



**inside:** A spotlight on the contributions of volunteers across the Mission family

Please support us  
on **Sea Sunday**,  
9 July 2023



## SEAFARERS NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER

**You rely on seafarers but they need your help also!**

More than 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers. Without them the world economy would grind to a halt. This would place businesses and millions of jobs around the world in jeopardy. Day and night for 365 days per year, the Mission is on call providing help for seafarers in over 200 ports around the world.

For more information on our work visit  
[seasunday@missiontoseafarers.org](mailto:seasunday@missiontoseafarers.org)

## Welcome to the latest FAN!

As ever, I warmly welcome you to this edition of FAN. Following the massive upheavals of the last years, perhaps things have felt just a little quieter in recent months. At least for some, and for now.

Challenges remain, of course, especially for those at sea. Our seafarers often feel global disruption first, hardest, and longest – quite apart from all the normal difficulties of the seafarer's life.

Shore leave is one vital area where we are seeing improvements but, as I have seen on my travels, barriers remain and it is coming back only slowly and against a somewhat changed background. Having said that, it is right to remember, as one chaplain was powerfully reminding me this week, that there is still much about seafaring that can be joyful, exciting, and fulfilling.

As we approach Sea Sunday, we remember both the upsides and the downsides of a life at sea – and reaffirm our commitment to walk alongside seafarers on the good and the bad parts of their long journeys.

As for this copy of FAN, “make them laugh, make them cry, make them think” is a good mantra that I try to fulfil in my various communications. I hope you are made to do all three in response to FAN.

As things begin to “settle” just a bit, these are exciting times for us at the Mission, as we work out our mission and ministry in a somewhat changed context.



Of course, we continue in absolute commitment to the core purposes which have sustained us through so many years, while encouraging the creativity and new thinking which is essential if we are to remain properly relevant to seafarers and their families. You will find both reflected in these pages.

Enjoy! And, as ever, please do contact us with any comments. We love to hear from you.

**The Revd. Canon Andrew Wright**  
Secretary General

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Editors: Nina Edy & Abiola Oladunni  
Design: Yeomans Marketing  
FAN magazine  
+44(0)20 7248 5202  
[contactus@missiontoseafarers.org](mailto:contactus@missiontoseafarers.org)  
[www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

The Mission to Seafarers,  
First Floor, 6 Bath Place, Rivington Street,  
London EC2A 3JE

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# Introducing the Happy at Sea App

The Mission to Seafarers is on the cusp of launching a brand-new app, Happy at Sea, which will revolutionise the way seafarers access support and services across the world.

“It’s the world’s first digital seafarers centre in your pocket,” says Ben Bailey, the Mission’s Director of Programme, who has been working on the innovation for the best part of 18 months.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mission, like many organisations, relied on technology to reach seafarers. Centres across the world found innovative ways connect with crews, deliver shopping, and share information. While lockdowns may have ended, many of the support mechanisms we developed have continued.

“At the end of the pandemic we noticed that we still weren’t able to connect with seafarers in the ways that we have previously,” continues Ben. “Everything has to be much more structured, so we brought together centre managers and chaplains to look at the key things they are dealing with.”

Findings from those meetings, coupled with broader learnings about our use of tech through the pandemic, led to the birth of the Happy at Sea app.

## STREAMLINING SERVICES

The app is free to join, and once seafarers have registered, they have instant access

to the directory of ports. Through this, they can put in requests for ship visits or to see a chaplain. They can even order transport into town or request shopping to be delivered.

“For the Mission’s teams on the ground, it will help with their strategic planning. They’ll be able to see which ships want visits so they can prioritise those,” adds Ben. Smaller ports, in particular, will benefit from technology they’d never have the resources to develop themselves. “It gives us an opportunity to ensure that the entire global network can serve seafarers and provide the broadest range of services,” adds Ben.

“Digital seafarers centre in your pocket”

## CONSISTENT SUPPORT

Beyond that, the Mission’s welfare resources, and The Sea newspaper will be available to read and download. Seafarers will also be able to complete the Seafarers Happiness Index and check in to seafarers’ centres online.

