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flying angel news

UPDATES FROM THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS
SPRING 2021 | ISSUE 32



inside: The Mission's frontline teams share their experiences of supporting seafarers during the pandemic

Seeing the Unseen Lent Reflections 2021

17 February – 3 April 2021



**Download your copy of this year's
Lenten booklet and join us on this
journey of reflection.**

Visit: www.missiontoseafarers.org/appeals/lent2021

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Dear friends

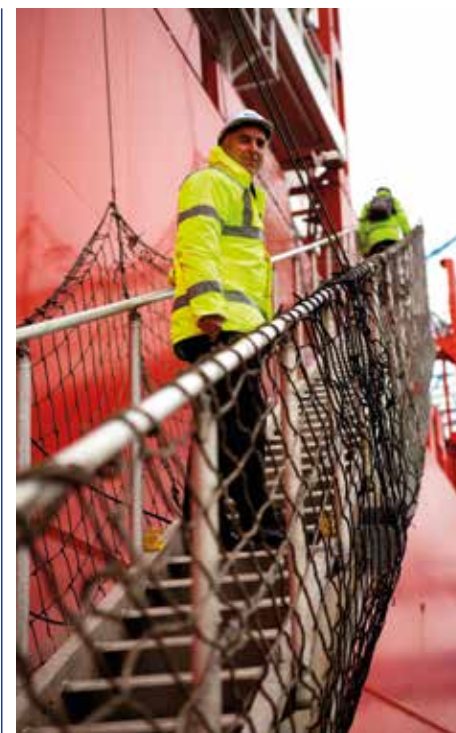
I write at the start of January 2021 – on the first day of lockdown number three in the UK – many are overcome by a sense of despair. Here, as in so much of the world, we are almost overwhelmed by the bleak story told by the daily statistical announcements: new cases, total deaths, fresh variants of the disease.

It can be hard to be hopeful, despite the fact that vaccines are on the way. Faith, hope and love are the pillars spoken of by St Paul. Love may be the greatest of these, but it is the sustaining of hope which is perhaps most necessary in these dark days.

I begin this year as I ended the last, full of gratitude for the part our teams have played in bringing hope. These pages tell some of the narrative of recent months. Our own statistics at The Mission to Seafarers may be very different from those in normal times, but they tell an important and more uplifting story – of gangway visits made; of shopping requests honoured; of vital medical supplies delivered; of Mi-Fi units provided; of Chat to a Chaplain calls answered (and often of consequent problems resolved); of emergency food parcels shared with families; and of trapped seafarers repatriated.

In dark times, these things have truly brightened the horizon. Thanks to all of you who have been part of this in so many different ways. Enjoy your read and here's to a hopeful 2021 for us all.

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright
Secretary General



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COVID Update

While our chaplains are busy supporting seafarers on a day-to-day basis, we continue to fight for their rights at a national and international level during this pandemic.

The UN statement on seafarers' keyworker status was released at the end of November. IMO Secretary-General, Kitack Lim said, "Sadly, hundreds of thousands of seafarers, who are vital to maintaining supply chains, remain stranded at sea for months beyond their contracted time. This is causing immense strain, fatigue and exhaustion and is unsustainable. I hope that this call to action will result in positive momentum to resolve the crew change crisis."

Amen to that! It was deeply regrettable that this still had to be said nine months into the pandemic. While things have improved, at Christmas, up to 400,000 seafarers were still believed to be working beyond their contract end.

READY TO RESPOND

At the Mission, we stand with many others in hoping that the early months of

2021 will see this devastating issue finally resolved, giving, at last, some certainty and clarity to crew. It often seems that just as things appear to be improving, we meet a setback. I fear that the arrival of new, faster spreading variants of the disease may have further negative impacts on crew in these early months.

Vaccines are coming, but there are complexities that impact the speed with which they can be rolled out, including for seafarers. We have expressed our willingness to support the effort to get vaccines to crew. It may be that our centres, our vans and our ship visitors can have some role in this complicated task. In any case, we stand ready. What a difference those vaccines will make.

