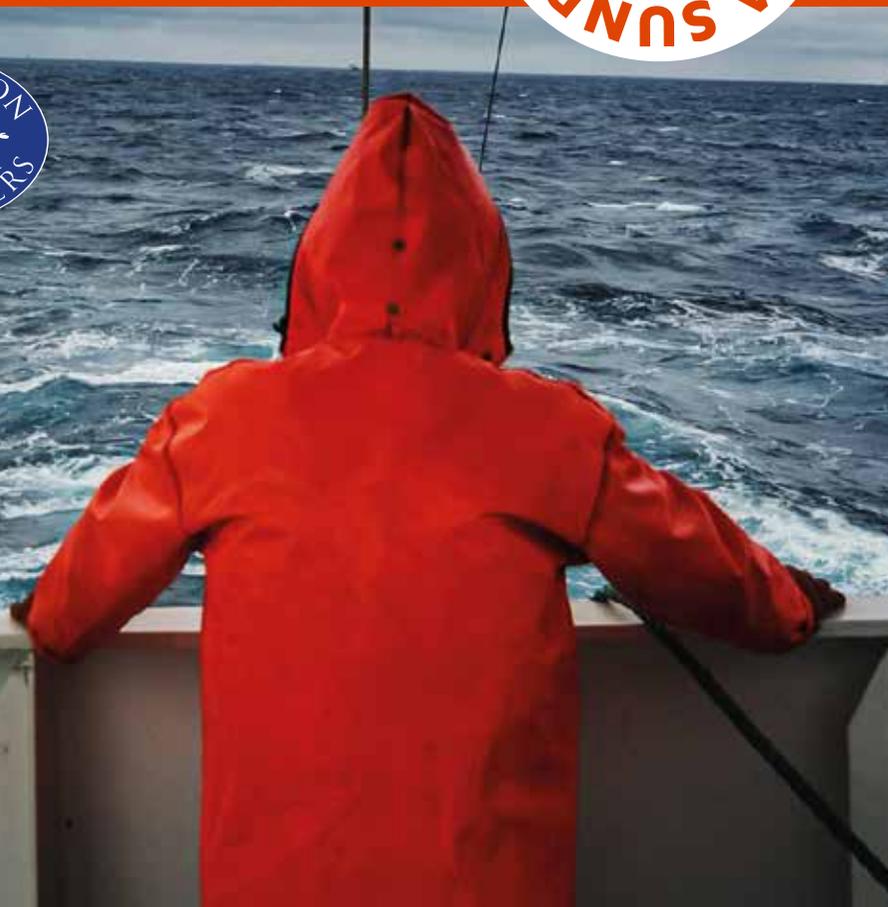




inside: How our UAE team supported the abandoned crew of the MT IBA

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on **Sea Sunday**,
11 July 2021



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Dear friends

When I was a school chaplain, I had a headmaster who was fond of the following quote: "Any organisation that stands still goes backwards".

Overly simplistic mantras are not always helpful. However, I have found this one useful. In an ever-changing environment, The Mission to Seafarers must continuously ask questions of itself, adapt and develop.

We must be both rock and river. While remaining faithful to the core purposes that have driven us for 165 years, we must never cease to evolve and innovate. As you will read in this edition of FAN, this last year we have been particularly creative.

Most recently, we began a new chaplaincy in Egypt, based in Port Said, where we had a historical presence. We also anticipate imminently starting a new chaplaincy in Israel, in the port of Ashdod, with a chaplain appointed in a shared partnership with the Church Mission Society.

Many new ideas are emerging from the current strategy process. It is a period of exciting possibility. FAN is a vital means of keeping our friends and supporters in touch with all that we are doing and all that is emerging. I hope you will enjoy.

I cannot conclude without paying tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh, himself a seafarer. He took a close interest in our work and was our President from 1955 to 1958. We remember with thanks his part in our work.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General



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Home at Last

The Mission to Seafarers played a pivotal role in securing the repatriation of five seafarers who spent nearly four years abandoned on the MT Iba off the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

“A living hell” is how seafarers Nay Win from Myanmar; Riasat Ali from Pakistan; and Monchand Sheikh, Vinay Kumar and Nirmal Singh-Bora from India describe their ordeal. When our chaplain in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Revd Andy Bowerman, made contact with the men in 2019, they had already been without wages or support for more than a year. They were caught in an impossible situation. If they set foot onshore without the right documentation, they risked being detained and forfeiting their right to nearly £170,000 in unpaid wages. Onboard they faced a prison sentence with no end.

