



inside: Ever Given crew provided with vital lifeline after Suez Canal incident

This Christmas give a gift that makes a difference

By choosing our virtual gifts you will be both contributing to our vital work and helping to raise awareness of the daily struggles that seafarers can face. You will receive a card for you to personalise and send on to your friends or family.

£20 Virtual Gift

This kind gift of £20 is the gift of Communication. It could enable seafarers to access phone sim cards so they can contact family and friends and feel connected this Christmas.



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

£50 Virtual Gift

This thoughtful gift of £50 is the gift of Faith and hope. It helps provide a seafarer with spiritual support from a Chaplain this Christmas.



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

£100 Virtual Gift

This generous gift of £100 is the gift of Emotional Support and could support a struggling seafarer so they know they are not alone this Christmas.



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year



To order online visit www.charitycardshop.com/mts

Welcome to FAN!

I am conscious of the breadth and diversity of our readership across many age groups, cultures, and contexts. Whatever your situation in relation to the pandemic, we hope things are looking a little brighter.

For seafarers, things are still difficult, as crew change issues continue to be stubbornly problematic in the face of virus variants. Many seafarers are still working beyond contract end and shore leave remains limited.

Thankfully, seafarer vaccinations are well under way, and I am pleased to say that many seafarer centres (including some operated by the Mission) especially in North America but increasingly beyond, have played a major role in facilitating this. I made my first visit to a ship in 18 months in July and all seafarers on board had been vaccinated.

There is, however, a very, very long way to go! Against a challenging background, our work continues in its many new forms, especially through our gangway visitation and shopping services. We are most definitely not back to normal, but there are glimmers of hope as you will read inside this edition of FAN.

If you have not yet seen it, please do watch our Sea Sunday Service online at www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday. It features a wide measure of our work, reflecting on the past, present, and future. I have also seen some inspiring locally produced Sea Sunday services.

The pandemic has brought great digital opportunities which so many have seized. At a recent meeting, one person summed up the current developments at the Mission with these words: "Exciting times". Suffering and difficulty remain very real for those we serve but, thanks to our teams, possibility and opportunity abound.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General



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Reaching the Ever Given



THE EVER GIVEN IN ROTTERDAM

As tugs, dredgers and salvage boats struggled for six days to free the Ever Given from the Suez Canal, here at the Mission, our focus was on the human crisis brewing on board.

“In situations like this, our first concern is always for the welfare of the crew,” confirms Revd Andy Bowerman, the Mission’s Regional Director for the Middle East and South Asia. As soon as the vessel was freed and docked in the Great Bitter Lakes, Revd Andy reached out. “We never expected to actually get on board, but our great partnership with the UK P&I Club proved invaluable.”

CALM IN CHAOS

Incidents on this scale are unprecedented and the complexities were baffling. Immediate concerns about the contents of the 20,000 individual containers, some including livestock, needed to be addressed.

“Our first concern is always for the welfare of the crew”

In addition, crew were bombarded with messages from those intrigued and concerned by their new-found fame, while port authorities, legal representatives, shipping agents, and police were milling around talking of arrests, compensation, and culpability.

Into the chaos Revd Andy brought calm. “My job is to be honest but hopeful,” he explains. “I couldn’t go in and say, ‘it’ll all be ok’, but I had to be patient and reassure the crew that we wouldn’t give up hope.”

CONSTANT SUPPORT

Revd Andy met with senior crew members – listening to their concerns and anxieties in confidence. “It was clear that all the crew had been through a serious trauma. There was a perception that the world was against them looking for a scapegoat,” he says.

All too often, seafarers are unfairly blamed for incidents and that seemed to be playing out as the ship was

arrested with a request for US\$900 million in damages.

Revd Andy kept in touch with the crew daily – answering questions, providing counselling, and helping to repatriate two seafarers who needed to reach sick relatives. “False promises aren’t helpful, so we wanted to see early success to give the crew hope,” he explains.

LONG-TERM TRAUMA

The vessel finally departed for Rotterdam on 7 July when an undisclosed compensation agreement was reached. While no charges were held against the crew, the ordeal wasn’t over.

“This will almost inevitably be the most significant incident that any of the crew

will have or will be involved in during their career,” confirms Revd Andy. “Most people start experiencing the effects of PTSD within three months of a traumatic incident, but for others the symptoms may not manifest for years afterward.”

