah 49.1-7 John 1.29-42	10:30	Holy Communion	18:00	Holy Communion Cathedral
Acts 9.1-22 Matthew 19.27-30	10:30	Holy Communion	11:00	Online gathering



Eirik with his fellow ordinands

It has been two years already - two years of getting to know some fantastic co-students during my regular study weekends to the UK, of struggling to write something coherent for the assignments to give evidence of my learning, and of growing in faith in, and love for, Christ. How has my sense of vocation developed during these years?

The question of vocation is one that is always in the back of my mind as I carry on with this course. Have I discerned God's will for my life "correctly"? Has this just been some strange midlife crisis or was I really called to do this? I think that whether one's calling comes as lightning from blue sky, or whether it is a slowly developing pull towards a certain path in life, I think that vocation can never remain a one-time decision after which we are basically 'set' for life. Every step of the way, we must come back to Christ and the cross, to keep working on conforming our lives to Him. Only then, I think, is it that we discover the shape and depths of our vocation, and we discover, perhaps, that we are led beyond ourselves and beyond what we could have imagined our vocations to be.

As I now enter my final year of training, I expect it to be a year of being 'stretched' and drawn further into relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. I expect to continue to be baffled with God's activity, and as a result, I expect also to be baffled about the ways in which God is preparing me for the ministry that I am heading into. It will

be an exciting year - among other things, I will serve in some social context placement (such as a hospital or a prison), and likely be exposed to the situations in our lives where God's activity is extremely difficult to discern or understand. I am sure this will change my perspectives on many things - including my sense of vocation - but I trust that as I walk with Christ, He will lead me and teach me throughout all of it. After all, any true vocation starts, ends and is summed up in Him and His love for us. I hope you will keep me in your prayers in this last leg of the journey to ordination!

Eirik Gjerløw, Oslo

My Methodist Past

I was taken to a Methodist church in Wolverhampton, in England at a very tender age. It was my father, who instigated this, as he had been in the past a Methodist Local Preacher (Lay Reader). I spent my whole childhood and teenage years as Sunday School attendee, then as a Sunday school teacher and finally began to train as a Local preacher. However, circumstances made it impossible for me to continue. Then I met and I married Per and came to live in Bergen. Several times I was asked to take a service in St Jørgens, which usually meant I was taking the only order of service I knew. Eventually I was approached by someone from the London office, and asked if I would like to train to be a Lay Reader. I was delighted to be offered this chance and so here we are 30 odd years later.

I still worship in the Methodist church back in England whenever I travel over, as I know most of the people there. During the last few years I have been asked to take a service for them when they know I will be over, and I suppose I must have taken about 8. I am taking a service on Sunday October 5th, but also I have been asked to be the Speaker at a local Methodist Ladies's meeting on Thursday October 2nd. I feel that the two churches, one here "Mariakirken" and the other one "Beckminster" in England have such a lot in common that it is no trouble swapping from one to the other. I feel it enriches me, and gives me a chance to do something with the talent which God has

given to me. I will continue to be of service to both as long as I am able. God willing that will be a long time ahead.



Lay Reader Iris Evans-Bjørno, Bergen, pictured here in Balestrand

Interview with Esmé Knagenhjelm, Chaplaincy Environment Officer

Would you say that Christians are called to care for creation? If so, why is the vocation to creation care so important to our faith?

"I've never thought about it as a calling or a vocation before. But yes, you could call it a calling or a vocation, though we must be careful not to put too much pressure on ourselves when we talk about creation care as a calling. You can call it a vocation if you're committed daily to doing something positive about creation."

What advice would you give to those who want to live out this vocation to creation care?

"It's good to do daily things. Making sure you've sorted the paper cartons, glass, things like that. People can sometimes say, 'Oh but that's so little.' But my response is, 'Well, this week you've saved two bags of plastic. Multiply that by a million homes doing exactly the same thing, and you've got a result.' So people can make it a part of their daily life to think about their environment. We can think: What am I doing now? Is it something harmful? Or is it contributing to a better environment? Even something like picking up rubbish on a path can make an impact."

What most excites you about God's creation?

"It's hard to choose! I find all of creation fascinating. That being said, I do really love waterfalls and sunsets. I remember going to watch a sunset in a beautiful area, and there were so many people there just observing the sunset in silence. It's hard to explain, but it was just an amazing experience to be there. We felt we had to whisper or contemplate in silence because we were in the presence of something breathtaking."

What are some helpful ways for us to think about God's creation and our place within it?

