

**THE HOPE CATHEDRAL**  
**Annual Report 2020**





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# Message from the Board

In 2020 the Board of the Hope Cathedral has consisted of Bente Haukland Næss, Karin-Elin Berg, Ivar Søvold and the chairperson Atle Sommerfeldt. The board has held a total of eight board meetings during the year. The company has three employees with a total of 2.6 work years. The employees are Solveig Egeland, Andreas Pagander and Anne Skauen. Accounts are kept by accountant Bjørg Haugstulen and audited by auditor Alvhild Vefall at Echås Revisjon.

The Hope Cathedral has had a good financial year, thanks to support from its sponsors and partners, the sale of products and a considerable voluntary input. In total, more than NOK 3 million has been received in pure financial support. We refer to our annual accounts for 2020.

The board is proud of the efforts that have been made so far and we look forward to the inauguration of the Hope Cathedral on 5 June 2021. It is also gratifying that several new players have agreed to join on the ownership side now that we are entering the establishment and operation phase. In this phase, various programs based on educational, cultural and multi-religious activities will be tested, in order to land on a sustainable operating model.

The Board of the Hope Cathedral

*Atle Sommerfeldt (chairperson)*

*Bente Haukland Næss (board member)*

*Karin-Elin Berg (board member)*

*Ivar Søvold (board member)*



«On the island of Isegran in Fredrikstad a very special building is taking shape. Thanks to the steadfast, skilled and industrious help of volunteers led by teacher and boatbuilder Andreas Pagander, the Hope Cathedral is rising above the bay. Thousands of hours' work have been put in, and more will follow. It is a flourishing team of volunteers, a generous, inclusive environment where traditional building skills are learned in a new way. There is room for everyone. Young people from other countries and cultures find a place here, and construction work and carpentry can be combined with learning Norwegian vocabulary. There's no stress here and laughter is never far away».



# Organisation

The Hope Cathedral is owned by Borg Diocesan Council. The project is organised as an ideal limited company.

The board consists of chairperson Atle Sommerfeldt, Bente Haukland Næss, Ivar Søvold and Karin Elin Berg.

The project administration consists of artistic director Solveig Egeland, project manager Anne Skauen, construction manager Andreas Pagander and project associate Camilla Sundbye.

The resource group for the Hope Cathedral consists of people with different skills. The group has met several times throughout the year, and the participants have contributed along the way between the meetings. The project also benefits from its ambassador group, consisting of people who, in various ways, through their networks, contribute to conveying the story and the vision of the Hope Cathedral.

In 2020, we have moved out of the beautiful offices we borrowed from the Lighthouse Foundation and moved to Isegran where we rent an office from Fredrikstad municipality. There are many advantages to being close to the construction site in this final phase of construction.



*The Cathedral is being built in «Pike Bay» on the island of Isegran and set in a beautiful natural and cultural environment.*



# Sustainability goals

## as inspiration

The sustainability goals consist of a total of 17 goals and a number of sub-goals that together form a common platform for the most important focus areas for global cooperation.

The Hope Cathedral has chosen these goals as an important superstructure and framework for our endeavours at Isegran. In communication work, it is important to show how things are woven together, so that the focus will be on action and hope rather than powerlessness and passivity.

**Goal No. 14** concerns about life under water, and **Goal No. 17** is about cooperation to achieve the goals: these are our primary goals. In addition, **Goal No. 15** is about life on land.

We use the symbol of the sustainability ring in our profiling materials, such as t-shirts, carrier bags, pennants and flags. At our construction site at Isegran, volunteers have made a large sustainability ring

In collaboration with FASVO in Fredrikstad, we made the world's first and largest cake of the sustainability goals during our celebration of World Environment Day in 2020. And it tasted absolutely delicious!





# Sustainability

## - with a focus on innovation and involvement

The Hope Cathedral is working for social, economic and environmental sustainability.

We understand social sustainability as meaning broad involvement, but also real involvement through people contributing directly to the impact of the project.