In response, the Mission mobilised its network to provide ongoing support. When the ship arrived in Rotterdam, our chaplain, Revd Dennis Woodward was waiting, as was Father Herbert Fadriquela when it docked in Felixstowe on 5 August. Rest assured that, with your help, we will continue to support the crew of the Ever Given into the future.

“My job is to be honest but hopeful”



THE TEAM IN FELIXSTOWE PREPARING COMFORT/WELCOME BOXES FOR THE CREW OF EVER GIVEN READY FOR THEIR ARRIVAL

The Suez Canal

The Suez Canal, one of the world’s most important shipping routes accounting for 12% of global trade.

Roughly fifty ships per day travel through the canal, carrying cargo valued at over \$9 billion.

End of an era: 50 years at St Michael Paternoster Royal

As the Mission leaves St Michael Paternoster Royal, our three living Secretary Generals reflect on the memories created, relationships formed, and lessons learnt from our 50 years here.

St Michael Paternoster Royal has been an iconic headquarters, with a deep symbolism reminding us of our Christian purpose. As the Rt Revd Bill Down, General Secretary from 1976-1990, recalls, "In 1968 we got this invitation to go down to London for the opening of the new Missions to Seamen offices. I was so pleased that it was to be going to be based in a church."

From 7am every morning, the building was an active place of worship not just an office space. As Revd Canon Bill Christianson, Secretary General from 2001-2009, remembers, "It was a very real presence both in the city and I believe a real good focal point for the work of The Mission to Seafarers worldwide."

A PLACE OF FRIENDSHIP

Over the years, St Michael Paternoster has provided the perfect place to build relationships with shipping companies, unions, UN agencies, and welfare organisations. It was also a beautiful venue for hosting honorary guests and royalty at our Annual Services and carols



concerts. Many of these partnerships have developed into lifelong friendships.

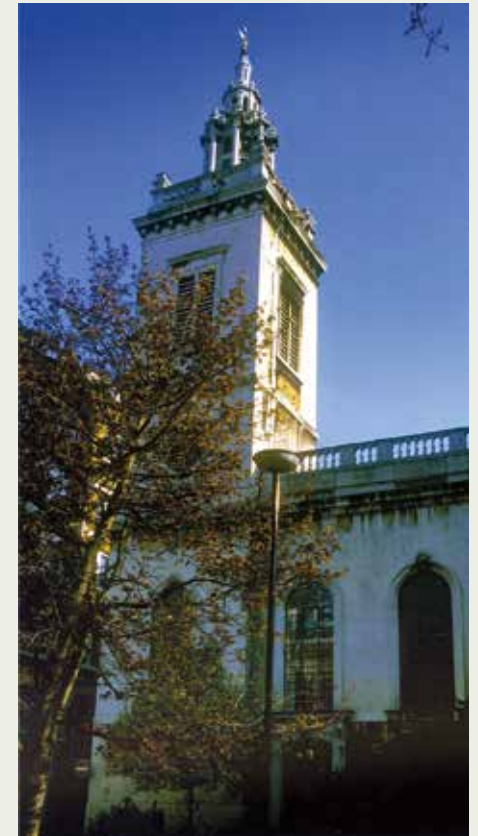
It is on this foundation that the ministry has flourished and will continue to do so. "We need to be both a rock and a river, faithful to the core values that have served us so well, while moving forward and adjusting to the changing needs that we see," explains our current Secretary General, Revd Canon Andrew Wright.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

The needs of the organisation today are very different. As Bishop Down testifies, "We had no computers in my time, and we needed to get a telex to Japan by the next day, so I went round to John Swires office [shipping company] and they sent it for me".

We are quite self-sufficient these days and over the past year our digital evolution has accelerated. As a global team we can effectively connect with our chaplains, partners, and seafarers across the world at the touch of a button.

The need to physically be in one place isn't as urgent and we want to support our staff who have enjoyed the opportunity to work from home over the past 18 months. "We need to move forward with the industry, adjusting to the changes and changing needs that we see," confirms Revd Wright.



“ We need to be both a rock and a river”

Within this new world, our core purpose to serve seafarers in the name of Christ has not changed. We take with us so much from St Michael Paternoster Royal, which will enable us to do so with confidence and compassion.

