About The Mission to Seafarers

Founded in 1856, the purpose of The Mission to Seafarers (MtS) is to share God’s love and grace with seafarers by caring for them in the many difficult and challenging circumstances they encounter. Our ministry is wide ranging with an emphasis on compassionate, practical action and an absolute commitment to working with those of all faiths and nationalities, always with the deepest sensitivity and respect. We currently have a presence in over 200 ports in 50 countries.

Our core values are based on Christian principles. They explain how we work and embody our ambition and commitment to focus on the way we care for seafarers and their families and those who work for our organisation. They also stress the importance of the widest possible partnership and collaboration to the benefit of seafarers and their families.

- **Pioneering**: Being open to God’s leading, we encourage innovative thinking and seek to be flexible and entrepreneurial in our ways of working.

- **Inclusive**: We are unconditionally committed to the support of all seafarers and their families without discrimination.

- **United**: We are one global, intergenerational, multicultural family united in vision and purpose, while respecting diversity of culture and context.

- **Collaborative**: We are co-operative in our approach to our work – in relation to individuals, the church, ecumenical partners, and organisations and institutions that work for the welfare of seafarers.

- **Accountable**: We are accountable to God as stewards of the resources entrusted to us, to each other in recognition of our mutual inter-dependence and to those charged with governance at station, regional and international level.

- **Caring**: In all our dealings we strive to behave with compassion, to act with integrity and to treat everyone with respect.

The Mission to Seafarers provides emergency assistance, practical support and a friendly welcome in ports all over the world. Operating under the trusted sign of the “Flying Angel”, the Mission touches the lives of seafarers in numerous ways, responding to their needs and connecting them with the local community, including;

- Advocacy, advice and counselling
- Hospital and prison visiting
- Communication, transport and centre hospitality
- Ship visiting
- Spiritual support

The Mission to Seafarers is proud to be one of the ten “Partners in Mission” of the Church of England and we work in close partnership with the Anglican Communion throughout the world.
Mission to Seafarers Antwerp - Background

Port Overview

Antwerp is a major international port, the gateway to Europe, ranking 14th in the 20 largest container ports in the world. The Port annually handles 235 million tonnes of international maritime freight making it the second largest port in Europe. It is split across both sides of the River Scheldt which flows to the North Sea and has around 14,500 sea-going vessels visiting the port each year.

The Port is 80 kilometres inland within Europe with vessels transporting a wide variety of cargo which they then discharge onto feeder vessels for a short sea crossing to destinations such as the UK. The MtS chaplain focuses on one section of the port (highlighted) which has up to 95 berths.
Welfare provision in Antwerp

Antwerp port welfare service provision is a collaborative effort, with both faith-based and secular providers. An effective Port Welfare Committee exists, and the City of Antwerp takes its responsibilities seriously, especially at Christmas when there is an enhanced bus service. All the major Christian maritime organisations work in Antwerp, as well as the Norwegian Seamen’s Church and the Church of Sweden. Such a joined-up approach to welfare is reflected in the work that needs to be done. In 2019, the chaplain’s average ship visits were 23 per month, with approximately 11,497 seafarers attending the centre.

Mission to Seafarers (MtS) - Antwerp

The Antwerp MtS Chaplaincy is a shared position split between the Mission to Seafarers and St Boniface Church. MtS provides the house and most expenses including health costs. St Boniface provides the stipend via the Belgian Government. The MtS Local Committee owns and maintains the MtS car, pays for IT, Internet and telephone costs as well as personal protective clothing (PPE).

The post is part time, three days a week which will mostly be spent ship visiting. The chaplain is also expected to provide support to St Boniface or another local church by preaching or participating in worship and being a full member of a church community.

The main fundraising occasions are the Christmas Bazaar, held at the Antwerp Harbour Hotel and the Summer Barbecue held at the St Boniface Vicarage garden.