SLOW PROCESS

“In most cases of abandonment, it’s six months before a ship reaches out for help. We need to educate seafarers to report abandonment and not be so optimistic about the promises of ship owners,” explains Revd Bowerman.

The Gulf states remain a hotspot for abandoned ships, as they haven’t ratified the International Labour Convention which seeks to protect seafarers in such cases. And, as the only UAE welfare organisation working in the UAE,

“We need to educate seafarers to report abandonment”



A MEMBER OF THE CREW ABANDONED ON-BOARD THE MT IBA

Photo: Chris Whiteoak / The National

Revd Bowerman had his work cut out. While liaising with the shipping company, local authorities and the International Transport Federation, he was also supporting the men on a daily basis. Food, medication and fuel were all vital, as were the daily conversations. News that their children were missing out on education and medical care as bills went unpaid, alongside fears around COVID and political instability heightened their anxiety. “It was important that they were aware that they’d not been forgotten,” continues Revd Bowerman. “Over time, we’ve actually built up a friendship.”



Photo: Chris Whiteoak / The National

BREAKTHROUGH

A turning point came at the start of the year when the 5,000-tonne oil tanker ran aground. “The incident attracted international media attention, which the authorities couldn’t ignore,” continues Revd Bowerman.

With extra pressure, new owners agreed to pay 75-80% of wages owed. It was on the beach at Umm Al Quwain, the first time that the crew members had set foot on land in years, that a settlement was agreed.

“What followed was a tense few days while we waited for the cheque to be cleared,” explains Revd Bowerman. By acting as an intermediary, the Mission ensured the funds were safely transferred to the seafarers’ families back home.

Abandonment at a Record High

According to the International Maritime Organisation, 76 new cases of abandonment were recorded in 2020 involving 1,000 seafarers. Just 17 have been resolved.

“I’m hopeful for these men”

Then came the job of applying for entry visas, health insurance and repatriation flights. Considering the spread of COVID in India and the military coup in Myanmar, this was no mean feat.

However, at the time of printing, we are delighted to report that all five crew members had plane tickets home. Their ordeal in the UAE has come to an end and, thanks to you, our teams across the world can continue to support the men as they rebuild their lives.

“I have seen other seafarers who have been abandoned recover so I’m hopeful for these men,” concludes Revd Bowerman.

The Mission to Seafarers

Our Global Impact 2020




30,576
SOCIALLY DISTANT
SHIP VISITS,
ENCOUNTERING APPROXIMATELY
187,140
SEAFARERS

86,996
VISITS TO OUR
SEAFARERS' CENTRES

46,063
SEAFARERS
USED OUR
TRANSPORT
SERVICES 


212
interactions per
month on our
digital Chat to a
Chaplain service


1,426 justice and
welfare cases


144,612
items of PPE given out
to our teams globally


IN THE PHILIPPINES
2,876
seafarers received food
aid, transport and practical
support through our Covid-19
response programme


1,688
families helped
through our
emergency families
feeding programme
in Tuticorin

Seafarers International Relief Fund Launched

Many countries continue to see a concerning surge of COVID-19 cases, prompting the shipping industry and welfare charities to create an emergency fund to support seafarers in crisis.

The Mission has partnered with leading seafarer welfare charities and shipping industry players to launch an emergency relief fund to support seafarers and their families impacted by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic in India and other countries.

The crew change restrictions have been a major source of stress and anxiety for seafarers over the past year. While many were hopeful that the situation would ease, the escalation of COVID-19 cases in India to more than 400,000 per day has added increased concern. This has prompted some major ports to prohibit ship crew changes for seafarers with recent travel history to India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Seafarers International Relief Fund (SIRF), administered by The Seafarers' Charity, aims to raise US\$1 million to deliver urgent support to seafarers and their families in India who have been directly impacted.

UNITED EFFORT

Esben Poulsson, Chair of the International Chamber of Shipping and Vice President of The Mission to Seafarers, said, "I am calling on shipowners and all those engaged in the maritime sector to support this initiative and consider

increasing your contribution to seafarer charities at this time. When faced with significant challenges that maritime community always come together – this is what we do."