St Michael Paternoster Royal

- The medieval Church was destroyed by fire in 1666 and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren.
- On 19 December 1968, the church was dedicated as the headquarters of The Mission Seafarers.
- Seven Secretary Generals have served us from this headquarters.

Serving Seafarers in the Humber Ports

As our chaplain for the Humber Ports, Jake Pass, prepares to move on from his post, he reflects on a crazy 12 months and why he's shining a light on the hidden challenges faced by seafarers.

Jake has been part of the Mission for the past seven years, spending his last four and a half as chaplain for the Humber Ports. Relationships have been key to Jake's ministry and over the past year his team of 15 volunteers have really stepped up their efforts.

"Initially I was sceptical of sitting on the deck rather than in the mess, but it's worked," explains Jake. "I've actually been able to catch up with more crew."

Like many of our chaplains, Jake's home has come to resemble an Amazon distribution centre and his epic shopping trips have raised eyebrows at the local supermarket. "We've also been working with local pharmacies to get seafarers medication and helping seafarers get vaccinated – it's all part of the healing ministry of the church," he continues.

HIDDEN CHALLENGES

But the greatest challenges of the pandemic are often hidden. Jake recalls

“This is the hidden plight of seafarers”



“It's all part of the healing ministry”

the story of one seafarer who was eagerly expecting the birth of his first child only to receive devastating news of his daughter's death just two days her arrival.

"We sat with him, and we cried with him as he mourned," he says with sadness. "The captain and shipping crew did everything they could, but with quarantine he couldn't get back. This is the hidden plight of seafarers during COVID."

Just before stepping down from his current post to fulfil his calling to become a priest, Jake was proud to see the opening of our new seafarer centre at Groveport on the River Trent. As restrictions continue to ease, Jake is hopeful that the centre, refurbished with the help of PD Ports, will be a haven for seafarers stopping in the region.

Watch Jake talk about the hidden challenges of seafaring in a pandemic in our 2021 Sea Sunday Service www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday

Strong Partnerships in Canada

Relationships are at the heart of our work, and we're delighted that our partnership with the team at Falvey Insurance Group in Canada is going from strength to strength.

Falvey are experts in marine sector and our relationship with them began in 2017, when we were introduced via the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters (CBMU). Our team in Toronto ran an event called 'Marine Career Awareness Day' with a variety of organisations within the field.

It was the start of a blossoming relationship where the president of the CBMU, Isabelle Therrin, and the secretary, Halyna Troian, organised events and the packing of Christmas 'ditty bags' for seafarers full of essentials and goodies at their autumn conference.

There was even a 50/50 prize draw to raise money to purchase the items. The recipient of the first prize donated his entire winnings back to the Mission, which set a precedent for future winners. The

group have packed more than 500 bags every year since, including last year when we were still in partial lockdown.

Through the CBMU, our relationship with Falvey Cargo grew. They sponsored our golf tournament and are now working with the Mission in North America, too. It's a relationship that keeps growing thanks to the support of Isabelle.

After leaving her post as president at the CBMU Isabelle joined The Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario board, now as co-vice-president with Revd Jeff Ward. She is a passionate advocate for our work and took a hands-on approach in shopping for seafarers and delivering good over the Christmas period.

“It's a relationship that keeps growing”



Seafarers Awareness Week

During Seafarers Awareness Week, our teams reflected on the many and varied ways they are bringing help and hope to seafarers through the challenge and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARK CLASSEN, RICHARDS' BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

"We visit seafarers on board vessels, in hospitals, at hotels, in quarantine facilities, wherever they are. We try our best to meet their needs – be it spiritual, emotional, psychological, or practical. Our seafarers' centre has an online store, through which seafarers can make orders that are then delivered to the vessels."



JILL WYLIE, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

"As a volunteer, my role is to provide as much comfort and assistance as I can to our visiting seafarers, and to provide a 'soft place' for them to land when they come ashore. What is most important is to make sure that our visiting seafarers know that they are recognised for

what they do and that we are sincerely concerned for their welfare, especially in such challenging times."