"Something I love about exploring the environment is meeting the people who live in it. We are all connected with the natural world. I love traveling and meeting cultures. Cultures are a part of creation, too. So if we are going to be kind to creation, we need to be kind to people. We are all in this together. This is also why we need to look after ourselves. If you don't take care of yourself, then how can you take care of the environment around you? We should also take note of how nature looks after us. Did you know that walking in the forest is good for your immune system?! And that is the trees looking after you. They provide resources that help the human body regulate and protect itself. It's amazing how nature is so connected to us. We live in a beautiful world. So it's important to not be discouraged, but to appreciate creation and respect it in our daily lives."

Thank you, Esmé, for all of your work for the chaplaincy and for encouraging us to care for creation and celebrate its grandeur.

*Esmé Knagenhjelm and Revd Dr Jacob Quick,
Oslo*

Called to Confirmation

I was baptised in Solihull, England in a church where my Grandma was a church warden and President of the Mother's Union. Every time we went to stay with her we would go to church and I really enjoyed Sunday School and the chance to hear the bible stories, sing together and eat bis-

cuits! Since we moved to Norway the visits became less frequent but were still fun and everyone welcomed you when we went to church with Grandma. We were also lucky enough to go to church in Bergen and meet more people here.

Getting confirmed seemed like the next logical step to join a community that shares such a love and kindness between its members and to feel closer to God. The kindness and welcome was immediate as Mum arranged for me to join the classes even though they clashed with swimming training! Rev Joanna was amazing in helping me to make it work and the weekend she hosted the first in March only proved what a strong community this is.

Confirmation day in May was a truly memorable experience made possible by so many people working together in God's community. Thank you everyone and I look forward to continuing my Christian journey.



Emma Stannard, Bergen

If you are interested in Confirmation in 2026, please contact Senior Chaplain Joanna or speak to your local chaplain. We hope to run preparation sessions for 14-16s and separately for adults, starting in January - Editor

An Advent Reflection on Waiting

Tom Petty sang:

*"The waiting is the hardest part
Every day you get one more yard
You take it on faith, you take it to the heart
The waiting is the hardest part
Yeah, the waiting is the hardest part."*

We are always in a state of waiting, whether waiting for something that we anticipate with excitement like a promotion or an acceptance letter, or waiting with dread for unwelcome news. Much of our waiting is rather mundane: waiting for the kettle, the bus, the weather forecast. As I write this, I am waiting for an appointment with the police in order to progress through the immigration process. I must say that I appreciate Tom Petty's lament...

In the Christian life, "waiting" is a vocation, a calling. Advent is a season of waiting, waiting for the coming of God. In the short term, we wait to celebrate the first Advent, Christ's coming among us at Christmas. We wait as Mary and Joseph also had to wait, representing generations of God's people who waited and longed for the Saviour. In the long term, we wait for His second Advent, when Christ will return with glory to restore all things.

"The waiting is the hardest part."

The Gospel texts we read in Advent warn us to "watch and wait", and we may hear resonances of the reproachful voice of Jesus, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40). On the other hand, we also read stirring texts from Romans 13:11-14 about waking up and living like Christ's return is imminent. So Advent waiting isn't simple. This "waiting" is a vibrant space where "paying attention" and "action" meet. Waiting for Christ's return has everything to do with how we live now.

There's something for everyone in the Scriptures that we read in Advent. There is something for the more inward among us, the contemplatives for whom watching and waiting comes more natural-

ly. Yet there is something in the urgency of keeping alert and living out the kingdom of God here and now which stirs the contemplatives. And there's something for the prophets among us, the activists who long to get on with it and change the world. The stillness, the pregnant darkness of Advent beckons to the activist to slow down, breathe, and wait for new birth. Regardless of our natural dispositions, in the words of John Chrysostom, "we wait the final outcome, remembering who it is who ploughs the earth of our souls." The waiting works upon us. It changes us.

"The waiting is the hardest part."

As we are transformed by our waiting and watching, we work together to bring the kingdom of God to life in our spheres of influence. In this way, God graciously empowers us to fulfill our calling to wait. We watch and pray, we are transformed, and we respond in holy action to God's future. Every act of generosity and goodness, every watchful prayer is a way of bearing Christ in the world today. Each of us are invited to stand on the threshold of Christ's future, that glorious future in which all will be made new, and make ready for his coming. So we pray:

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

Revd Annie Bolger, Oslo

Friendship out of enmity at Kvam

A commemoration was held on August 30th of not one but two military battles at Kvam in the heart of Gudbrandsdalen. For those who know this beautiful valley, the reason is apparent with a narrowing of the valley where ambush or defensive lines could be better held. I was invited to

take part in dedicating the new memorial opposite Kvam church for the 1612 Scottish campaign to remember the Scottish mercenary soldiers who met their fate there while en route to join the opposing Swedish forces. According to local tradition, a local woman sounded a cattle horn from the hillside to alert the local farmers' defence force who were lying in ambush.