COLLECTIVE EFFORT

In the meantime, alongside our advocacy work, we continue to bring support to seafarers, both face-to-face and digitally. It has been wonderful to witness such dedicated and unceasing work and to hear the stories of seafarers whose lives have been touched by our teams.

Special note must be made in this edition of the extraordinary number of Christmas gifts delivered to seafarers by our chaplains, staff and volunteers. This



“ We have expressed our willingness to support the effort to get vaccines to crew”

represents a great collective effort and makes such a difference to those who receive them – even more so in these torrid times.

Writing to our team in Hong Kong but making reference to our chaplains and volunteers across the world, one seafarer described us as those who, “help people like us, who are deprived from going outside these metal structures”. He continued, “Angels sure are amazing”. Simple, powerful and so well put.

“ We stand ready”

At Christmas, up to 400,000 seafarers were still believed to be working beyond their contract end.

“ What a difference those vaccines will make”



Sustaining Crew Welfare Campaign

Following the success of the Flying Angel Campaign, which raised more than £650,000 to provide emergency support for seafarers, the Mission has launched a new campaign to secure funding for Sustaining Crew Welfare in 2021.

"These heroic men and women always face many challenges but have faced truly acute difficulties through the pandemic. Despite this, they have kept the supply lines running, including bringing the food and medical equipment on which we all so dependent. A huge thank you to seafarers around the world." Andrew Wright, Secretary General, The Mission to Seafarers.

As the crew change crisis continues, the Mission is on high alert to respond to

seafarers who are caught up in lengthy contracts, unable to get home. Some have missed family Christmases for the second or third year running.

We continue to provide reassurance that we are here to listen and to help where we can, which has proved to be a vital lifeline. Alongside this, we have helped those who are struggling at home as their finances dwindle, and the associated anxiety impacts their mental health and family life, by providing crucial supplies.

Our teams have been on hand in ports and through our digital chaplaincy service to help where they are most needed. Of course, this would not be possible without your support, so a big thank you to all who have helped.

As we look to the future, the Sustaining Crew Welfare campaign will help in the following areas:



INNOVATION FUND FOR REGIONAL SUPPORT

Supporting our nine regions adapt to deliver vital welfare around the world 24/7.



JUSTICE AND WELFARE

Channelling and providing emergency welfare support in repatriation, representation, health and wellbeing.



FAMILY SUPPORT

Supporting our network in the Philippines and new Family Support in India.

We are grateful to the following companies who have committed to this fund, raising £160,000 in the first few weeks.

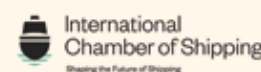
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To make a donation to support our Sustaining Crew Welfare campaign visit missiontoseafarers.org/donate or call us on +44 (0)20 72485202

Seafarers Awards Singapore 2020

Honouring seafarers welfare, we hosted our annual Seafarers' Awards, Singapore on Friday 6 November 2020, for the first time in an online ceremony. The event, chaired by Capt Rob Walker, featured key speakers from the maritime industry; Esben Poulsson (ICS), Rashpal Bhatti (BHP), Nick Potter (Shell), and Mike Meade (M3Marine).

The calibre of nominees was outstanding and winners included:

Bjørn Højgaard, CEO of Anglo-Eastern Univan Group, who received the Shorebased Award for his efforts to address the crew change crisis. **Capt. Jaswinder Singh** and his crew from Fleet Management Ltd, were recognised for their heroic rescue of four shipwrecked seafarers. **Jarin Chowdhury**, from ASP Ships Group, the female cadet from Bangladesh on foreign flagged ships, received the Cadet Award. **Frank Coles**, Wallem Group Chief Executive, won the Secretary General Award for advocating for the human rights of seafarers. **Thome Group** was presented with the Innovation Award for the launch of wellness initiatives across their fleet and an employee benefit program.