REVD MARY DAVISSON, BALTIMORE, USA

"Vaccinations take place on board or ashore and are carried out by qualified pharmacists. Part-timers, interns, and volunteers at the centre continue to bring crews everything from Bibles to burgers and also transport those allowed ashore."

LAILANI TOLENTINO-RAHON, MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES

"Family is the wind beneath the wings for many of us, it is one of the primary things that keeps us going, and this is the same for seafarers. As we provide care and support to seafarers, we in the Philippines also look after their families. We organise Family Support Network chapters, which become the immediate community support for them."



WHERE WE WORK

The Mission has a presence in 200 ports in 50 different countries. Visit missiontoseafarers.org/our-ports to see where your support is helping us to reach seafarers.

Ordination for Chaplain in Southampton

On the 4th of July, Revd John Attenborough was ordained in Winchester cathedral, but the journey began many years earlier.

Revd John began his journey with the Mission in the mid 1990s as a chaplain's assistant in Immingham. After six months he moved to Mombasa, again as a chaplain's assistant, before becoming chaplain a few years later. "During that time the word ordination started cropping up," he recalls. "But someone told me to resist as long as I could!"

Moves to Antwerp and Tilbury, along with the busyness of life were a useful diversion. "I was being a little bit like Jonah and running away, but God has a wonderful way of following you!" says Revd John with a smile.

“ I was being a little bit like Jonah”

TRAINING BEGINS

It was following a very frank conversation with the Bishop of Southampton five years ago that the running stopped, and the training began in earnest in 2018. Amidst academic essays and theological studying, Revd John was keen to maintain his sense of humour – something his assessors noticed as they praised his "authenticity."

"The ordination has given my ministry a new shape," he muses. "Wearing a dog collar means I'm a physical presence in the port. People notice you – they want to stop and chat. I've already had so many beautiful conversations."

Prestigious Award for Scotland Team

Congratulations to our team in the Scottish Ports who were recently awarded a Scotland Prestige Award.

The award recognises the hard work of Revd Tim Tunley, our chaplain in Scotland, David Graham-Service, finance director and chair and a whole team of volunteers who have gone to great lengths to support seafarers throughout the pandemic.

The judges of the awards, which recognise leaders and innovators in various fields, were particularly impressed by the team's commitment

to support seafarers with gangway visits and 24/7 digital chaplaincy support.

Mr Graham-Service was quick to acknowledge the team effort, "We could not have achieved this without the work of everybody from trustees and chaplain to volunteers and knitters," he says. As restrictions begin to lift, the Scottish Ports have already begun to welcome seafarers into their newly refurbished seafarers' centre. "We're getting about 70 to 80 through the centre every week and they are so glad to be back," confirms Graham-Service.

Vaccinating Seafarers

The logistics of vaccinating seafarers against COVID-19 has been one of the greatest challenges faced by the sector in recent months. With your ongoing support, our teams across the globe are helping to resolve the issue.

1 South Tees, UK

Our team in South Tees are working closely with a whole range of local authorities and the NHS to ensure seafarers get vaccinated. Initially, seafarers were transported to Middlesbrough Football Stadium and now they are attending several pop-up clinics resourced and funded by the River Tees Port Health Authority.

2 Tuticorin, India

In Tuticorin our team have helped to coordinate 12 vaccination camps in different locations across the region. Altogether, we've been able to support more than 3,500 individuals from maritime communities. In addition to providing vaccines, we have also distributed face masks and sanitizers.