Our many participants have different skills and we want to make it easy for everyone to contribute in their own way, and experience the joy of mastery. Our aim is for the project to be shaped through genuine commitment and collaboration. As the construction project progresses, a meeting place has been established where new friendships and relationships have been forged.

By economic sustainability, we mean the innovative work that is being done concerning marine plastics that goes astray and how this material can be collected and used in new ways.

We have had a fruitful collaboration with Biobe and Re-Turn, who have made resources and expertise available to us. More than four tonnes of marine plastic have been collected in beach clearances along the coast and then transformed into four thousand new «tiles» for the cathedral.

The project's contribution to environmental sustainability is about shedding light on our relationship with nature.

We have taught schoolchildren about the problems associated with stray plastic in the ocean, how it impacts on fish, birds and us. Another theme has been biological diversity on land. Here our focus has been on bees and their vital role in nature.

We have linked our teaching to the sustainability goals.

A total of about 500 children and young people have visited the Hope Cathedral in 2020. They have all been allowed to make bee cathedrals, and in that way have been able to make their contribution to the project.





# Plastic in the roof

## An innovative project

Plastics going astray is a huge environmental problem. The plastic that ends up in the ocean causes damage that threatens the lives of both birds and fish. At the same time, plastic is a resource and can in reality be used many times before it is useless.

When we started at the Hope Cathedral, we did not realise that the product we would end up recycling to make new tiles for the cathedral would be stranded fish boxes. In the beginning we collected ropes, nets, fish cages, barrels, plastic cans and boxes. After thorough evaluation and testing in cooperation with Re-Turn, we found that it was the plastic in fish boxes that was best suited to our purposes. This was due both to the properties of the plastic and to the fact that most of the boxes are made of the same type of plastic (HDPE). Then we began the arduous business of processing the boxes. First they had to be washed and scrubbed for oil, barnacles and other contaminants. Then they had to be chopped into smaller units to fit into the grinder that made the granulate. One fish box gives about four kilos of granules.

Re-Turn's report shows that the plastic from the fish boxes was generally of good quality. Additives are added to the granules to strengthen the natural properties of the plastic before the granulate is cast into new plates so that they are able to withstand weather and wind without deteriorating. The report concludes that the granulate from the fish boxes is of good quality, and that it will be possible to use this as a raw material in other products too.

You can read Re-Turn's report [HERE](#).



## The art of transformation

Fish boxes in five different colours become aesthetic roof tiles in 50 colours



It had long been decided that the roof of the Cathedral of Hope should be a large-scale «painting in plastic». But how to choose the colours? It was an exciting and demanding process. Solveig returned to where the vision initially came from, to Brattestø in Ytre Hvaler National Park. Here the scenery was photographed and documented.

Inspired by these natural colours, and with valuable assistance from Professor Mette Lorange and visual artist Hanna Høiness, a palette was developed which we called "from earth to sky". In Biobe's production hall, the crushed fish box granules were transformed from "boring" colours to different shades of the colour palette, simply by mixing granules. In total, more than 4,000 roof tiles were cast in 50 different colours. The transparent fish box granulate was dyed, using a so-called masterbatch. This is an expensive colour addition, which we received as a sponsorship contribution from the company Lyondellbasell in Sweden.



# Traditional building

The framework, the entrance portal and parts of the roof were put in place the course of the year. We held two week-long workshops under the leadership of our mentor in traditional building techniques, Steinar Moldal, and construction manager Andreas Pagander.

Two large trees, an elm and an ash, from the Palace Park in Oslo and the American Embassy, respectively, were a special and spectacular contribution to the cathedral's entrance portal.

The workshops with Moldal became popular and were soon fully subscribed. The contribution to the project by the team of volunteers, by craftsmen and other interested parties has been hugely appreciated.





