

Notes from Møre Task Group meeting on ZOOM Wed 14th Oct 2020

Present: Janet Appleby (Link Person) , Cathrine Grutle (new Møre link), Andii Bowsher, Alison Rudd, Clare McClaren, Rachel Wood, Suzanne Cooke

Apologies: Andrew Shipton, Annie Newlands, Emily Gibson

1. Welcome & Introductions

Cathrine Grutle introduced herself as our new Link person from Møre diocese. She was on the study trip here in September last, and had lived in England as a little girl for a time. She works as a priest in North of the diocese. She is works to support other priests to take time off. She is a 'Vicar' which is someone who does cover she also has other responsibilities to look after the wellbeing of other pastors and some youth work and occasional office ministry. She's married to the Dean in Møre She has 3 children.

Alison has worked in Norway as an organist and still works in that way in England.

Andii -linguist, chaplain at Northumbria Uni. Visited Norway for a few weeks in 2017. Interested in Nynorsk.

Suzanne: sympathising re 17 year-olds and empty bedroom. Has met Cathrine previously. Vicar in Wooler.

Clare: Staff at N'castle Cathedral -canon for music and liturgy. Was in Norway in Sept 2018. Sat next to Cathrine at a (boisterous) dinner!

Rachel: vicar at Monkseaton (coast), had a group in 2018 as part of Pathways mission. Has some Norwegian ancestry. Interested in collaborative ministry and in the recent Norwegian model of employing church wardens.

2. Comparing our (very different!) COVID experiences

Norway, 12 March, lockdown (fairly complete) for two months. After 2 weeks or so some people were able to take some services and devotionals online. Young children had to be educated at home. Now learnt to live with a digital version of the church. Now physical meeting needs 1m space. Allowed up to 200 in church. Confirmations were moved to the summer. Lots of extra work for pastors. In Møre, no current Covid cases. (Oslo is not doing so well).

Norwegian government issues changing parameters for Covid according to the situation.

In England, we had online and now have reduced numbers in physical space. Masks. 2m distancing plus livestreaming. Returned to churches in July, Communion from September (some earlier).

Hard for bereaved at funerals. Concurrent streaming is possible in both countries.

Ordinations were postponed from July and couldn't be done in the Cathedral so commuted to parish churches. Interesting/fun but also tiring.

Alison has made a CD of church music and has composed pieces for different churches in the benefice. Some vicars are now struggling a bit - meeting people is restricted and life can be just to and from the Church building.

Cathedral is undergoing building renovations and space for gathering is currently small.

What will be the experience of transitioning to Møre in-person congregational worship? Can we retain the creativity found using online tools? Singing is allowed in worship in Norway.

Lots of time taken up with preparing materials for worship. Steep learning curves for all.

Perhaps Møre praying is one of the positive outcomes of lockdown and restrictions?

3. Prayer Diary

Cathrine would like to make a prayer calendar for use in Møre diocese - she was impressed and moved to know that we prayed for each parish in Møre. +Ingeborg is keen on the idea too. Janet is also hoping to help enable this to happen using our existing materials (via Richard).

4. Youth Exchange - 2021?

There is Staying Alive here and something similar in Møre. So trying to make an exchange programme work. It has worked well in the past, especially the Norwegians coming here.

5. Pastor Exchange

Could be beneficial. But there is the issue of language. Maybe for non-Norwegian speakers the possibility of interpretation of sermons etc ... ? Benefits would lie in what we could learn from one another. E.g. 'Office' in 'daily office' -not something that they have in Norway as a matter of course. Rural experiences a lot in common but also some key differences.

6. Parish Twinning?

Cathedral, Monkseaton, Wooler? All interested and good possibilities once allowed again?

7. Cathedral exchange?

Choir Exchange between Cathedrals? -2022 from them here and return visit 2023? Depending...

8. Organists linking in some way?

Different systems of organising organists. But maybe recitals could work? Would probably be a few years away, given the pandemic. Exchanged some information about how remuneration works. Norway: full time musicians -who can then work with confirmation candidates (e.g.) to help familiarity with the tradition.

Non-organ music: other musicians can be hired and sometimes are. -Special occasions.

Cultural divides and synergies -maybe some further exploration of the variety of musical cultures now being expressed in church music

9. Any other ideas?

Clare showed hymnal -versify translation so Norwegian tunes could be used. Surprise! Collaboration possible? Catherine, Clare, Alison?

10. Next meeting

We agreed to meet again in January to compare our experiences of Christmas – schools services, Christmas Eve etc. In the meantime we can work on the Prayer Diary and Clare & Cathrine can collaborate on the hymn translating idea. Also possibility of watching each others' streamed services online where available?

The meeting ended at 16.40 approx.