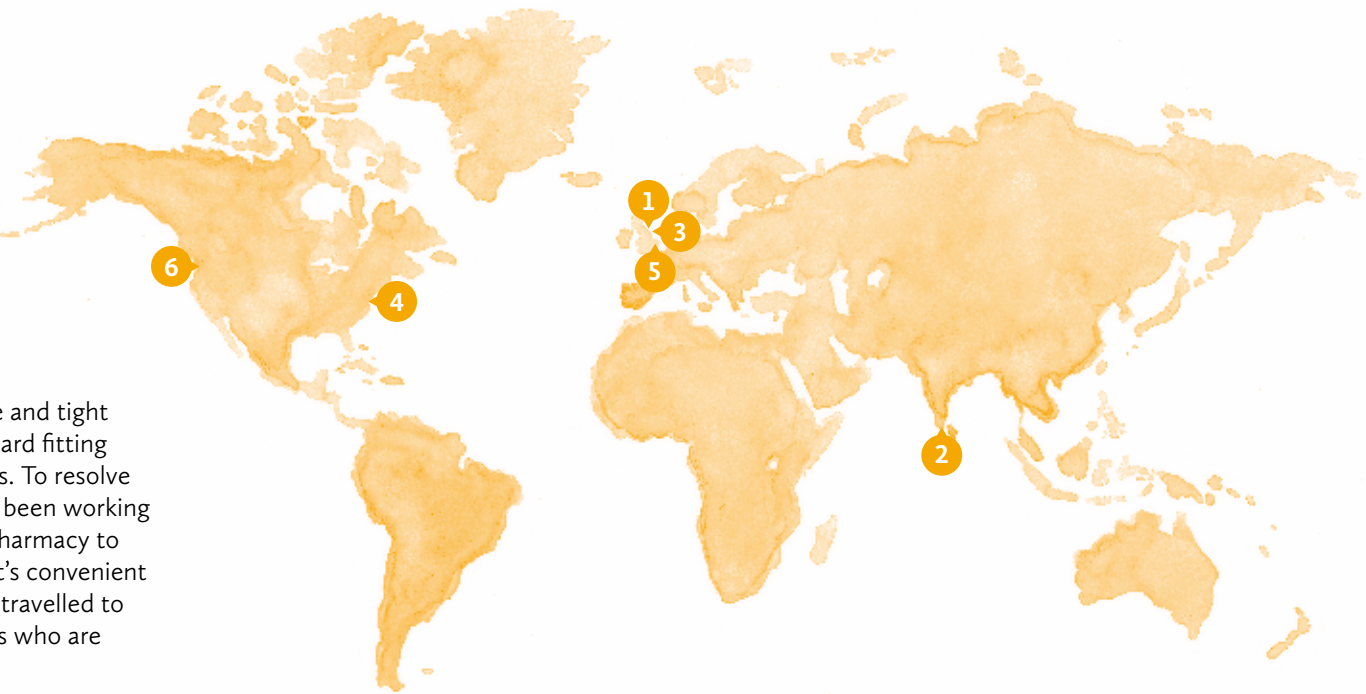


3 Hull, UK

With restricted shore leave and tight turn arounds, it has been hard fitting around seafarers' schedules. To resolve this, the team in Hull have been working with Witham Late Night pharmacy to vaccinate seafarers when it's convenient for them. Teams have also travelled to the port to vaccinate crews who are unable to leave their ships.

4 Baltimore, USA

Flexibility has been key to the success of the vaccination programme in Baltimore. Whether it's escorting vaccinators on board, helping crews with paperwork, transporting seafarers to clinics, or exchanging referrals with fellow welfare charity Stella Maris. The team have gone to extraordinary efforts to ensure several hundred seafarers are vaccinated every month.



5 Tilbury, UK

Tilbury Seaman's Centre has been leading the way in ensuring seafarers receive vaccinations by working with everyone from government departments to local health centres. With the help of enthusiastic teams willing to work around seafarers' schedules and come on board to administer vaccinations, more than 2,100 have been vaccinated to date.

6 Seattle, USA

The vaccination programme started in Seattle back in April, when our team worked in partnership with the Northwest Seaport Alliance, and Discovery Health (a local clinic specialising in maritime medical care). Since then, more than 1,200 seafarers have been vaccinated and efforts are now ramping up to vaccinate cruise ship staff.

The Revd Cristi Chapman in Seattle said, "It is fantastic to see seafarers going back to ship feeling safer, more confident and protected."



Meeting the welfare needs of seafarers in a digital age

The Mission to Seafarers co-hosted 'Meeting the welfare needs of seafarers in a digital age' at London International Shipping Week 2021 alongside Stella Maris, The Seafarers' Charity and Sailors' Society, in partnership with conference hosts, Inmarsat.

The conference explored the welfare issues faced by seafarers during the pandemic and whether digital solutions were effective. It was chaired by John Adams, Managing Director, V. Ships UK, who set the scene for the discussions by highlighting the impact of Covid-19 on welfare: "Issues such as fatigue, feelings of isolation and abandonment all existed pre-Covid. But now we can take each of these issues and magnify them by power of 10. What was urgent two years ago is beyond urgent today."



