

SUNDAY



It is very disappointing that a number of people have been prevented from joining us for the conference in Trondheim. Their flights have been cancelled. Others have had their flights delayed, but gradually we are gathering together, greeting old friends and finding new ones.

The Comfort Park Hotel staff is incredibly welcoming.

There is coffee and tea on tap in the foyer free of charge all day and all night. Rooms are quite adequate and the breakfasts are amazingly varied and filling. There really is something for everyone.

The weather today has been amazingly warm and sunny. The views across the fjord are beautiful, the city is delightful and the restaurants are very good!



We were invited by the Anglican congregation in Trondheim to join them for Communion Service at 6pm. They meet in the Chapter House in the Cathedral and they enjoy very good relationships with their Lutheran hosts, and the Rev Sheila Rosenthal, the Anglican Chaplain in Trondheim, treated us to a delightfully informal yet spiritually enriching act of worship.

We ended the day in a number of restaurants and enjoyed comparing notes afterwards! We look forward to our numbers increasing tomorrow!

MONDAY



The Hotel is within a very short walk of the magnificent Nidaros Cathedral which is as near a replica of the original building as they could make it after being destroyed by fire. Our meeting place is through into the courtyard of the Archbishop's Palace and then to the Army Museum and the Armoury Room which is a magnificent space with military flags hanging where we gathered for our first session.

It was wonderful to have the Presiding Bishop, the Rt Rev Olav Fykse Tveit to welcome us and introduce our topic of 'A Pilgrimage towards Hope'. He brings a truly international and global viewpoint having served for 10 years as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and now being the Preces of the Church of Norway.

His presentation will be available as soon as we have it.



For our second session Prof Richard Stephenson took the risk of providing an interesting and humorous introduction and then trying to moderate seven Bishops in a Round Table Discussion!



Their first question was 'What is the state of Pilgrimage in their denominations today – Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Anglican?' What an interesting and variety of viewpoints they were able to introduce. They were then invited to speak about where they see hope in their respective Churches. Again, there was a breadth of ideas

and descriptions of practical working towards hope. A summary of this session will be posted as soon as it is ready. The programme has been so full there simply hasn't been time as yet. Sorry!

They could have talked for hours, but we had to call a halt so that we could go to the



Celebration of St James, whose day it was.

Outside the West end of the Cathedral a large wreath was brought out and a 'cherry picker' raised the priest, with wreath in hand and a safety worker with him, so he could place the wreath round St James staff.





After this we went into the Cathedral, a wonderful interior lit in a delightful way to show off its glory and space, but with a magnificent and enormous globe hanging in the middle of the Transept. Receiving Communion not only with conference participants but also with pilgrims, tourists and Trondheim residents, was the first large experience of it for many of us since before COVID. The service was conducted in a mixture of Norwegian and English with translations of the responsive parts. Hymns were sung in Norwegian but to tunes many of us

knew so we could sing them in our own language if we wished.

The day ended with our Conference Dinner, usually held at the end of our Conferences but, due to two of our Church of England Bishops needing to leave on Tuesday to return for the Lambeth Conference, we decided to start the Conference with a dinner and had tasty mixed Tapas in a restaurant in the square under the statue of King Olav II.

Many weary 'pilgrims' then took themselves off to bed!

TUESDAY

By 0900 we were in the Cathedral Chapter House, the home of the Anglican Congregation in Trondheim, for a Communion service where our two Patrons, Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga and Bishop David Hamid, preached and presided respectively – on the feast day of Anna and Joachim, the parents of Mary. Bishop Jana's sermon will soon be available for you to read.

Bishop Michael Ipgrave then gave a lively presentation about 'Walking in the Footsteps of Chad' – literally walking the routes he took on foot because he refused to use a horse and walked everywhere. With an enjoyable PowerPoint to illustrate his account, we learned much about St Chad the value of waking, feeling the land beneath our feet each time we make a pilgrimage, long or short. We had time at the end for some questions and comments from participants and it is always good to hear those from people in different situations and from different life experiences.



You will soon be able to enjoy the presentation and the PowerPoint.

At the refreshment break it became obvious that the Church of Norway has no intention of us going hungry. A wonderful variety of open sandwiches accompanied our choice of beverage.

Before our lunch break Bishop Tor Berger Jørgensen helped us to understand what the Church of Norway is like today in the light of its historical background as it is hard to understand today without looking back at several hundreds of years! There was so much more he could have added, but time did not permit!

Bishop Tor has promised to let you read his full text shortly.



In the afternoon we had six people sharing their 'mini-presentations' on aspects of their ministry or projects they are involved with:

- **A *Pilgerwochende*** (Pilgrims' weekend) in Spandau, Berlin;
- **Keeping the faith** within an Adult Care Community in Wartburg, New York;
- **The personal story of a nurse** in a care home during the COVID pandemic;
- **An ecumenical initiative** by a parish in the Church of England, London with a congregation of Polish Roman Catholics;
- **'Jesus the Troublemaker'** from the perspective of a man born to a Jewish father and Christian mother and a former parish priest; and
- **Finding hope just outside the church door** in the care of an ancient churchyard, rejoicing in the many aspects of God's creation found there, and maintaining it in a way to help God's creation flourish.

The presenters each did their presentation two or three times to a small group of people so everyone was able to enjoy three of the six offerings.

Margarethe Stang, Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Media Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology gave a fascinating account of the development of Olav as a Saint from a cultural perspective through



the arts. An incredible expert who shared her knowledge and insight in a most accessible and enjoyable way – only to be interrupted for a brief refreshment break with yummy carrot cake!



The input was not finished. We moved into the cathedral for a concert of St Olav music from the Schola St Sunnivaie interspersed with wonderful music played on the cathedral's magnificent organ. Both were superb, lifting us to heights of emotion with their stunning music.

Dinner at another local restaurant allowed for more conversation, laughter and getting to know each other better.

WEDNESDAY



This morning began with the usual sumptuous breakfast followed by Anglican Morning Prayer in the Cathedral Chapter House led jointly by Sheila Rosenthal and Andreas, the Lutheran Precentor of the Cathedral.

We then divided into two groups, the first for a tour of the Cathedral and the second to explore the city. We had the Cathedral Dean and her husband as our guides.

The weather has been very kind. Yes, it has rained, but not enough to spoil our enjoyment of the city or our conference.

At 3pm the Rev Einar Tjelle, Deputy International Director of the Church of Norway and Leader of the International Climate Network in Norway, spoke about 'The Cathedral of Hope', an ecumenical and inter-faith project initiated by the Church of Norway Diocese of Borg, focusing on pollution of our seas, rivers and streams and the consequent reduction in flora and fauna. People of all backgrounds have been drawn together in a genuine kind of pilgrimage, meeting one another, listening to one another and working together. It is a very challenging and inspiring project and a full description will be posted soon.



After yet another break for refreshments – coffee, tea, water and baguettes and cakes have been in constant supply throughout our meetings – we were addressed by



the Rev Canon Hilda Kabia on the theme, 'What is Hope for the People of Africa and what part do the Churches have in Realising this Hope.' Hilda is the Principal of Msalato Theological College in Dodoma, Tanzania, and explored some of the challenges and the signs of hope in Africa. Hope rests with the Lord, and with the Christian Communities living out the faith for the good of all. Again, her presentation will be posted soon.

The day ended in a restaurant where we thoroughly enjoyed a Norwegian fish dish. Now it's off to bed to build up strength for the Festival Pilgrimage starting at 7.30 on Thursday morning.