As we continually evolve our support and services in line with seafarers’ changing needs, information shared through the app will provide the most detailed picture of seafarers’ needs to date.

“It will help with their strategic planning”

There is, understandably, a significant buzz around the imminent release of the app. Our team is already thinking of ways the technology can be further enhanced with tools such as a digital wallet or even a chat bot for more responsive communication.

“I’d love to see all 1.9 million seafarers with access to it, but we’re also looking at how we can go further to develop it for partner organisations and to share with fellow welfare charities,” concludes Ben.

“I’d love to see all 1.9 million seafarers with access to it”



To take a look at the app for yourself visit [app.missiontoseafarers.org](https://app.missiontoseafarers.org)

# Meet our COO, Tomi Toluhi

**Tomi Toluhi has been with the Mission for more than 16 years. She reflects on her progression from office temp to Chief Operating Officer in September 2022, and the challenges that lie ahead for the organisation.**

## HOW DID YOUR CAREER AT THE MISSION START?

I loved to draw as a child and I qualified as an architect, spending the first 10 years of my career practicing in Nigeria. I returned to the UK in 2007, and while I was looking to break into architecture in the UK, I began doing temporary administration roles and one of those was with the Mission. A few months later, I applied for the role of HR assistant.

## HOW HAS THE MISSION SUPPORTED YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

The Mission has been amazing for me career-wise. Part of the ethos of the Mission is investing in the training and development of our people. The first HR manager who took me on started me on HR courses and the next HR manager suggested I do a masters in HR management. Recently, the Secretary General encouraged me to pursue an MBA. The development has helped me progress through various roles.

## WHAT WAS THE FOCUS OF YOUR MBA?

I completed the MBA in 2021 with Bayes Business School. It was possibly the hardest thing I've ever done! I focused on how the shipping industry can meet the

social sustainability agenda set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. I feel that social sustainability has received less attention in the sustainability discourse than environmental sustainability.

“ My hope is that we continue to be right at the cutting edge”

## EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT THE MISSION' ESG (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE) AGENDA?

ESG is at the heart of our 2022-2026 Global Strategy. We are looking specifically at areas where we are uniquely positioned to make a difference. We are a leading advocate for seafarers, so we've always excelled on the 'S' side of things. Now we want to demonstrate what we're doing to protect the environment and also, in terms of our governance, retaining the highest standards of ethical conduct and professionalism in the workplace.

“ We are a leading advocate for seafarers”

## WHAT DEVELOPMENTS ARE IN PLACE TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY?

In 2021, we set up an environmental action group with people from different parts of the Mission, to look at how we can contribute to a better future for our world environmentally. When we started looking at ESG, we found that we were already doing a lot. We want to bring that information together in one place so we



can see the progress we're making. To do that, we are launching our MTS eco-positive challenge, to measure, reduce and offset our carbon emissions as an organisation.

“ We're working in a rapidly changing world”

## HOW DOES THE MISSION SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY?

The maritime industry is male dominated, but the Mission does have better female representation. Our UK staff are almost 50/50 in gender representation. When you look at our senior management team, three of our five team members are female and, we also have two female Regional Directors. I would like to see more female chaplains and ship visitors across the world – they are tremendously

effective in their roles. The Mission recently published a report “Beyond the 2%” looking at the unique challenges that women seafarers face and how the industry can respond.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MISSION?

The Mission is a fascinating charity with such a deep and rich history and we're working in a rapidly changing world where the needs of seafarers are evolving daily. I think we've done a pretty good job in the past of evolving what we do, and my hope is that we continue to be right at the cutting edge of developments in the shipping industry while holding true to our Christian ethos and values.

“ ESG is at the heart of our 2022-2026 Global Strategy”

# It All Started with **Knitting**

We love the varied and unique stories of those who volunteer with the Mission. The remarkable individuals who give their time to support seafarers are heroes in their own right.

For Christine Edwards, it all started with knitting! “I cribbed the Mission’s hat pattern before knitting hats for seafarers,” confesses Christine, who volunteers in Groveport with her husband Tim.