250 PARTICIPANTS JOINED THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS:

- Seafarer Wellbeing: Working Together as a Global Shipping Industry
- How did companies respond to changing welfare needs during 2020, and which measures will they retain as best practice going forward?
- Boosting mental health digitally
- A Fair Future for Seafarers? How will seafaring change and how should the welfare sector adapt to the change?
- What investment is needed in crew technology to provide for better welfare provision, what are the obstacles, and how does this impact on the bottom line?
- Technology in partnership to deliver seafarer services

All the charities recognised that while there's great value in digital support, it is vital that it runs alongside the more traditional and face-to-face welfare services, given the value crew place on meeting with support staff in person.

Nevertheless, digital technology is one important way of ensuring that seafarers can access services, not just because it makes a difference, but because it also makes commercial sense to care for crews and their wider community given the costs of accidents and ship diversions. It is time to be united for change.

To read the full article on the event please visit [missiontoseafarers.org/news](https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/news)

All At Sea

In partnership with the National Maritime Museum, the Mission took part in an online conference to explore seafarer wellbeing and mental health past, present and future.

The event brought together experts from the National Maritime Museum, seafaring charities, and key figures within the industry to offer different perspectives on wellbeing and mental health.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright's introduction to the history of maritime welfare was supplemented by oral accounts from seafarers over the centuries. The Museum's historians shared a range of case studies including the story of the Cutty Sark's notorious Hell-Ship voyage.

As the conference progressed, focus switched to the current day and the

“ How we can ensure seafarers' wellbeing and mental health.”

impact of COVID-19. The Mission's Advocacy Director, Ben Bailey, shared details of the ongoing crew change crisis and its impact on seafarers.

The day concluded with a keynote speech from the Mission's Vice President, Esben Poulson. Esben drew together learnings to review how we can ensure seafarers' wellbeing and mental health are prioritised and the aims of the Neptune Declaration upheld.

CrewConnect Conference

In June, as part of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA), the Mission partnered with CrewConnect Europe on a new virtual event to support the crews at the heart of the maritime industry.

The virtual event focussed on the theme of "Moving Forward with Seafarers and their Families" and provided a wonderful opportunity for key players in the sector to share experience and best practice.

The Mission's Revd Canon Andrew Wright and Ben Bailey both led sessions exploring resilience. They looked at a

variety of techniques and resources that are currently available and considered how we can draw on learning from the pandemic to help the seafarers of tomorrow.

Andrew is also Chair of Trustees for ICMA and said of the event, "Not only does it give an opportunity to connect as ICMA members, but also provides an opportunity to work together with our key partners."

“ An opportunity to work together with our key partners.”

Seafarers Happiness Index

As seafarers' happiness drops to an all-time low since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, industry and governments are urged to support the vaccination drive.

The latest Seafarers Happiness Index report reveals that happiness levels are now down to 5.99 out of 10. Seafarers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of freedom and recognition, exacerbated by a delay in the vaccination programme.

As Revd Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers said, "As vaccination programmes in many countries have progressed, seafarers have once again been left behind. This quarter's Seafarers Happiness Index results are not only concerning but they suggest that the situation is going backwards."

BAN OF SHORE LEAVE

As new variants of COVID-19 cause regional lockdowns, seafarers continue to be denied shore leave and confinement is taking a mental and physical toll.

Seafarers expressed feelings of lethargy, apathy and physical exhaustion as their assignments drag on with no sign of end. One seafarer said, "Even if I get time off, I am still in the same cabin, the same people, sounds, smells and rhythm."

The Seafarers Happiness Index, carried out with support from Wallem Group and the Standard Club is the shipping industry's live barometer of the key issues facing those at sea today.

To read the full report and take part in the survey visit: www.happyatsea.org

LACK OF KEYWORKER STATUS

While there was a strong impetus for designating seafarers as key workers at the start of the pandemic, the issue has lost momentum.

In the report, seafarers reveal that many manning agents are lying to crew, withholding pay, underpaying, and even threatening seafarers, despite them working longer hours and managing heavier workloads.

CREW CHANGE DELAYS

In previous Seafarers Happiness Index reports, there was growing optimism that a receding pandemic or an increase in vaccinations would ease the crew change crisis. But the problem persists.