A number of major shipping organisations have already pledged their support to the fund, including Anglo-Eastern, Ardmore Shipping, Cargill, Hafnia, IRI (Marshall Islands Flag), MSC, Pacific Basin Shipping and VGroup.

DEDICATED SUPPORT

The Fund will be used to deliver aid through existing welfare programmes run by the partners in India. It is essential that aid reaches families quickly and that support remains in place over the challenging weeks and months ahead.

Although the immediate focus of the campaign is India, other countries also remain highly vulnerable to the pandemic, including those with large numbers of international seafarers. The goal of the SIRF is to stand ready to support seafarers and their families afflicted by the pandemic in other countries, should the need arise.



We are raising funds to support seafarers and their families devastated by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic in India and other countries. Please donate.

Find out how you can support: donate.theseafarerscharity.org/sirf

Serving Seafarers in Singapore

Toh Soon Kok has been serving seafarers in Singapore for more than two decades. During that time he has adapted to the changing needs of crews and the environment they work in.

Soon Kok started working as centre manager nearly 20 years ago at the drop-in centre in Jurong Port. Ten years later, he was licenced for the role of chaplain by the Bishop of Singapore and hasn't looked back. His work now covers both the PSA Singapore Terminals and the Port of Jurong.

During that time, he has seen dramatic changes. "With the advancement in technology, ships turn around quicker," explains Soon Kok. "I have totally switched to the digital platform for my daily communication with seafarers – unless there are emergencies."

His online support has accelerated in the past year. With shore leave cancelled amidst COVID, he's even become a personal shopper – collecting essential items and medication for crews. He's also relying more and more on the Mission's global network of chaplains to support seafarers who are seeking reassurance regarding issues like crew changes.

So, what keeps Soon Kok going? It's quite simply the seafarers themselves. A few

“ We continue to keep in touch”



SOON KOK (L) AND SOME OF THE SINGAPORE MTS TEAM IN FRONT OF A MINIBUS USED TO TRANSPORT SEAFARERS

“ I have totally switched to the digital platform”

years ago, Soon Kok ministered to two young Chinese seafarers who each had a leg amputated after an accident. His care made a big impact. "We continue to keep in touch even after their repatriation to China," he says.

Aside from his direct support for seafarers, Soon Kok has also been working in collaboration with the Maritime and Port Authorities, seafarers' unions and shipping companies to raise public awareness about the important role that seafarers play in society and the sacrifice they make.

SINGAPORE PORT FACTS

- Every 2-3 minutes a ship arrives in or leaves Singapore
- 1,000 vessels are in port at Singapore at any one time

* seanews.co.uk/features/the-busiest-ports-in-the-world-and-how-they-handle-operations-part-ii-singapore/

Serving Seafarers in Canada

The Revd Judith Alltree describes her recruitment into the Mission as a 'happy accident.' Nine years on, she is a key part of our global family, nurturing colleagues and seafarers alike.

Today, Revd Alltree is the Executive Director and Chaplain for the Ports of Oshawa and Toronto in Canada. Prior to her appointment, she had been a keen supporter of the Flying Angel Club, but a role within the organisation had never been on her radar.

When she was asked to step up as interim executive director, she agreed. But it was an encounter with the crew of an abandoned ship early in her ministry that really captured her heart.

It was 6am when Revd Alltree received an urgent call from a harbourmaster who was concerned about a ship at anchor in the middle of the Saint Lawrence River. Revd Alltree found herself in conversations with the Russian and Romanian crew who had been abandoned for months. She leapt into action, liaising with volunteers and the local Romanian church to provide practical support, hospitality and help to coordinate their repatriation.

"Their resilience after months at sea, their dignity and how gracious they were to me and others who came to help will always be one of my fondest memories,"

“ They inspire and humble me every day”

she recalls. Two years later, when the captain was back in Ontario he made a point of finding Revd Alltree for what she describes as, "a joyous reunion."

The gratitude, humility and the selflessness of seafarers has been more apparent than ever over the past 12 months and Revd Alltree has stepped up efforts to support them. As she so wisely says, "seafarers take nothing for granted; they work so hard and do it with joy and determination. They inspire and humble me every day."