That innocuous pastime was the gateway to a whole new world. As Christine explains, “I went to a thanksgiving service for knitters where Canon Andrew spoke about abandonment. It was overwhelming and I was in awe of these seafarers.”

## RESPONDING TO INJUSTICE

Christine’s late brother was a marine engineer, but Canon Andrew’s talk showed a side of the industry she knew nothing about. A sense of injustice burned in Christine who began following the plight of abandoned crews on social media. So, when the Mission contacted her church regarding the opening of their new seafarers’ cabin in Groveport, she was there.

Groveport is a smaller port in the Humber region, but it still welcomes two or three vessels each week. While it’s barely three miles from Scunthorpe there is no transport link, so the cabin, and the work of Christine and Tim, are vital.



CHRISTINE EDWARDS (L), REVD TIM LINKENS (CENTRE) AND TIM EDWARDS (R)

The couple make the 15-mile journey from their home to the cabin every few days to replenish refreshments, check the Wi-Fi, and tidy up. They’re currently developing the outdoor space ready for the summer, too.

## PART OF THE BIGGER PICTURE

“When we get messages from seafarers telling us how grateful they are and how homely it is, it makes it all worth it,” says Christine.

Revd Tim Linkens, our chaplain to the Humber and Trent ports, ensures the couple are well connected with other volunteers in the region and the wider work of the Mission. “When you’re cleaning cupboards and wiping tables, it’s good to be reminded of the bigger picture that you’re part of,” smiles Christine.

IF YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS A WEEK OR MONTH YOU COULD GIVE TO SUPPORT SEAFARERS, WE’D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. PLEASE EMAIL US AT: [INFO@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG](mailto:INFO@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG) OR PHONE US ON +44 (0)20 7248 5202.



## Volunteering Gives Fresh Perspective

Volunteering with The Mission to Seafarers has added a new dimension to the next stage of Guy Campbell’s career in the shipping industry.

Late last year, after more than 32 years as a broker, then chartering and trading, with the likes of Swire Bulk and Koch Carbon and serving a term as Chairman of The Baltic Exchange, Guy is now focused on his own arbitration practice.

An encounter with Jan Webber, the Mission’s Director of Development, saw his plans incorporate an added dimension. Jan introduced Guy to Ruth Campbell, our chaplain in Tilbury. Within a few months, he was in a high-vis jacket and hard hat drinking coffee with seafarers on his first ship visit.

## FRESH PERSPECTIVE

As an independent trustee and Chair of the Sustainable Shipping Initiative, crew welfare had always been of interest to Guy. But volunteering for the Mission has given him a fresh perspective.

“I hadn’t appreciated the enormity of the work of The Mission to Seafarers and its importance to those on board,” he

muses. A couple of days a month, you’ll find Guy at London Gateway sharing information about the Mission’s services, providing SIM cards and simply chatting to the crews.

“I’m not a seafarer, however, I’ve been in the industry and can relate to the anxiety that many face,” he explains. “It’s a chance to give back to the industry that has served me so well.”

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS

It’s an experience he hopes that other retired shipping executives will consider. “Shipping is a vocation. I see so many retired colleagues posting pictures of ships. Selfishly, this is a chance to get your ship fix!”

Guy is one of just three volunteers working with Ruth in London. Their aim is to visit every single ship that comes into port at least once, but it’s a tall order for such a small team.

With training provided and the flexibility to work as and when you want, volunteering as a ship visitor is an attractive proposition for anyone who loves this industry.



REVD. JUNE (CENTRE RIGHT) WITH SEAFARERS, ANTWERP



EMILY DUDEK (CENTRE), SHIP VISITOR WITH SEAFARERS IN SEATTLE, USAW



REVD . FRANKLIN ISAAC (RIGHT) WITH SEAFARERS , BAHRAIN

# Port Round Up

Our port centres have been buzzing with activity in the past few months. From distributing SIM cards to supporting crews in distress, no two days are ever the same for our teams.

## ANTWERP, BELGIUM

At the end of last year, our chaplain in Antwerp, Revd. June, received an urgent call from a vessel in Zeebrugge Port, 84km away. A stowaway had been crushed to death onboard in a terrible accident. Revd. June travelled immediately to support the crew offering practical support and prayers for them and the deceased. The shipping company were deeply grateful for his swift and empathetic response.