Ever-changing regional lockdowns mean great uncertainty, which is feeding an environment of fear. The stress was clear in one seafarer who simply asked, "Why is no one helping us get home?"



Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

An evening of Carols followed by a canape and drinks reception at Trinity House to celebrate seafarers and their families —

15 December 2021
All Hallows by the Tower & Trinity House
events@missiontoseafarers.org

A Word from **Esben**

The grounding of the container vessel **EVER GIVEN** in the Suez Canal in March proved to be a major news story for the shipping industry as the sheer size and scale of the vessel – the length of three football fields – let alone the diverse cargo the vessel carried, for once brought to the public conscience the critical importance of shipping to world trade.



Shipping is a wealth creator that has contributed greatly to improving living standards for millions across the globe. Whilst the vessel was relocated in a comparatively short time, it took quite some time before it (I am apparently not allowed to refer to a ship as 'she' any longer – a bit sad!) was released, following a lengthy negotiation between owners, managers and insurers. The crew onboard did not, in my opinion, receive the credit they deserved for performing their duties in very difficult and stressful circumstances – something one can generalise and say happens largely across the board.

At this point, whilst new and different Covid variants yet again makes crew change highly problematical, in some cases, industry has, with help from some, but by no means all, governments made every effort to vaccinate as many seafarers as quickly as practically possible. I acknowledge that there has been progress, but I urge all stakeholders concerned to make vaccinations of our seafarers an

absolute priority. It is the least we can do for them.

Beyond this, the container segment, in particular, is experiencing a historic boom, as consumer demand across the globe soars, following what for many nations has been a long period of lockdowns. Some would blame the Liner companies for a shortage of capacity, but I would respectfully point out that a lack of containers and, especially, port capacity are equally, if not more responsible for this situation developing.

London International Shipping Week has come and gone, and I was pleased to see that a number of events highlighted the critical work of the Mission, and not least the many practical difficulties that COVID-19 has created for our industry – and most especially for the seafarers – our unsung heroes.

“ **The crew on board did not, in my opinion, receive the credit they deserved**”

WeCare Programmes Expand

On 22 June, The Mission to Seafarers launched the latest addition to its WeCare programmes, the On Board Mental Health Champions webinar and podcast series.

The series covers wellness techniques that individuals can use on board as well as tools to help leaders promote wellbeing within crews. The content is grounded in real-life experience with seafarers sharing personal advice on how to put their learning into practice at sea.

The series represents the beginning of a seafarer's WeCare journey and offers free online wellness resources through YouTube and Spotify which crews can access wherever they are in the world.

The WeCare journey continues with seafarers accessing the Mission's flagship e-learning programme, which includes the Financial Wellbeing and Social Wellbeing courses. Since its launch in early 2021 more than 5,000 seafarers have accessed the courses.



To find out more about the WeCare journey and to access the resources, please visit www.missiontoseafarers.org/on-board-champions.

Support The Mission to Seafarers when you shop at

smile.amazon.co.uk

Another way to give towards our vital work.



Auction of Promises

We are now gearing up for Christmas and on top of our regular events offering, we have a few new treats in store. The Mission is planning a virtual Auction of Promises to raise funds for seafarers worldwide. To do this, we need your support and generosity.

We invite you to take part by donating either a physical gift or a good deed, which we can use in our Auction of Promises. We are looking for a range of promises to suit different pockets.

Could you offer any of the following?

- Access to a private yachts, villas, or ski-chalets
- A case of wine, or tickets to sporting events
- An hour of personal training, private catering, or a special birthday or Christmas cake.
- A game of golf and afternoon tea.
- Any other gifts!

We would love to raise £50,000, and your donations will be instrumental in helping us achieve this goal. Please confirm your 'Promise' by 5 November 2021.

To donate your 'Promise' please contact events@missiontoseafarers.org.

Global Champions Unite

Our annual virtual fitness and well-being challenge, raised and incredible £20,000 thanks to teams and individuals from across the maritime industry. We would like to make a special mention to Team IMO, Sea Wellbeing, Clyde & Co, Willis Towers Watson, and Teekay Shipping (Singapore).