To find out more about our events please contact krishna@missiontoseafarers.org

Mission Live

Meet our teams serving on the frontline at our Mission Live events.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our first Mission Live virtual event in December. We were joined by Andy Bowerman, Regional Director, Middle East and South Asia, along with two chaplains from the region who talked about their work delivering frontline services to seafarers in need.

If you missed the event, don't worry, you can watch the recording on our website.

Mission Live events are free to attend. Find out more at missiontoseafarers.org/events/mission-live-stream and submit your questions to Johnny Dowling john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.org



We also have more great Mission Live events planned for 2021 where we'll be focusing on different regions and aspects of our work.

The events give you the opportunity to keep up to date with our work; ask questions to our panel; explore what's really going on; and, most importantly, see how your support directly impacts the lives of seafarers and their families.

Serving Seafarers in South Korea

The seafarers centre in the busy port of Busan, South Korea used to welcome more than 300 seafarers every month, now it is eerily quiet.

Monica Park joined The Mission to Seafarers family as a staff member in 1993 and became chaplain in June 2018.

Unable to welcome seafarers into their centre, she has helped the Mission in Busan to find alternative ways to support seafarers, by preparing 500 care packs and about 320 Christmas gifts with the help of the Friends of the Flying Angel.

"One seafarer came running down the gangway saying: 'I haven't seen you for a long time.' But I had to stand back," recalls Monica, with a touch of sadness.

As part of the Busan Port Seafarer's Welfare Committee, Monica has been advocating to improve the access seafarers have to support during the pandemic. At their recent online conference, she spoke about the importance of ship visits and allowing seafarers to access facilities in the port.



The work never stops: 24/7 support for seafarers

Revd. Mark Lawson-Jones has been the local chaplain in South Wales for the past four years. During his time with The Mission, Revd. Mark has seen first-hand that crews are getting less time ashore, the increased workload, and lonely life. Here he shares one of his most memorable experiences.



MARK LAWSON-JONES (L) AND ROTTERDAM PORT CHAPLAIN, DENNIS WOODWARD (R)

Seafarers need support globally, are traveling through lots of countries and with crew from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Support comes from some of the smallest and unexpected gestures, and is needed at all hours of the day and night.

Late one night, I decided to visit one of the local ports I serve. All was quiet and I was about to leave when I spotted a lone seafarer on watch.

He seemed surprised when I asked how things were. He told me that he wanted to retire. He was the only crew member from his homeland onboard and it is often lonely, particularly when there are language barriers. He talked about all the family moments he'd missed while he was at sea and of this huge cost of being a seafarer, and how he hoped to make more memories, if it was possible.

As the conversation ended, I told him I'd keep him in my thoughts and prayers. "All we need is a peace and happiness, so we can sleep well at night", I said. As is often the case, when I arrived at the port the following day, the ship had gone. Six months later, I received a call. It was the seafarer, surrounded by a dozen happy people. Through the noise he shouted, "This is my peace and happiness, I have retired from the sea and I have never been happier."

It is important to remember, for both seafarers and the rest of the world, that at any time of the day or night, throughout the entire year, somewhere in the world a Mission to Seafarers chaplain is pulling on their boots and hard hat and going to the port to provide help. Our work never stops and is vital to the 1.5 million seafarers around the world.

* Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic

Chat to A Chaplain in Action

The Mission's innovative digital support service continues to be a lifeline for seafarers and their families 24/7.

The service, which connects users to one of the Mission's trained chaplains, started just five weeks after the first national lockdown in March 2020.

Since then, teams have responded to seafarers with concerns about contract extensions and future employment, through to those who are fearful for their loved ones and concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEVERAGING OUR NETWORK

Our chaplains are working closely together to respond as swiftly as possible. "Our chaplain in South Africa contacted me about some Indian seafarers in Vietnam who had been signed off but not received salary or payments," explains Revd Nitin Dethé, the Mission's chaplain in Mumbai.