## SEATTLE, USA

Sweatshirts, SIM cards and board games have been delivered to crews in Seattle! A large donation of sweatshirts from Rush Apparel, a local screen-printing company, have proved popular with seafarers caught off guard by the Canadian climate. The team have also been speaking with students at Seattle University about seafarers' welfare and hosting them on ship visits. "We look forward to continuing to partner with

Seattle University, and we hope to be able to introduce more people to the ship visiting work we do in future months," reports ship visitor Emily Dudek.

## WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA

New laws regarding SIM cards are making it extremely difficult for seafarers to access the vital communication method. Our team are working hard to find alternative ways to help seafarers communicate with loved ones. Meanwhile, the team continue to support the crew of two vessels which are in "protective custody". "They are being well looked after physically but

mentally they are very down," reports centre manager, Gail Wearne.

## BAHRAIN, THE MIDDLE EAST

In January alone, our chaplain Revd Franklin Isaac visited 152 seafarers and continued to distribute Christmas gifts well into the New Year. As Revd Franklin explains, "Seafarers were delighted to receive the gift packages as they comprised toiletries, cosmetics and chocolates." Distribution was slightly hampered by the breakdown of the Mission's vehicle, but a replacement is on the way, so business can resume as usual!





## How you can support us

There are many ways in which you can support our work with seafarers around the world.

### Find out more about getting involved

Please tick the box below and fill out the contact details panel overleaf to find out more about:

- Fundraising
- Remembering The Mission in your Will
- Volunteering
- Involving your company
- Giving in memory of a friend or loved one

### We will send you regular updates about the work, needs and impact of The Mission to Seafarers.

- Please tick if you would like to stop receiving communication from us by post
- Please tick if you would like to stop receiving communication from us by telephone
- Please tick if you would like to receive email communications from us

Please detach this form and send it in the Freepost Envelope Provided.

You do not need to write any other details on the envelope.



# EPS Fundraiser Global Impact

Eastern Pacific Shipping's epic fundraiser is supporting innovation in the Mission across the globe.

Last year, Eastern Pacific Shipping (EPS) raised an incredible S\$1.5million Singapore Dollars in honour of what would have been founder Sammy Ofer's 100th Birthday. That money is now being put to good use across the world.



### DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

A significant proportion of funds will support existing costs in Singapore and the development of a new site in Tuas, which will become a key welfare hub. It will also cover the costs of our Thailand operation and our Family Support Network in Manila for the next two years. In addition, the team in Myanmar will be able to develop much-needed training programmes for seafarers' wives.



### NEW VEHICLES

Our port vehicles give crews access to the luxury of normal life. Funding will support the running costs of vehicles in Kobe, Yokohama and Tokyo in Japan. In Port Elizabeth and Richards Bay in South Africa, we've bought new vehicles and in Rotterdam we now have an electric minibus. The minibus will help us reach more seafarers in Europe's largest port.



### GLOBAL EXPANSION

Our presence in the Middle East will get a vital boost as we employ an Arab World Coordinator in Aqaba to oversee our all-Muslim ship visiting team. Alongside this, we'll be establishing a new operation in the port of Beirut, which was the site of a catastrophic cargo ship explosion in 2020.



### CORE FUNDING

We'll be recruiting an additional ship visitor in each of our eight regions to offer mental health first aid along with emotional and, when requested, spiritual support for crews. In Latin America, the newest of our eight regions, funds will also support our Regional Director as they oversee expansion.



### SPECIAL FUNDS

In shipping we're always preparing for the unexpected. EPS funds give us the flexibility to respond to urgent needs as and when they arise. This includes those of Ukrainian seafarers who face added hardship and uncertainty and the provision of Christmas gifts.

"EPS HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO REACH THE SEAFARERS WE LOVE SO MUCH. THANK YOU!" MARK CLASSEN, CHAPLAIN IN RICHARD'S BAY, SOUTH AFRICA.