Graig 100

Graig Shipping organised a maritime cycle with more than 100 riders taking to the Welsh hills. The Graig 100 took place on Saturday 4 September raising £60,000 for Velindre Cancer Hospital and The Mission to Seafarers. Our Secretary General, Andrew Wright represented us in the 60km ride and has already committed to the 100km next year, which will take place on Saturday 3 September 2022.



Get in touch with events@missiontoseafarers.org to register your interest in taking part.

Christmas with the Mission

As we approach what we hope will be a more 'normal' Christmas, help us remember the sacrifices that seafarers have made and continue to make.

Christmas is always a challenging time for seafarers who are away from home. By purchasing Mission to Seafarers Christmas cards, you will be supporting our vital work to bring comfort and practical assistance to seafarers during this time.

You should have received your Christmas gifts catalogue, which you can use to purchase cards and virtual gifts. You can also order online from www.charitycardshop.com/mts or call **01227 811 622**.

Packs can also be ordered on a 'sale or return' basis to share at community or church events. Just contact Johnny at john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.com.

After another year of cancelled shore leave and grave uncertainty, it's more important than ever that seafarers get the support they need this Christmas. We have plenty of promotional literature and can even arrange for one of our representatives to speak about the work of the Mission at your Christmas carols concerts.

Partnership in Action

Huge thanks to our corporate partners who have gone to extraordinary lengths to meet the additional challenges of the past 18 months.

Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit". This is very true in the world of corporate partnerships and there is no better example of excellence than the Mission's partnership with Holman Fenwick Willan (HFW).

HFW started 2021 by making unrestricted donations to support the Mission and followed quickly with a shipping team employee fundraiser. They have continued in that vein of

generosity with an on-line virtual 'Walk to Labrador' and a team abseil at the Olympic Park. They have also undertaken a virtual on-line 'Route 66 Walk' and hosted a Global Day of Action in late September.

Another promising corporate partnership has just begun between the Mission and Tritax Group who specialise in logistics real estate fund management. Tritax are the first non-maritime group to have embarked on a significant three-year partnership which launched with an unrestricted donation. Going forward, we look forward to working together on project focused initiatives.



Contact: maurizio.borgatti@missiontoseafarers.org to find out more

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

At the end of July, we finally left our offices at St Michael Paternoster Royal, the home of The Mission to Seafarers for over 50 years. It had become an iconic building, rich in history and loved by many who have visited from across the world.

Somewhere beneath it lies Richard Whittington, the famous four-time mayor of London and medieval benefactor of the church. A real and important person, he and his famous cat became the legendary source of a story beloved of children and of pantomime impresarios!

The ground on which we have held meetings, and the stones within which we have tapped our keyboards, have witnessed almost a millennium of London history – of peace and war, of riot and festival, of pestilence and conflagration, of invasion and empire. And a few yards south of us would once have been busy wharves, alive with the sounds of those seafarers with whom the Church has become deeply associated.

RESILIENCE AND REIMAGINATION

The medieval church was destroyed by fire in 1666; rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, of St Paul's fame; and had its roof and windows destroyed by Second World War bombing. Open to the elements for many years, it was eventually restored, and became our home in 1968. Now the Diocese of London has new plans and, as the history of St Michael Paternoster Royal enters a new phase, we trust future tenants will find it an equally good home.

“ The history of St Michael Paternoster Royal reflects that of the Mission ”

In many ways the history of St Michael Paternoster Royal reflects that of the Mission. Founded, developed, rebuilt, and reimagined. The church has been led through many generations by people of vastly different skill and character. Serving an ever-changing community of people. They have provided physical, moral, and spiritual support through good times and bad.

RENEWED HOPE

Stricken by crisis and ministering through very difficult times. And yet, through it all, seeking to share something of God's love with the community for which it had responsibility. That is St Michael Paternoster Royal's story. It is also the story of The Mission to Seafarers.

As always, our focus is on those we serve and those who serve in our name throughout the world, especially at this time of very particular difficulty and suffering. As we do so, may we be re-inspired both by our history, by our continuing faith, and by the need to further develop creative and vibrant support for those to whom our work is dedicated.

In the 17th century, St Michael Paternoster Royal saw devastating plague and then fire in quick succession. It was a fearful and terrible time. And yet what emerged was a world renewed and filled with hope. So may it be for seafarers and their families in the wake of this pandemic.



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