Revd Joanna in Kvam

The Kvam churchyard also houses the Commonwealth War Graves memorial for the British forces who fought hard with high attrition in 1940 to slow the advance of the German Occupation through the valley at Kvam. I led prayers at the memorial and a wreath of poppies was laid.

It's good to report that local relations with Scotland today are very warm, with the Scottish clan chieftain being invited to participate in the occasion although ill health sadly prevented him from traveling. A piper and drummer from the Oslo Caledonian Society played evocatively as the new memorial was unveiled and later joined the Kvam brass band for more Scottish melodies at the festive *middag* arranged for all the guests from near and far. The Mayor pointed out to us that the local *bunad* today incorporates a tartan element, perhaps not unconnected from the earlier history of the valley. Enmity from the past has given way

to a strong web of friendship today and proud local connections with Scottish culture.

Revd Canon Joanna Udal, Senior Chaplain

The call

Vocation is a word that is deeply connected to the church, and the call that priests answer. Coming from the Latin, *vocatio*, the root word translates to a call, or a summons. In both religious and secular circles, it is often used to describe a role or a profession that we feel particularly drawn to. In this issue of *Together*, we have heard the stories of many of our chaplaincy, and their calls to ministry. These are important, wonderful stories of the complex, beautiful, and something challenging journeys that faith can take us on, if we respond to that call.

But what happens when we don't necessarily feel equipped to answer that call in our own lives? There is a running joke in my family that even though my mum was the priest, when she started her curacy, I was in robes before her. The reason was that on our first week at St Leonard's, Wollaton, about a month before her ordination, I had made the grave mistake of saying the words, "Oh I would like to join the choir, but I can't sing." The choir director, Peter, turned around and said, "Practice is on Friday". Sure enough, I was part of the choir from that Friday, and that conversation has resulted in a lifelong love of choral music, despite the fear of music exams. When I saw Peter in December last year, at a service to celebrate his retirement, he still wouldn't take any credit for inspiring so many choristers. Instead, he told me what everyone in that choir was doing now.

It was a similar situation joining the choir in St Edmund's, only this time I found myself volunteering to sing at a funeral in 2022 because I knew "the lord bless you and keep you"! In both St Edmund's and St Leonard's, I remember feeling anxious, unsure, and perhaps not ready or wanting to answer that feeling that there was something I could contribute to the church communities I was part of. Both times, I was met with people who were

warm, caring, and wanting to include me as part of their contribution to church. There are many in our congregations in Norway who quietly answer that call every week, through volunteering in our services. Those quiet voices who say "Here I am Lord, send me" (Isaiah 6:8), and simply step in and do what needs to be done, supporting others in their individual vocations as well.

Perhaps we can view our church communities not as a collection of individual vocations, but as a collective effort to support each other as we find our callings in faith, and in life. Let us carry that spirit of vocation forward, as we move towards the expectation and waiting of advent, and the joy of Christmas.

Beth Winther-Noble, Oslo

Congratulations!



On the 18th July, Collen Clever Orishaba and Martin Hovden Hareide held their civil wedding with family and friends. We congratulate them on their marriage and look forward to continuing to support their life together!



Upcoming events



Chaplaincy

9th November, Remembrance Sunday
16th November, Safeguarding Sunday
4th-7th December, Racial Justice Conference, Berlin

Oslo

5th October, Harvest Festival
15th November, 11:00-15:00 Bazaar at Swedish Margareta Kyrkan, Hammersborg torg
24th December: 12:00 Carol Singing outside St Edmund's
22nd January, Unity Prayers, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Trondheim

5th October, Harvest Festival at Fjellseter Chapel
22nd November, Christmas Sale at Waisenhuset



Chaplaincy Carol Services

Sunday 30 November: Tromsø Domkirke at 18:00
Tuesday 9 December : Bragernes Church, Drammen at 19:00
Sunday 14 December at 18:00: St Edmund's Church, Oslo
Tuesday 16 December: Nidaros Cathedral, Trondheim at 18:00
Thursday 18 December : St Edmund's Church, Oslo at 19:00, Carols by Candlelight
Friday 19 December: Oddernes Church, Kristiansand at 18:30
Tuesday 23 December : Stavanger Domkirke at 18:00

From the registers

HOLY BAPTISMS



St Edmund's, Oslo

Wilma Achieng Greve Anam, 1st June
 Sophia Elizabeth Basson Boganes, 13th July
 Felina Onyedikachi, 24th August
 Uchenna Henrik Nnagbo, 24th August