# Volunteer work and involvement

One of our most important performance goals is to involve as broadly as possible in both the construction and use of the cathedral. Since autumn 2018 our building sessions have therefore been open to volunteers, and we have received school classes and other groups throughout the year. Visitors have been able to try their hand at work they may not have done before, and they have achieved that feeling of mastery that comes from building something together with others, under expert supervision.

The regular volunteer group that gathers every Wednesday consists of about fifteen people of all ages, men and women. The group has become a jolly team of workers who turn out faithfully week after week, regardless of the weather. Without this volunteer effort, we would never have been able to keep up the pace of the project. Under the professional guidance of construction manager Andreas Pagander, the Wednesday sessions in 2020 have put in almost 2,000 volunteer hours.

In addition to the construction itself, other volunteers have assisted with numerous other tasks, such as processing and moulding plastic, preparing food and baking cakes, translating newsletters and driving errands. Performances by professional musicians have contributed to a good atmosphere on the construction site.

All through December, a large group of volunteers put in over 1000 work hours on this year's Christmas market, making products for sale.

Throughout the year, we have had learners of Norwegian working with us through a collaboration with FRIS (Fredrikstad International School). We are very pleased with this scheme and want to continue it.

In 2020, we have also collaborated with the Agency for Wellness and Mastery in Fredrikstad municipality on a weekly programme for the Joy of Mastery Group, which consists of adult men that are not otherwise eligible for language training.



*Volunteers have put in a total of nearly 3000 work hours on the Hope Cathedral in 2020.*





# Children and young people

Up until March, we had weekly school workshops with students at primary school level. From March to June we had to put this work on hold and postpone the workshops until the autumn. In the period from August to mid-November, we arranged weekly workshops.

Having a large outdoor area, we have been able to carry out workshops with the necessary social distancing. A total of about 500 children have participated in 2020. Pupils have learned about plastic in the ocean, the Sustainability Goals, and the importance of cooperation and voluntary work.

Thanks to funding from the Directorate for Integration and Diversity, it has been possible to carry out these workshops both in spring and autumn. We work with the Church's City Mission to help us with staffing.



## Cooperation with high school - «school in the world»

In August, we began collaborating with the newly established Innovation and Sustainability study programme at Frederik II Upper Secondary School. The students followed the project over time, participating in volunteer work both at Isegran and at Biobe, where we produced roof tiles for the cathedral.

On the basis of this collaboration, the students put on the exhibition "Hope in Plastic". We at the Hope Cathedral find it exciting that the project has relevance also for teaching at upper secondary level.

The collaboration between the Hope Cathedral and Frederik II has been followed by researchers at ILU (Institute for teacher training) as part of the project "School in the world" which looks at how teaching can be moved out of the classroom through collaboration with external partners, in this case, the Hope Cathedral.





# Interfaith cooperation

Our project is interfaith and it is our goal that all religions should experience the Hope Cathedral as a common holy place for hope and the ocean, and that we in collaboration are able to put the spotlight on how important it is to take care of nature and creation.

During the project, we have established good collaboration with key individuals from different religions and networks, such as Dialogforum Østfold and Interreligious Climate Network.

## Prayer during the pandemic

In May, we invited representatives from different religions to come and talk about prayer. We asked to address the following questions:

1. What prayer/meditation means, both in general and perhaps especially in this time we are in.
2. How to perform prayer/meditation.
3. Elaborate on how the themes of environment/climate/nature conservation/protection of creation are expressed in the individual religions.

Everyone we asked said yes. There were some exciting meetings at the cathedral. We gained both knowledge and understanding. In addition to filming the prayer session, we built stronger bonds of cooperation on an individual level. They got a chance to see how far we had got with the building, and there was time for coffee, food and good conversations in the spring sun.



## Resource materials for Religious Education

This spring, the Hope Cathedral initiated a collaborative project with Church Pedagogical Centre, Borg Diocese and Dialogforum Østfold with the aim of charting the need for interfaith materials for teaching Religion in schools. The project currently has the working title «Lived religion, nature and prayer». The aim is to have the material ready for trials in schools in the autumn of 2021.