“ Seafarers take nothing for granted”



REVD JUDITH ALLTREE

GROWTH IN CANADA

In the past nine years, Revd Alltree and her team have expanded their reach by amalgamating with the port of Hamilton; opening a third centre in Oshawa; and increasing staff numbers to serve Port Colborne and the Welland Canal Corridor.

Remembering **Father Brian Millson**

We give thanks for the life of Father Brian Millson, who served the Mission as a chaplain in Antwerp since 2012.

Father Brian Milson has died quite suddenly after a period of serious illness. He was due to retire in June, a retirement for which, in true Brian style, he had prepared with methodical care.



FATHER BRIAN (L) TAKES A PHOTO WITH A SEAFARER WHILE SHIP VISITING

Despite suffering problems with his legs, and using a stick, he was a tremendous ship visitor and immensely engaged with the seafarers he served. He took great trouble with effective communication, even learning Tagalog to facilitate his pastoral work.

He loved working alongside the ecumenical team in the port. His parallel contribution to ministry at St Boniface was also something he greatly valued.

Brian and I trained for ordination together in Cambridge and it was a great pleasure to find him on the team when I arrived in 2013. He brought a wealth of experience, especially from

“ ...he was inspiring, seemingly unafraid and full of faith and hope”

his long period as Chaplain in both Canadian and British armies.

During his illness, I found him inspiring, seemingly unafraid and full of faith and hope. He told me he had come to terms with death during his time with the troops in Afghanistan.

It was always a pleasure to visit his home, filled with that large collection of old radiograms and with a very tangible family warmth and love.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for his wife, Kit, and two daughters, Selina and Victoria. May he rest in the peace of which he was so confident, and which he shared so generously with others through his life and ministry.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
MtS Secretary General

Remembering **Eric Palin**

Eric Palin volunteered at our seafarers centre in North Tees and is remembered with fondness by his colleague, the centre manager, Aidan Webster.

Having spent many years as one himself, Eric knew intimately the pressure, danger and stress faced by seafarers putting him in the privileged position of having complete empathy with them. His passion was the sea and of service to others, for whom he had infinite patience. With Eric sitting alongside them, seafarers instinctively felt that the man beside them knew of their hardships and gave them much-needed solace. His words were surgical

in their precision and spoke into the hearts and minds of those he served. His worth was measured by the deep respect and love from those who knew him; seafarers, volunteers, staff, and family. His use of humour put people at ease very effectively and allowed him to minister to them effortlessly. He was a little man with a big heart and will be missed greatly but remembered dearly by many.



POSING WITH SEAFARERS FOR A PHOTO AS THEY VISIT THE CENTRE



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM GREENWICH

rmg.co.uk/exposure

Free entry

Exposure: Lives at Sea

Immerse yourself in the dramatic photography of six present-day seafarers.

Exhibition continues until Dec 2021

Part of Royal Museums Greenwich

Exhibition generously supported by John and Josephine Morrow.

Our Digital World

Digital communication has been vital to us all throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and our teams across the world are finding all sorts of ways to connect with seafarers and their families.

1 South Wales

A £500 grant from ITF to buy SIM card top-ups for seafarers who are struggling has been nothing short of wonderful. "Many seafarers have been moved to tears by the gift," reported our team in Wales. It's especially hard to have so little contact with home during these challenging times, so it's amazing what joy a little piece of plastic can bring.



PORT CHAPLAIN, REVD MARK LAWSON JONES WITH A SEAFARER

2 Scottish Ports

You never know where a conversation on social media is going to lead! A chat on Facebook Messenger led the team in Scotland to help a Ghanaian seafarer organise a stand-up comedy gig on Zoom! Who knows what could be next!

3 Panama

There was happy chaos in Panama, when our ship visiting team arrived on board with a new batch of SIM cards. One chief officer was particularly delighted as he was able to telephone his daughter on her fifth birthday. What a wonderful moment as the crew spontaneously began to sing "Happy Birthday."

4 Richards Bay, SA

The team in Richards Bay were able to loan their Mi-Fi unit to a vessel on its way to anchorage. "It had only been tested in port and I wasn't sure if it'll work outside," explained Mark Classen, our chaplain in Richards Bay. Four days later, the captain reported that the signal had been perfect, much to the delight of the crew. "We blessed them with some care packs and Christian resources too and needless to say, they were all overjoyed and extremely grateful," continues Mark.