In November 2020 the Antwerp Seafarers Centre moved to the Antwerp Harbour Hotel. There are offices for the Chaplains to work there, but the chaplain must supply their own portable IT.
St Boniface Antwerp

Whether you are just visiting the Antwerp area or live here, St Boniface Antwerp offers a welcoming spiritual home. We are an international congregation which believes that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God. All are welcome and accepted regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation. Please do take a look at the parish website here https://www.boniface.be/
Job Description

Port Chaplain Antwerp and Assistant Priest St Boniface Antwerp

Part Time 4 Days (per week)

(3 days in the Port of Antwerp and one day in the Parish of St Boniface)

Please note that the St Boniface parochial church council has passed a resolution under the House of Bishops’ Declaration and the Bishop of Richborough, has sacramental and pastoral care of the parish.

Department: Ministry

Responsible to: Regional Director, Europe and Chaplain, St Boniface

Other Key Working Relationships:
- Secretary General, St Boniface Antwerp, MtS Antwerp
- Committee, Diocese of Europe, other Port Chaplains,
- other International Headquarters staff.

Job Purpose:
- On behalf of the Mission to Seafarers to ensure an effective chaplaincy service in line with the Mission’s core purpose: the provision of “physical, moral and spiritual” support to seafarers and their families, of all different backgrounds and nationalities.
- To represent the Mission in and around the port of Antwerp, particularly with such bodies as the Port Authorities, Port Committees, and other maritime organisations in Antwerp.
- To support the worship, ministry and mission of St Boniface Antwerp

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

Pastoral Care
- Develop and implement a strategy and plan for an effective ship visiting program for the port of Antwerp.
- Visit the ships that call into the port, or make provision for their visitation, on a regular and sustained basis, building friendship, offering support, and responding to need as appropriate.
- Provide a swift and effective response to any relevant emergency involving an individual seafarer or group of seafarers, where appropriate in close liaison with port authorities or other relevant bodies.
- Visit and provide support to seafarers who are in hospital or prison.
- Officiate at funerals of seafarers when appropriate and minister to bereaved seafarers.
- Act as a catalyst for the resolution of seafarers’ justice and welfare issues through mediation, assisting in dispute resolution and liaising with appropriate bodies and agencies including port authorities, port health authorities, seafarers’ unions, local hospitals and port welfare committees.
- Support the provision of communications and transport facilities to seafarers as required.
• Liaise with other port chaplains and seafarer centres, both locally and worldwide to ensure ministry continuity, particularly in cases of ongoing pastoral care, and justice and welfare cases.
• Wherever possible, provide access to places of worship where this is requested by seafarers.

Church and Community
• To participate fully in parish life at St Boniface Antwerp and in the life of the Diocese in Europe. This will include assisting and leading worship when required and providing cover for the Chaplain (Vicar) of St Boniface.
• Provide “spiritual” support to seafarers as appropriate, including the provision of prayer and public worship, on board ship and in seafarer centres.
• Work with ecumenical maritime teams in the Port of Antwerp as appropriate.
• Represent MtS as required in local chaplaincy matters as appropriate.
• Participate in the St Boniface P.C.C, MtS Committee, Port Welfare Committee and meetings with the Port Authorities as required.
• Develop strong links with community groups and local community organisations and other churches and encourage their involvement in the life and work of the Mission.

Communication and Fundraising
• Consult and co-operate with the Regional Director in all matters of concern and importance to the Mission.
• Ensure e-mails are regularly monitored and respond as required.
• Maintain the necessary records of service delivery and produce regular reports, in line with requested guidelines, to be sent to International Headquarters, regularly and on schedule, detailing all ministry activity and highlighting any developments within the ports.
• In consultation with the Development team at International Headquarters, build and develop good relationships with local media in order to raise the profile of MtS work.
• Explore and pursue local fundraising opportunities with a particular focus on companies, churches and individuals.
• Where appropriate, provide fundraising leads on potential donors to the development department and support their fundraising work.
• Build and sustain strong co-operative relationships with port authorities, maritime agencies and other bodies as appropriate.
• Build and develop good working relationships with other ecumenical maritime agencies working in the port, local ministers, and representatives of other faiths.
• Support and work with other chaplains and members of the ministry team in the team’s on-going activity.

Leadership and Management
• Recruit, manage and motivate a team of volunteer ship visitors to support seafarers and assist the port chaplaincy. This includes arranging their training, induction and co-ordination, and actively recruiting volunteers from local universities and churches.
• Work with volunteers, other maritime organisations and port authorities to improve access to the port for ship visiting.
• Provide leadership and support for the seafarers’ centre in Antwerp and their staff and volunteers.