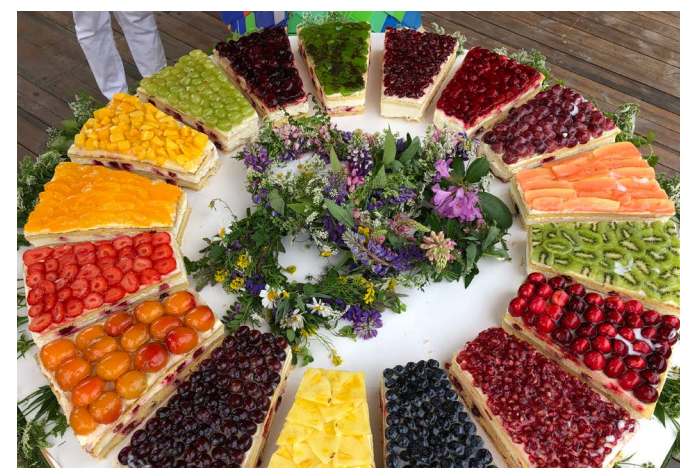
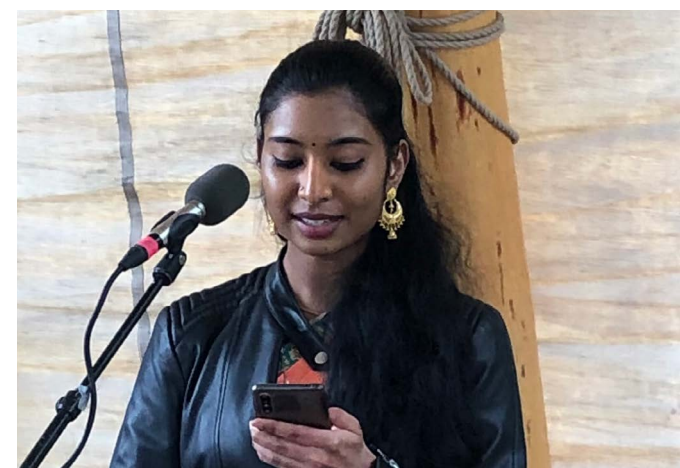


# World Environment Day

## Time for Nature

Under the title "Time for nature", which was the UN slogan for International World Environment Day, the various religions were invited to share their thoughts on the importance of nature and the environment. Our two ambassadors, Helene Bøksle and Solfrid Molland, contributed with beautiful musical performances. Our group of volunteers did a wonderful job of decorating the cathedral so that it shone in floral splendour.

The local company FASVO rose to the challenge and made a fantastic cake, consisting of seventeen small cakes put together in a ring, one meter in diameter - a tribute to the sustainability goals! NRK news broadcast the event live, and it also was streamed to over 30,000 listeners!





# Creation Day

On Sunday 7 June, the parish of Kråkerøy arranged Creation Day with a service at the Hope Cathedral. There were sermons from Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit and parish priest Maria Vassli Gjære. The service was streamed nationally and recordings can be viewed [HERE](#).



Hanne Holm and Sigmund Gundersen Djupang contributed with beautiful singing during the service.