5 Lyttelton, New Zealand

While more ships have Wi-Fi, often seafarers have to pay for it. So, there was great joy from a Filipino crew who were able to make contact with their loved ones using the free Wi-Fi at the port of Lyttelton in New Zealand. "They really are very grateful for the support from the Mission," reported The Revd John McLister, our chaplain there.

6 Auckland, New Zealand

Seafarers are using e-mails, text messages, mobile phones and other social media platforms like Facebook or WhatsApp, with greater frequency to contact our chaplains before their ships arrive in Port. With local lockdowns in place and restrictions on shore leave, this provides an important way to share requests for groceries, electronic goods and a host of other items, including the ever-popular SIM cards.

7 Brazil

Seafarers are experiencing a whole mix of emotions at this time and our team in Brazil are continuing to support them via social media. It provides an immediate and effective way to check in with seafarers during the current restrictions. However, when face-to-face visits are allowed, our team will be ready and raring to go.



Make a donation

If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the form below, and complete your contact details at the bottom of the page.

Please accept my gift of: £10 £25 £50

or £ _____ (your chosen amount)

My cheque is enclosed (payable to The Mission to Seafarers)

Please debit my credit/debit card: Visa/MasterCard/Maestro
(delete as applicable)

Card number:

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Start date: □ □ - □ □ Expiry date: □ □ - □ □

Issue no. for Maestro: □ □ Security no. □ □ □ □

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Make your gift worth 25% more

giftaid it

Please let us know if you are a UK taxpayer. The Gift Aid scheme means we can reclaim an extra 25% on your donations at no extra cost to you.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Date: / / Signed: _____

Contact details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Privacy Notice We promise to keep your data safe and secure and will never sell it to anyone. Please visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/privacy-notice to read about how we store, use and protect your information.



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.



Extending Mental Health Support

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters a second year, the mental stress on seafarers continues to grow. In response, the Mission has developed the WeCare Onboard Mental Health Champions programme to reach more men and women at sea.

You'll already be familiar with WeCare, our initiative to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for seafarers. In its first year, workshops reached more than 6,000 seafarers and their families. In April 2020, we adapted the course into an e-learning programme accessible onboard and onshore.

The course has been positively received across the globe – but the need to extend our reach has been highlighted throughout the pandemic. An industry-wide survey on maritime workers' wellbeing during COVID-19, led by Lloyd's Register, uncovered key insights.

WORRYING STATISTICS

The survey showed that 54% of seafarers felt they were not being actively helped to manage stress and fatigue during the pandemic. What's more, only 30% of ship staff had accessed professional support. Most

“ These great resources provide short, clear and fun content, which address mental health at sea”

still felt there was too much stigma surrounding mental health.

As Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General, said, “The intense isolation felt by seafarers during this pandemic is something which many have raised with our chaplains around the world. The challenge now is for the international community and industry to take steps to avoid a serious mental health crisis and potential safety incident. It is not over-stating the mark to suggest that lives depend on it.”

ON BOARD MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS

We needed to create resources that seafarers could engage with whenever and wherever they may need them. And so, our WeCare On Board Mental Health Champions webinars and podcasts were born. These great resources provide short, clear and fun content, which address mental health at sea from a practical perspective.

There are two editions, one aimed at officers and one aimed at crews. The goal is to ensure seafarers have knowledge and confidence to promote wellness at sea and build peer to peer networks on board.

“ It is not over-stating the mark to suggest that lives depend on it”

Webinar and Podcast Content

For officers, it will provide methods and tools to help them manage crew wellness with confidence, including:

- An introduction to mental health and wellbeing.
- Managing soft skills through a wellbeing lens.
- Management methods.
- Spotting the signs of poor mental health.
- Building positive environments and promoting 'on board mental health champions' e.g. On board WhatsApp group or acts of kindness.

For crew, it will provide tools to help them own their health and share their experiences with others, including:

- An introduction to mental health and wellbeing.
- Identifying, accepting, and owning your wellbeing.
- Addressing triggers and identifying your safe space.
- Enacting self-care plans, peer support groups, and coping strategies on board.
- Reaching out – It's OK to say I'm not OK.

Sustaining Crew Welfare Campaign

Last year our Flying Angel Campaign raised more than £680,000 to support seafarers' welfare in the midst of COVID-19. We now need to rally once more to meet fresh challenges.