# From Desk to Deck

Back in March, our colleagues Abiola Oladunni (Digital Communications Officer) and Samuel Martin (Senior Database Officer) swapped their desk jobs at the Mission's headquarters for hard hats and steel-toe-capped boots to visit the Mission's work in Southampton. Abiola takes up the story.



ABIOLA OLADUNNI WITH A TURKISH SEAFARER ON A BULK VESSEL, SOUTHAMPTON

We were welcomed by Revd. James Mosher, a warm-hearted Canadian whose knack for easy conversation allayed our concerns. Revd. James has been chaplain in Southampton since 2022 and wasted no time in getting us through security and on to our first ship.

As the rain swirled and waves crashed violently against the side of the Turkish Bulk vessel, we got a taste of what seafarers cope with every day. The crew of four, from Ukraine and Turkey, were waiting anxiously for the weather to abate before they could unload their cargo of fertiliser.

As we drank Turkish coffee on the bridge, it wasn't long before they were chatting openly about their concerns. As war rages on in Ukraine and with a deadly earthquake hitting Turkey just weeks before, the seafarers shared their feelings of guilt and frustration.

With no internet connection, seafarers can only contact family when they are in port. It was a sobering reminder of the sacrifices they make.

### TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

The second ship we visited was the size of a small skyscraper. Onboard it was a hive of activity with the largely Filipino

crew working against the clock. At Southampton we host a seafarers' centre with fellow welfare agency Stella Maris, but as turnaround times are squeezed, few seafarers get to come ashore.

It makes the ship visits even more important. I was impressed with how quickly Revd. James engaged the crew. He shared cakes and newspapers while social media channels and contact numbers were punched into phones enthusiastically as he explained the support and services we offer.

Perhaps what struck me most was the genuine pleasure in the faces of the seafarers as they welcomed us on board. What I saw were courageous crews who took immense pride in their work and were delighted that others showed care.

We spent barely a few hours in the port, but the short visit provided both Sam and I with fresh admiration for seafarers and motivation to inspire us in our work to support them behind the scenes.

# Seafarers Happiness Index

The latest survey reveals frustrations faced by seafarers, highlighting the need for industry-wide action to improve welfare in shipping.

The Seafarers Happiness Index asks seafarers questions that provide insights into the challenges and opportunities they face. The latest report shows the average happiness level of seafarers, which is now 7.1 out of 10, is lower than the levels recorded in Q2, Q3, and Q4 of 2022.

The latest data shows a decline in satisfaction in all areas, with the exception of Wi-Fi connectivity. Even then, there were concerns about data allowances, internet speed, and connectivity limitations.

## RECURRING CONCERNS

The issue of shore leave and sign off procedures were, once more, key concerns. Seafarers also reported growing frustration with owners who require them to sign on for longer periods at sea.

As Thom Herbert, Idwal Senior Marine Surveyor and Crew Welfare Advocate, commented, "Moving out of the pandemic does not make lack of shore leave any less of an issue and we need to keep a spotlight on this to ensure it improves."

Extended periods on board have been made harder by the inadequate food provisions reported by so many, alongside the paperwork demands and ineffective leadership. These shortcomings are



adding to the social isolation and stress of life onboard.

## TRANSFORMING FEEDBACK INTO ACTION

During Singapore Maritime Week in April, The Mission to Seafarers, NorthStandard, Idwal, Inmarsat, and Seafarers Happiness Index founder Steven Jones came together to discuss the findings.

Their aim is to move the industry from merely complying with welfare legislation to prioritising the wellbeing of crews. The ultimate goal is to create real-world shipboard solutions that challenge the status quo and redefine how things are done.

As The Revd Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers, explains, "We are committed to working with the shipping industry to address the challenges facing seafarers and improve their welfare. The SHI is an important tool in this work, and we are grateful to all the seafarers who participated in the survey."

TO READ THE LATEST SEAFARERS HAPPINESS INDEX REPORT, VISIT [WWW.HAPPYATSEA.ORG](http://WWW.HAPPYATSEA.ORG)



## Expanding Support in Asia

The Mission is reaching more seafarers than ever with developments in our WeCare Financial Wellbeing programme and our Family Support Network.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Earlier this year, investment from fintech company Kadmos enabled us to adapt our established WeCare Financial Wellbeing course. The new course, which can be delivered in just three-hours, is now more accessible and focused on the needs of busy crews.