Miscellaneous
• Attend MtS conferences, seminars and courses as instructed by the Regional Director.
• Ensure information is kept secure and used in accordance with MtS policy on confidentiality and data protection regulation.
• Develop local projects and organisational partnerships in line with the Mission’s policy and with the prior approval of the Regional Director.
• Undertake other duties as may be requested by the Regional Director.

Person Specification:

Knowledge and Skills:
• This role combines work in the Port of Antwerp and work at St Boniface Antwerp. The Mission to Seafarers is an Anglican Mission. Ordained applicants (priests) should have served at least three years in Anglican orders. Candidates will be expected to assist in the work of St Boniface and should be able to work collaboratively with the local MtS committee, which is largely comprised of congregation members from St Boniface, Antwerp.
• A committed ecumenist, able to work with all traditions of the church and to lead occasional services for seafarers, provide pastoral care and teach and preach when required.
• An effective communicator with well-developed listening skills and the ability to demonstrate sound judgement and sensitivity.
• Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to establish rapport and develop relationships quickly.
• Full, clean driving licence.
• Ability to manage a range of different projects and initiatives, and to work with minimal day to day supervision but as part of a regional team.
• Able to recruit and manage volunteers and interns especially university students.
• Able to lead local fundraising activities and make grant applications where necessary.
• Ability to speak Dutch or the willingness to learn. The candidate will be expected to take classes in Dutch if the language is not spoken. This is compulsory and a condition of the Belgian Govt. stipend which funds the position.
• Ability to use a computer, laptop and iPad and various software programmes such as Word and the willingness to learn how to use in-house IT programmes.

Personal Qualities:
• Empathy, vision and the determination to work to propagate the purpose of The Mission to Seafarers.
• A highly motivated self-starter, responsible, pioneering, and able to work under own initiative and unsupervised.
• Collaborative and inclusive, prepared to work as part of an ecumenical team and with people from all walks of life.
• Culturally aware with the ability to relate easily to people from many different countries.
• Flexible in approach with the ability to adapt quickly and function well in unfamiliar environments.
• Resilience and an ability to remain calm and deliberate in emergency situations.

Special working conditions:
• Visiting ships is an essential part of this role. You will be required to climb gangways with as many as 80, 60-degree steps leading to the deck on board ships and then perhaps a further three floors to get to the bridge. It is a requirement that chaplains ship visit, and you may visit as many as six ships per day.

General Requirements:
• An offer of employment is subject to a satisfactory medical, references, enhanced DBS check or similar and the successful licensing/approval by the local bishop.
• The offer of employment will also be subject to visa requirements and work permits. Arranging this may take up to four months.
• All employees are required to be aware of their responsibilities towards Health and Safety and to adhere to the Health and Safety Policy.
• This job description does not encompass the complete duties and should be treated as a guide to the duties that the post holder is expected to perform.
• As a term of employment, the post holder can be required to undertake such duties as are commensurate with his or her position.
• The job description may be amended to meet changing requirements at any time after discussion with the post holder.

Terms of Appointment

Location
The role is located in the Port of Antwerp and Parish of St Boniface.

Working Hours
The working hours for the MtS role will be 24 hours per week worked over 3 days.

Remuneration
The salary for the MtS role is €22,000.

Annual Leave
The full-time annual leave allowance for the MtS role is 25 days plus Bank and public holidays. The part-time annual leave allowance for this MtS role will be pro-rata.

Pension
The post holder will be eligible for enrolment into a pension scheme.
How to Apply

To apply for this position, please complete the application form and return to Julie Lewars at jobs@missiontoseafarers.org.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the role or the process further, please email Julie Lewars at jobs@missiontoseafarers.org to arrange a telephone discussion.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 9th July 2021. All applications will be acknowledged and treated in the strictest of confidence.

The Recruitment Process

Closing Date: 12 noon on 9th July 2021

Shortlisting: 12 – 14th July 2021

First Interviews: 28th July [via Zoom]

Second Interviews: In person August/ September (TBC)