The campaign enabled us to buy MiFi units, supply PPE, make our seafarers centres COVID safe, and invest in technology and resilience in ports.

It's vital that we maintain and adapt our services to respond to the changing needs of seafarers. To do this, we have set up three funds within our Sustaining Crew Welfare Campaign covering: Innovation, Justice and Welfare and Family Support.

A number of partners have already made sizeable donations to the campaign and we are looking for others to join us.

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

- Press release and social media coverage
- Website recognition through shared logos
- Impact report to share with staff and stakeholders
- Zoom updates with key Mission personnel
- Visible compliance for your sustainability/CSR goals

Find out how your company can support us deliver welfare services seafarers need, visit [missiontoseafarers.org/sustaining-crew-welfare-campaign](https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sustaining-crew-welfare-campaign)

Seafarers Happiness Index

The latest Seafarers Happiness Index report highlights progress with regards to internet access, but also concerns over working hours, crew changes and COVID vaccinations.

This first report of 2021 focussed on COVID-19 and highlighted three main themes: the consequences of a lack of recognition for seafarers as key workers; the onboard challenges of working hours and crew tension; and the benefits of shipowner investments in internet access and onboard facilities.

LACK OF PROGRESS

Over the past year, many crews have been forced to serve beyond formal contracts. Just as one nation opens and crew changeovers can begin again, there are spikes in infections, or new variants and the route home is denied.

Additionally, the issue of when and how seafarers will be vaccinated also came to the fore. With shore-based key workers prioritised in many countries, there is frustration and uncertainty among seafarers. "Without us, so many countries would struggle for food and fuel, how aren't we seen as key?" responded one seafarer.

ONBOARD CHALLENGES

Seafarers consistently spoke of the pressures to work excessive hours. There were also claims that rest hours are not being complied with and some reports of fraudulent record keeping. One seafarer commented, "We work 14 to 15 hours every day and they force us to sign a

monthly working slip which complies with working hours".

Tensions between mixed nationality crews further highlighted criticisms of manning models. It was reported that some nationalities are not allowed ashore or allowed crew changes, while others are, which further impacts crew wellbeing.

ONBOARD CONNECTIVITY

Encouragingly, there are some signs of progress with more seafarers able to get online and connect with loved ones back home. It seems that more shipping companies are working to provide crews with better Wi-Fi, food, gym and entertainment facilities on board. The results showed that such investments can make a massive difference to happiness at sea.

In 2021, the Index is sponsored by Wallem Group and the Standard Club. Captain Yves Vandeborn, Director of Loss Prevention at the Standard Club, said, "It is heartening to see the small improvement to seafarers' lives on board, but more can and should be done to take care of our seafarers who are ensuring that our shelves remain fully stocked."



Thanking our Trust Partners

We'd like to extend special thanks to all the Trusts who have given so generously to support our seafarers over the past year.

It's been a challenging time for the Mission, faced with uncertainty about the impact on our giving whilst at the same time facing increased demand for our services.

Many of our Trust partners, including the TK Foundation, The Seafarers' Charity, ITF Seafarers Trust and Trinity House, swiftly responded by developing their own COVID-19 contingency funds, which we have been fortunate to benefit from.

The TK Foundation has helped us to develop our WeCare programme into an e-learning format. While support from The Seafarers' Charity has enabled us to reach thousands more seafarers through our Chat to a Chaplain initiative. They have also been instrumental in helping our seafarers' centres meet the shortfall in revenue so they can continue to offer frontline support.

Our grateful thanks go to all our trust supporters.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

It is no exaggeration to say that legacies are vital to The Mission to Seafarers, and to those seafarers that we support both now and in the future.

If you already have a will and would like to leave a gift to the Mission, the easiest way to do this is by adding a codicil to your existing will. This allows you to make small changes to your will instead of completely re-writing it. It will still need to be signed and witnessed in the presence of a solicitor.

If you have not yet written your will, The Mission to Seafarers has partnered with Farewill to enable you, as a FAN subscriber, to create your will for free

online. You'll find answers to frequently asked questions as well as a help line, should you need it.



To set up a will visit www.farewill.com/fan-legacy and enter the code FAN-LEGACY at the checkout.