Through our partnership with United Marine Training Centre in the Philippines, 12 qualified trainers are now ready to deliver the course. Momentum is certainly gathering. All 14 of our Family Support Network Chapters are ready to receive training; industry partners have booked sessions, including shipping company Pacific Basin; and United Marine Training Centre are planning to make the course a standard component of their training.

"In the next year, we hope to train 200 crew in financial wellbeing, and through the Family Support Network more than 400 family members," explains Thomas O'Hare, The Mission's Programme Manager.

### EXPANSION IN INDIA

Family Support Network is due to launch in India this July! Following a successful base line study carried out at the end of

2022 and the delivery of several events over Christmas, 16 communities, all within two and a half hours of Tuticorin, are now ready to join.

These communities already have established seafarers' associations and are keen to benefit from the support and collaboration facilitated by the Mission. "The key is to bring the communities together to share experience and unite them under the Mission to Seafarers' banner," says Thomas.

"We're now in a position to map out the program for 2023. We're going to meet with the team and plan training in management, monitoring and evaluation." As the network develops, we're keen to support seafarers and their families with IT skills, English and Hindi classes, sewing workshops, and first aid courses, which were identified as key needs in the baseline study.

A key component of the network will be the establishment of a volunteer council. "In India, it's common to receive petitions from families in need of support. We want to develop a team who are well equipped to address referrals for specific needs," concludes Thomas.

THE FINANCIAL WELLBEING COURSE IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT THOMAS O'HARE ON [THOMAS.OHARE@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG](mailto:THOMAS.OHARE@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG)



TOH SOON KOK (CENTRE) AND WIFE SUSAN KOH (RIGHT) WITH COLLEAGUES FROM SWIRE BULK.

## Building Relationships

Here at the Mission, we're in the business of building relationships. Strengthening ties with everyone from seafarers to shipping companies is reaping benefits.

Toh Soon Kok, our chaplain in Singapore, has been working with the Mission for more than 20 years. When he's not directly supporting seafarers, he's developing connections with key industry players throughout the region. "I always invite them here to the seafarers centre and show them what we do and it's reaped benefits," he explains.

Soon Kok recalls one specific encounter which encapsulates the impact he and his team make. "We were doing our daily rounds distributing gift packs to seafarers. There was an LNG vessel in Jurong Port alongside us. "So, we went on to the gangway to distribute gifts and then Rashpal [Singh Bhatti - Vice President of BHP] heard our voices and came out to say hello!"

### CLEAR IMPACT

The incident clearly made an impression on the BHP executive who recalled the

“ I always invite them here to the seafarers centre”

“ We really are like different parts of one body”

encounter at last year's Seafarers' Awards in Singapore. "He made a remark during his speech and mentioned they were commissioning the LNG vessel and were surprised to see the Mission already ministering to crew!" says Soon Kok with a smile.

The high esteem with which the Mission is held means Soon Kok is often called upon as an intermediary between seafarers and shipping companies. Just recently, a shipping owner sought his help to resolve an issue whereby crew had contravened company policy by drinking alcohol on board. "The company wanted to see restorative not punitive justice, and so they asked me to counsel the crew members," he explains.

When contemplating how the different components of the shipping industry work together, Soon Kok concludes, "We really are like different parts of one body." This is evident right now as the Mission is Singapore works alongside shipping companies, fellow welfare organisations and local port authorities to celebrate the Day of the Seafarer.

## Thank you HFW

The unwavering support of our corporate partners enables the Mission to deliver work across the world. We are particularly grateful for our partners at HFW who have completed multiple fundraising events over the past few months.

**ROWATHON** On 17 January, the energy was contagious as HFW employees competed fiercely in a four-hour rowing extravaganza to support the Mission. Huge thanks to all the teams for their enthusiasm and engagement. The event was a powerful demonstration of HFW's solidarity and support with seafarers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our world moving.