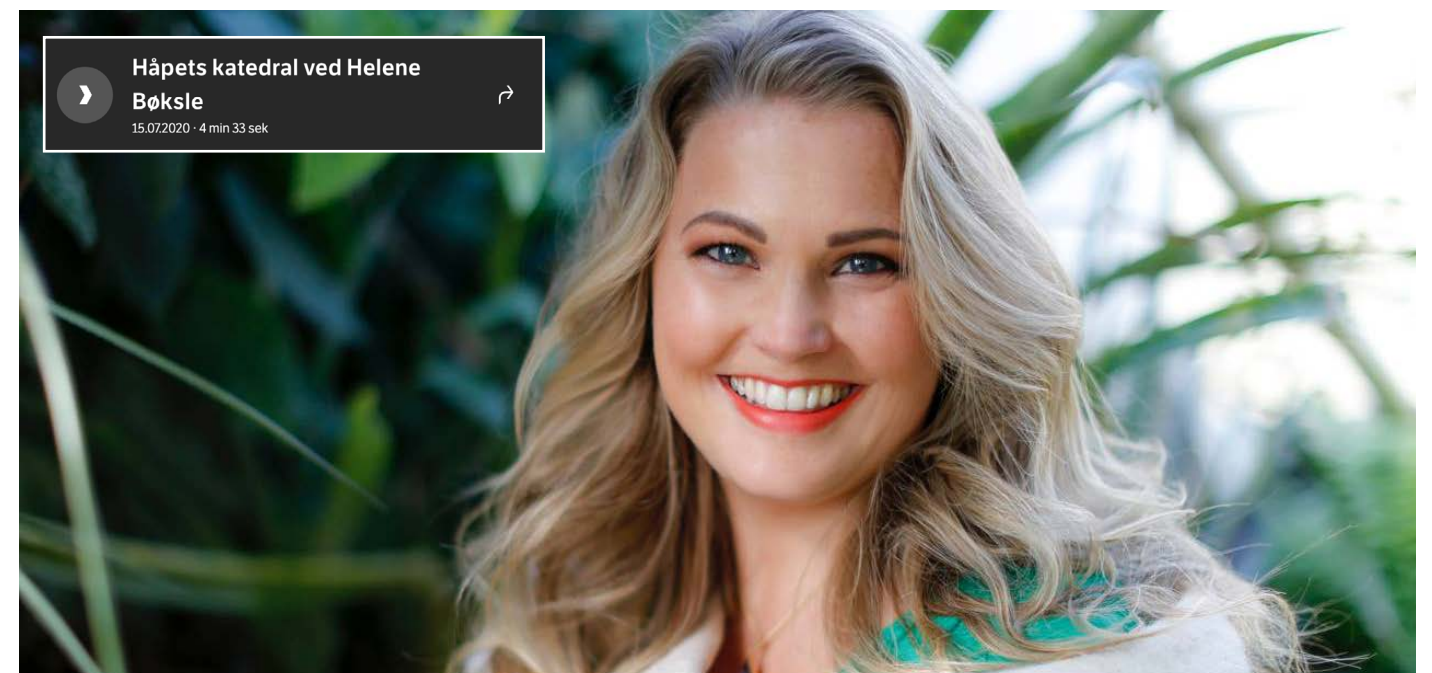
# Prayers for hope and the ocean

Since the autumn of 2019, the Hope Cathedral has invited to prayer on the last Sunday of the month between 17.00 - 17.30. The prayers are open, simple and inclusive and give room for reflection and hope. Svein Helge Rødahl has helped us with planning and implementation. A number of musicians, priests and participants have contributed - giving us hope.



## The Hope Cathedral on Radio P1!

This summer Helene Bøksle was a guest on NRK P1's «summer devotional». On July 15, she spoke about the Hope Cathedral. You can hear the devotional [HERE](#).