A Word from **Esben**

Esben Poulsson, Vice President of The Mission to Seafarers, reflects on the need to rally round our seafarers and recognise them as the key workers they are.

In my last letter, I referred to the incredible success of our Flying Angel Campaign of 2020 that raised far more than it's intended target of £600,000.

Of course the challenges facing our seafarers remain, and we are now well underway with the next campaign, Sustaining Crew Welfare. Whilst we still have a long way to go to reach our target, we have been heartened by sizeable donations from a number of the container lines and dry bulk operators.

As I point out whenever I am speaking, our seafarers remain the unsung heroes of global trade. Despite the United Nations passing a resolution on 1 December 2020 that recognises seafarers as key workers, many countries have yet to treat them as such.

The recent grounding of the container ship *Ever Given* in the Suez Canal brought home the critical importance of shipping. The interruptions and knock-on effect caused by the grounding once again illustrated how fragile our supply chains can be.

Thankfully, many commentators, myself included, used the opportunity in interviews, on social media, television,



The work of the Mission has never been more critical"



and in the global press to highlight the contributions of our seafarers.

Yet it is a message we must continue to repeat again and again, just as we must ensure that our industry itself recognises the tireless work carried out by The Mission to Seafarers in support of seafarers across the globe.

So, at the risk of sounding repetitive, let me say it again: the work of the Mission has never been more critical and I would urge industry players reading this to make a donation via the Mission's website without delay.

Finally, let me join the many calls already made by all industry associations, the ICS very much included, for priority to be given to the prompt vaccination of our seafarers. It is in everyone's interest to give this the highest possible priority.

Esben Poulsson

Vice President of The Mission to Seafarers.

Esben Poulsson is Chairman of The ICS and Executive Chairman of ENESEL PTE. LTD., a Singapore based ship owning entity. Having worked in the maritime industry for 50 years, Esben is also Non-Executive Chairman to a host of companies in the sector and serves on the Board of the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA).

In Memory Of...

Through our memorial page we pay tribute to seafaring families and supporters who have lost loved ones. In the latest edition, Gillie Graham remembers her wonderful mum, Eileen Wright.

Eileen, widow to Capt David Michael Wright (who passed away 14th June 2008) was mother to Gillie and Michael, and 'Gran' to Alex and Pippa.

Eileen always supported The Mission to Seafarers from being married to David. With him becoming a Master Mariner, everywhere they travelled, if there was a Mission in a Port nearby, they would always visit. They would speak to mariners present or to just sit with them or offer assistance in other ways. Much time was given to the Missions in the 31 years they were in Hong Kong, alongside their day work, as Eileen was a schoolteacher and David ran his own sea/port related business.

Eileen loved life before her dementia journey began 15 years ago or so from the beginning of the first symptoms. Being born in Hartlepool, living in Hong Kong, and then having a flat overlooking the Thames, clearly water was an important element in her life.

Getting on and off boats and ships of varying sizes was not a problem for her, despite the aches and pains her body was in with arthritis. Geography was a love of Eileen's and that ties in with her love of travelling round the world. She always



had an interest in people, who they were and what they did, and had an inquisitive mind, always needing to learn something every day.

We shall always remember you and your scarves, no matter what the weather – when it was hot, they kept you cool, when it was cool, the silk or cotton kept you warm. You were always known as 'the scarf lady'...

Mummy, Mum, Gran, we miss you and will love you always.

Gillie Graham

If you would like to leave a tribute for a loved one, please visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/give-in-memory. This is a perfect way to honour their life and ensure their memory lives on.

The Only Limit is Your **Imagination**

The past 12 months have been incredibly challenging, but our corporate supporters have shown that after darkness comes light.

As well as providing pro-bono legal expertise and regular donations, international law firm, Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW) set themselves a challenge of covering 500 miles by walking, cycling, swimming, and even rowing to raise funds for the Mission. Collectively the team raised an incredible £6,288.

The Global Head of Shipping at HFW, Paul Dean, really led by example by setting himself a personal target of completing an epic 2,300-mile 'virtual walk' covering the distance to Greenland. He's half way through and has already received £7,800 in donations. The HFW team is now planning a sponsored abseil down the Olympic Tower alongside other challenges.

Aqualis Braemar Loc, the global energy and marine consultancy, also stepped up by taking part in a sponsored virtual 'Row the Thames' event. Teams covered 346km, the length of the Thames, on

rowing machines and even by bouncing on trampolines – raising £2,670.