DEATHS

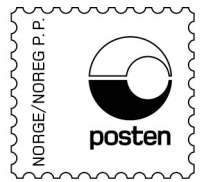
John Edgar Oxford, Drammen
 Ramon Francis Hunt, Sandefjord
 David Graham Nicholson, Trondheim
 Gwyneth Rosina Hovland, Bergen
 Jack Løken, Stabekk
 Sheila Jakobsen, Oslo
 Rosalie Ethel, Nordstrand, Horten
 Roald Atle Furre, Fyllingsdalen
 Solveig Fowler, Geithus
 Linda Rønne, Sandnes
 David Thomas Cox, Fjellhamar
 John Hatsell, Kristiansand
 Ole Reta Mikkelsen, Nesttun
 Brian Stead, Saudasjøen
 Patricia Olsen, Hosle



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

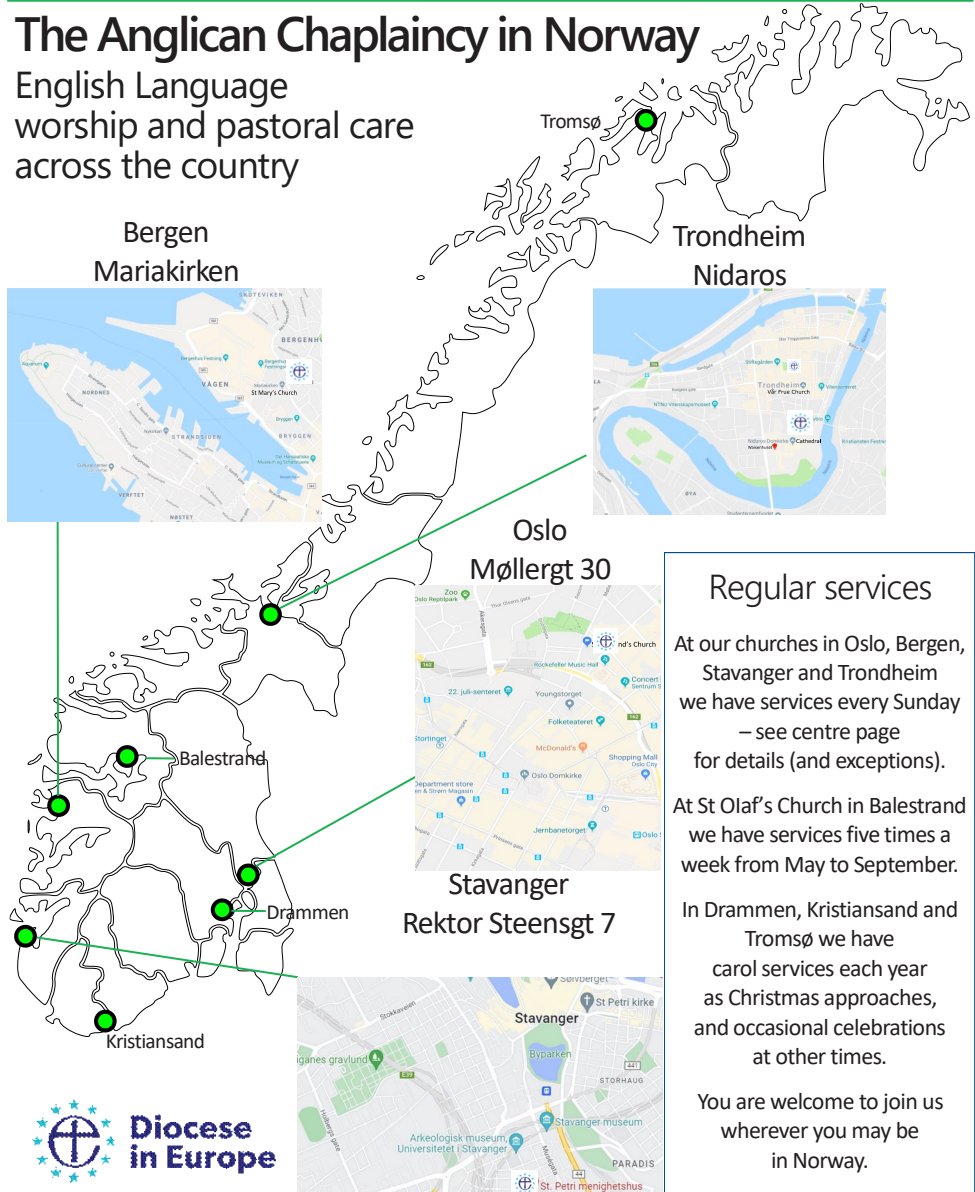




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The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway

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.