



Åshild

ÅSHILD SANDE

Åshild is originally from Norway and has been living in Aberdeen for six years. She works at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Regent Quay (part of the Sjømannskirken) which supports Norwegian sailors visiting Aberdeen/Scotland and also Norwegians living ashore.



The ones we visit [with the Sjømannskirken], it is because they are Norwegians or Scandinavians. And also sometimes we have gatherings here in the church and what brings us together is the culture, the common Norwegian culture, and especially the language; but also some from Sweden and Denmark... but mainly Norwegians.

I live together with my Norwegian husband, so we speak Norwegian and, when we meet people who don't know Norwegian, we speak English. So, we use both the languages every day... Norwegian is the only language that I feel like a heart language and can express my feelings through. But I can do a certain amount in English, but not as much as Norwegian.

The language is really important. So when we visit ships, some of the sailors, they can be the only Norwegian on the ship; or maybe there are two or three and the other crew are from the Philippines or Eastern Europe or other places. So when we come, they can speak Norwegian and language is really important, and also the common culture: we can talk about TV programmes in Norway and stuff from Norway, and it's really enjoyable to talk.



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