**QUIZ NIGHT** On 23 February, more than 70 colleagues from the HFW London office participated in a charity quiz night. The evening was filled with entertainment, laughter, and competition. We couldn't be more grateful for HFW's generosity in match funding the £627 raised for The Mission, taking the total of donations raised to £1,254. Thank you HFW for continuing to champion the needs of seafarers.

**ART AUCTION** Fine art, photographs and even Lego models with a maritime theme went on auction in HFW's London shipping team earlier this year. The items, which had been collected by the department over the years, raised over £12,000 for the Mission. We are grateful to all those who contributed and hope they will enjoy their unique piece of nautical artwork.

**SHIP VISITING** Earlier this year Guy Mason, HFW's Corporate Responsibility Executive, joined Maurizio Borgatti, the Mission's Head of Corporate Partnerships, on a visit to the Tilbury Seafarers Centre. It was a great opportunity for Guy to see how HFW's generosity translates into action on the ground. Guy got a chance to step onboard and speak to the seafarers for himself. Reflecting on the trip he told us, "Thank you again for taking the time to show me around Tilbury Port. It was great to learn more about the Mission and see the fantastic work you do first-hand. It is clear the seafarers really need and value your support!"

CONTACT MAURIZIO.BORGATTI@MISSIONTOSEAFARERS.ORG TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH THE MISSION.

# Trustees Update

Behind the scenes, we have a board of committed trustees who volunteer their time to provide governance and support to our executive team. We'd love to introduce you to our newest board members and honour those who have served us over the years.

## Thank you to our outgoing trustees

### CAPTAIN NEALE RODRIGUES



Captain Rodrigues has been a board member since 2011. Over the years, he has served tirelessly as Vice Chair with specific responsibilities

for our remuneration committee. We are indebted to the wisdom he brought from an accomplished career with companies including Grincor Shipping.

### THE REVD CANON CHRIS BURKE



Chris joined The Mission to Seafarers Board in January 2011, but his relationship with our work extends back to the late 1980s when

he was a chaplain's assistant in Kobe, Japan. For more than a decade, Chris has been our Vice Chair while also serving as Archdeacon of Barking.

### DAVID MOORHOUSE CBE



David also joined the Board in January 2011 bringing experience from a career in shipping which spans more than two decades. David

received a CBE in 2009 for "services to shipping" and we are fortunate to have benefited from his expertise as Vice Chair.

## Welcome to our new trustees

### TIM SMITH



Tim joined the Board back in January 2022 bringing more than 35 years of experience in the container shipping industry, including 20 years in Asia, working with P&O Containers, P&O Nedlloyd and Maersk Line. Tim's in depth understanding of the industry will be a great asset to the Mission.

### THE VENERABLE MIKE POWER



Mike joined the Board in January 2023. He is also the Archdeacon of Southend, a position he was appointed to in June 2021. Before this, Mike served as Mission and Stewardship Advisor to the Bishop of Bradwell and was previously Vicar of St. Edward the Confessor in Romford.

### GARY CHAPMAN



Gary also became a trustee in January 2023. He is a chartered accountant and the current CEO and CFO of KNOT Offshore Partners. Prior to this,

he worked for almost 15 years at NYK and most recently, as Finance Director for NYK's Energy Shipping Transportation business in the EMEA region.

# Meet the Team

Over the past few months, we've expanded our team to keep pace with current growth and shape the future of the Mission. Come and meet the newest members of our family.

### REVD STEVE MORGAN Regional Director for Europe



Steve has spent time at sea in both Tall Ships and in the Royal Navy and is still an active examiner for the Royal Yachting Association and the Maritime Coastguard Agency. Prior to joining the Mission, he led a large church in Cornwall in a deprived area. He has also worked with those who are homeless and with refugees and is passionate about sharing Jesus with those on the margins.

### REVD PAUL TRATHEN Port Development Manager



Paul works with the Mission family across the world to undertake research that advances our welfare operations in ports where we do not have any, to date. He is also instrumental in building relationships between stakeholders across the industry to instigate exciting new work and manage developments, as they take shape.

### ELAINE CLOSE Head of HR and Administration



Elaine joined the Mission in January, after spending most of her career in the private sector. She is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the charity's people strategy and the effective administration of IHQ. She has a broad-ranging role and areas of focus include recruitment and selection, performance management, learning and development, and employee wellbeing.