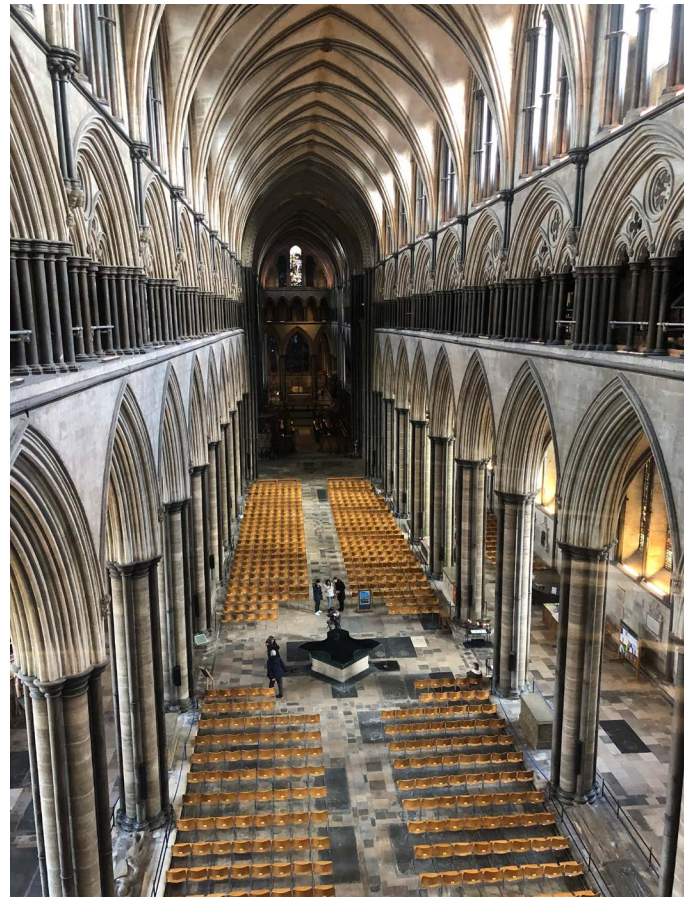
# The Hope Cathedral on tour

## Salisbury

In February, the Hope Cathedral visited Salisbury in England, and for two days we accompanied Bishop Nicholas Holtam in his work. Holtam is the Church of England's official spokesperson for environment and climate change. He took us to Winterslow Primary School where we heard how the school integrates nature, the environment and creation into the curriculum.

Another inspiring place we visited was Hilfield Friary which is a permaculture farm run as a collective inspired by Francis of Assisi. Here we had the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas with pastor Jonathan Herbert and Franciscan monk Clark Berge.

We were in Salisbury just as Lent began. It was incredibly exciting to see how the Church of England uses the 40 days of Lent to inspire people to live in a more environmentally friendly way.



## Nidaros

Just before the country went into lockdown we were in Trondheim and gave a lecture for the diocese of Nidaros.

During the spring, several meetings were also held with the secretariat for this year's TV fundraising campaign, «An ocean of possibilities».





# Hope Yoga

Morning yoga to the accompaniment of birdsong with Barbro Catharina Flodin was a resounding success in these corona times. In addition, Friskis & Sveltis moved their evening yoga classes the Hope Cathedral. A better setting for a yoga class would be hard to find!



# Students in Sociology

## A master's thesis on the Hope Cathedral

In May, master's students at the Department of Sociology and Social Geography submitted the report "Where the road is made by walking". It is an analysis of collaboration in a non-profit project organisation with sustainability as its purpose, and how leaders can facilitate this. The report was prepared by Okasana Ekjord, Anna Ovesdatter Søvik and Signe Bjotveit. The report gives important recommendations for further work in the establishment and operation phase. The report is available on our [website](#):





# This year's TV fundraising

## An OCEAN OF opportunities

We contributed to this year's TV fundraising campaign, both in advance and on the day itself. Tora Klevås from the resource group paddled out to receive the collecting box. This was filmed by NRK, but unfortunately it was not broadcast. We invited leaders from the various religions to meet the TV campaign at the cathedral to talk about plastic in the sea, and to inspire their networks to a joint effort.



digital  
JEG ER BØSSEBÆRER



# Economy

The Hope Cathedral has had a good financial year, thanks to support from sponsors and partners, sales of products and a large voluntary input (which has allowed us to keep costs down).

This year we have received support from the Sparebankstiftelsen DNB, Fredrikstad municipality, Viken county, the Betesda foundation, the Ministry of Inclusion and Diversity, the Ministry of Culture, Norsk Tipping (betting funds). In total, we have received more than NOK 3 million in pure financial support. See also our annual accounts.

The Fredrikstad company Biobe has been an important supporter, contributing with guidance and know-how and allowing us staff the production process with our own volunteers, so that we could keep production costs down. They have also opened the factory for the project and allowed us to use equipment and storage space.