Top marks for creativity go to Ince solicitors who created a karaoke version of the iconic song 'We Are Sailing.' The track will be available for download from 25 June – the Day of the Seafarer – with all revenues going to support seafarers across the globe.

Our partners Navigator Gas, Northern Marine, and Wikborg Rein also found creative ways to generate funds by making donations in lieu of their office Secret Santa and a prize raffle with company matched funding amongst other things.



PAUL DEAN AND HIS LABRADORS TOBY AND FENTON

WHAT'S YOUR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE?

There are so many ways that you and your organisations can get involved in supporting The Mission to Seafarers – the only limit is your imagination.

For support email Maurizio at Maurizio.borgatti@missiontoseafarers.org

Global Champions Unite

Will you help us raise £90,000 in 90 days? Join us in a challenge that will improve the welfare of seafarers and boost your own wellbeing in the process!

As we look forward to the end of lockdown, now is the time to set yourself a personal challenge and raise money for the Mission in the process. You could aim to run 5k, complete 25 press ups every day for a month, or even take on a marathon! The choice is yours and taking part is as easy as 1,2,3.

- 1 Set your goal**
- 2 Register your interest**
- 3 Download your fundraising pack.**

Last year our Global Champions raised an incredible £77,000. With your support, we know we can raise even more in 2021. Funds raised will specifically support the Mission's Sustaining Crew Welfare Campaign, which has been crucial over the past year.



REGISTER TO TAKE PART

Contact Krishna at krishna@missiontoseafarers.org
Visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/events/global-champions-unite

Sea Sunday is coming!



As restrictions are lifted this summer, now is the perfect time to organise a Sea Sunday event to celebrate the seafarers who

have worked so hard on our behalf throughout the pandemic.

Does your town have a summer or harbour festival? Is there a community BBQ planned? Local events are a great way to raise much needed funds

and remind people of the essential service that seafarers provide for all of us.

To help you make an impact, we have plenty of literature, flags, t-shirts and bags for you to decorate your stall, garden or house with! We also have a complete Sea Sunday resource pack which will help you organise an event from start to finish.

Don't forget to share photos of your events on social media and tag us!

Order your Sea Sunday pack at www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday
If you need any help, please contact john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.org

REFLECTION

Taking inspiration from the remarkable expedition of the *Endurance* and her crew, The Revd Canon Andrew Wright reminds us that we are never alone.

Many will know of the amazing expedition to the Antarctic between 1914 and 1916 led by Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in the ice and was eventually crushed and sunk, stranding her 28 crew.

They camped for months on the ice before making a journey in small boats to remote Elephant Island – far, far from any chance of help. It was agreed that five men, including Shackleton, would attempt to sail the 800 miles in an open boat, the *James Caird*, through

extraordinarily dangerous seas to South Georgia. There they hoped to find help at its whaling stations.

This action led to the eventual rescue of every man on the expedition. It was a truly epic sea voyage, followed by an equally epic trek by three of the men over the unknown mountain peaks of South Georgia. Shackleton himself wrote: "We had seen God in his splendours, heard the text that nature renders. We had reached the naked soul of man".

GUIDED BY PROVIDENCE

In another passage, he wrote, "When I look back on those days, I have no doubt that Providence guided us, not only across those snow fields but across the storm-white sea that separated Elephant Island from our landing place on South Georgia.

"I know that during that long and racking march of 36 hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it seemed to me that we were four and not three. I said nothing to my companions on the point but afterwards Worsley said to me. 'Boss, I had a curious feeling on the march that there was another person with us.' Crean confessed to the same idea.

“ God is present with us”

“ I had a curious feeling on the march that there was another person with us”

"One feels the dearth of human words, the roughness of mortal speech in trying to describe things intangible, but a record of our journeys would be incomplete without a reference to a subject very near to our hearts."

We at The Mission to Seafarers are committed to ensuring seafarers never feel alone, however difficult the going gets. And at the heart of our Christian faith lies that all-encompassing sense, one discovered by another sea-going traveller, the biblical Jonah, that there is nowhere where we cannot know that God is present with us.



To donate please visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/donate

If you would like to donate to a specific region, you can select this from the dropdown menu titled – ‘Why are you Donating?’

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Thank You

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