### KEITH STOTT Honorary Chaplain to Felixstowe and Haven Ports



Keith was at sea as a deck officer from the mid-seventies to the mid-eighties. His relationship with the sea continues as a commercial skipper and Royal Yachting Association instructor. In 2006 he became a licensed lay minister, and this combination supports him well as Honorary Chaplain to Felixstowe and Haven Ports.

### DOROTHY OSARENREN Governance and Compliance Manager



Dorothy supports the global governance and compliance systems with the Mission. She works closely with our Chief Operating Officer to develop, implement and monitor best practice for the organisation. In addition, she also coordinates all administrative matters for the UK Board of Trustees and its committees and serves as Company Secretary.

# PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

As I write, Sea Sunday is looming again. Over the years, I have been gradually working through many of the sea stories that pepper the Bible. From the creation stories of Genesis 1 right through to the “and there will be no more sea” of Revelation 21, which I took as my theme last year. Noah’s flood, Paul’s shipwreck and, of course, the calming of the storm, have been amongst the many passages I have used.

“ **Let’s not fall asleep on the task”**

## ENTERING THE GARDEN

This year I am moving away from the sea to the garden of Gethsemane. There is an appropriateness in this given

my constant encouragements for our seafarer centres to develop gardens (indoor or outdoor), giving seafarers a fresh environment to relax in that’s very different from that of their ships.

The garden of Gethsemane, however, on that bleak night of Jesus’ arrest, was not a place of relaxation and peace. In the gathering darkness, it was a place of desolation and fear as Jesus prepared for what he knew must lie ahead.

He was, we are told, greatly troubled. “My soul is very sorrowful even to death”, he said to his disciples. He falls to the ground and prays that, if it were possible, “this hour might pass from him – yet not what I will but what you will”.

It is a deeply human moment that reminds us that Jesus shared with us all the fragilities and pain of humanity. But, and this is why I have chosen this passage, he asks his disciples to sit and watch with him.

“ **We are called to watch”**

## CALLED TO WATCH

When he turns back, though, he finds them asleep – not just once but three times. “Could you not watch one hour?”. Seafarers know what it is to keep watch, sometimes alone, through the dark hours of the night. Their watch, their wakefulness, is what makes possible their delivery to us of the “90% of everything” we use.

We all need people to watch with us, especially through the dark periods of our lives. Seafarers need to keep watch over each other, far out at sea away from their families and friends. They also need us to keep watch with them.

We believe in the God who sleeplessly keeps watch, in love, with us. In turn, we are called to watch, in love, over others. That is what we do at The Mission to Seafarers. And, our amazing staff and volunteers, all our supporters, and you as our readers, are part of that watchkeeping. Let’s not fall asleep on that task.

*OUTDOOR AREA AT OUR CENTRE IN DURBAN*



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**REGIONAL CONTACTS:**

**Africa** Regional Director: **Cedric Rautenbach** [cedric@mtssa.co.za](mailto:cedric@mtssa.co.za)

**Australia** Regional Director: **Sue Dight** [rd@mts.org.au](mailto:rd@mts.org.au)

**Canada** Regional Director: **Judith Alltree** [glutenfreepriest@gmail.com](mailto:glutenfreepriest@gmail.com)

**Europe** Regional Director: **Stephen Morgan** [steve.morgan@missiontoseafarers.org](mailto:steve.morgan@missiontoseafarers.org)

**East Asia** Regional Director: **Stephen Miller** [stephen.miller@mtsmail.org](mailto:stephen.miller@mtsmail.org)

**Middle East & South Asia** Regional Director: **John Attenborough** [john.attenborough@mtsmail.org](mailto:john.attenborough@mtsmail.org)

**Oceania** Regional Director: **Lance Lukin** [lance.lukin@mtsmail.org](mailto:lance.lukin@mtsmail.org)

**Latin America** Regional Director: **Ian Hutchinson Cervantes** [ian.hcervantes@missiontoseafarers.org](mailto:ian.hcervantes@missiontoseafarers.org)



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