Borg diocese has contributed with funding to Solveig Egeland's salary.



During Easter, when the country was in lockdown, we hung up these bee cathedrals, made by schoolchildren. We encouraged people to take one home and send us the money by phone. It turned out to be far more popular than we could have imagined. During 2020, we have sold over 1000 small cathedrals like these!



# Christmas market

Before Christmas our volunteers contributed their time and resources to planning a large Christmas market. Unfortunately it was canceled due to corona, but we did it digitally.

In addition, our volunteers organised a Christmas lottery, which brought in NOK 20,000. The Christmas market brought in NOK 35,000.



Before Christmas, we received a large order for 620 beehive cathedrals from Hvaler municipality. We arranged several weekends of volunteer work to make the deadline. This is from our beehive (cathedral) wrapping bee!



# Communication and visibility

Communication is vital for the Hope Cathedral. The board has adopted the following aims:

The company's purpose is to mobilise against the destruction of the ocean by building and operating the Hope Cathedral, an interfaith and sustainable art project in wood and plastic. The company is a limited company with a non-profit and socially beneficial purpose. The company does not have acquisition as its purpose. By sustainable is meant the following: Through its activities, the Hope Cathedral shall ensure both social, economic and environmental sustainability. The Hope Cathedral shall transform evil into good and show that hope is created when we work together.

In order to reach new target groups as we embark on the establishment phase, we have signed a contract with the Prospera Foundation for help in creating a communication strategy. This work, with a value of NOK 450,000, will be done by communication consultants in partnership with the Hope Cathedral. The work will start in the spring of 2021.

Our most important information channel is our newsletter, which is published every month in 2020 in both Norwegian and English. In addition, we have a website, a facebook page and instagram.

We have established a collaboration with film photographer Fredrik Nielsen who is following the project. Throughout the year, we have produced short films in collaboration with Fredrik Nielsen at Angle Film. These can be found on Youtube under Hope Cathedral.

You can also view them here:

[Construction](#)

[Easter](#)

[Celebrating World Environment Day](#)

[Christmas](#)

[Cavalcade of the year](#)

## Media

We have featured in the media several times during the year. We were on NRK's Norway Today report on the pellets disaster. Fredrikstad Blad has written about roof plastic. Demokraten/Dagsavisen has had two articles: a portrait interview with Solveig and an article about the joy of mastery and our interfaith commitment.

[NRK](#)



Dag Skottene has been a resource for the Hope Cathedral. His efforts in collecting plastic have been phenomenal. In a sponsored car from Toyota Sarpsborg he has travelled far and wide fetching fish boxes that beach cleaners have collected in depots. Over 1000 boxes!



# Christmas celebration

We ended the year by serving homemade Christmas porridge and handing out well-deserved gifts to our volunteers and to the group from Wellness and Mastery.

Everyone got a woolly hat with our own badge, HÅPSBYGGER (Hope Builder). Despite the pandemic and the cold; there is a lot of warmth in this community.





# We thank our sponsors



CHURCH OF NORWAY



FREDRIKSTAD KOMMUNE



Handelens Miljøfond



KIRKENS BYMISJON



FYRLYKTA



Griff.



KAVLI FONDET



HVALER KOMMUNE



Interreg Sverige-Norge  
Europpeiska regionala utvecklingsfonden EUROPEISKA UNIONEN



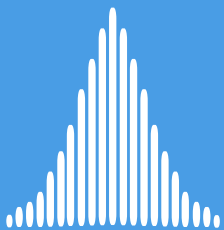
Vi fargerigger Fremtiden!

In June, the entire volunteer group was invited on a trip with the sailing ship Valentine. A wonderful day in the skerries with shrimps and good company!



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# HOPE CATHEDRAL

Together against plastic in the ocean  
[www.hopecathedral.no](http://www.hopecathedral.no)



CHURCH OF NORWAY