"Thank you so much for being the channel of God"



Since the launch of Chat to a Chaplain, more than 2,000 seafarers have been in touch with a range of concerns.

* Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic

Revd Nitin immediately responded, calling their recruitment agent in Mumbai and ensuring all outstanding amounts were paid by the end of the day.

Another call he received was from a Filipino chief officer docked in Zhoushan, China who had been unwell for weeks. Once again, Revd Nitin leveraged the Mission's international network to ensure that the seafarer received the medical attention needed.

In a message to Revd Nitin, the chief officer wrote, "Thank you so much for being the channel of God as an answer to my prayers of healing," affirming the importance of the Chat to a Chaplain service.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Crew families have also contacted the service. In one tragic case, our team offered counselling and practical support to the mother of a seafarer who died from COVID-19.

Reflecting on his online ministry, Mark Classen, our chaplain in Richards Bay, South Africa commented, "It's a privilege to support seafarers via Chat to a Chaplain, providing pastoral counselling and referring them to my colleagues all around the world.

"Ultimately, it is not about us – it's about the seafarers – they are just so grateful because someone's there for them."

Richards Bay in Action

On 18 March, 2020 the port gates in Richards Bay, South Africa were locked. But, from his home, our chaplain Mark Classen was working harder than ever.

Mark was already using social media to support seafarers and, with the launch of our Chat to a Chaplain service, he was able to reach even more. "I've even rigged up my computer above the TV at home, to make sure I don't miss something," he smiles.

Of course, to make use of the support available, seafarers need good internet access. So Mark has also been busy sourcing funding to install MiFi units, which act as wireless broadband hotspots, on a number of vessels.

IN PERSON SUPPORT

While online support has been essential, some things just can't be delivered through the internet. When Mark was contacted by a captain who had found a 23-year-old cadet dead in his cabin, he was prepared to go the extra mile.

As part of the Port Welfare Committee, the Mission worked closely with the other welfare agencies in Richards Bay to organise a Mass safely on board the vessel. It took more than a week to get the relevant clearance, but the comfort it brought the crew was incomparable.

As Mark says, "The port authorities were supporting us at every stage because they understand the importance of our work."

"They understand the importance of our work"



"Even through the masks you can see they're smiling"

SHARING HOPE

With shore leave cancelled, Mark and the team have also been busy collecting everything from essential equipment to boxes of chocolates for seafarers. As 2020 came to a close, he and his wife Evangeline were also able to make a very special delivery of Christmas gifts to more than 500 seafarers.

"Their [the seafarers] whole demeanour just changed when we gave the gifts," says Mark, with a smile. "Even through the masks you can see they're smiling."

Looking ahead to 2021, Mark is hopeful that ship visiting will resume. In the meantime, he'll continue to respond however he can.

* Photo taken before the COVID-19 pandemic

Shopping, Shopping, Shopping!

With shore leave cancelled, contracts extended, and crew changes disrupted, seafarers are running low on essentials, but our chaplains are responding!

1 Seattle, USA

Over the past few months, our chaplain in Seattle, Ken Hawkins, and his team have been coordinating Amazon deliveries and gangway visits to ensure seafarers get everything from fresh fruit to toys for their children.

“Sometimes we’ll have a window of just a few hours to get the deliveries to the crew,” he explains. “It means so much to seafarers to be able to give something to their families, so we want to help them do that.”



THE TEAM IN SEATTLE SORTING SHOPPING TO BE DELIVERED TO SEAFARER ON BOARD VESSELS

2 Newport, Wales

In Wales, chaplain Mark Lawson-Jones and his team have helped seafarers access essentials, like winter socks, while also fulfilling more specific requests. “We have searched cash and carry warehouses for the right type of noodles,” he says

The team have even purchased fridge magnets from holiday destinations across West Wales. “These are always cherished by seafarers, who show their loved ones a memento of their travels,” he explains.

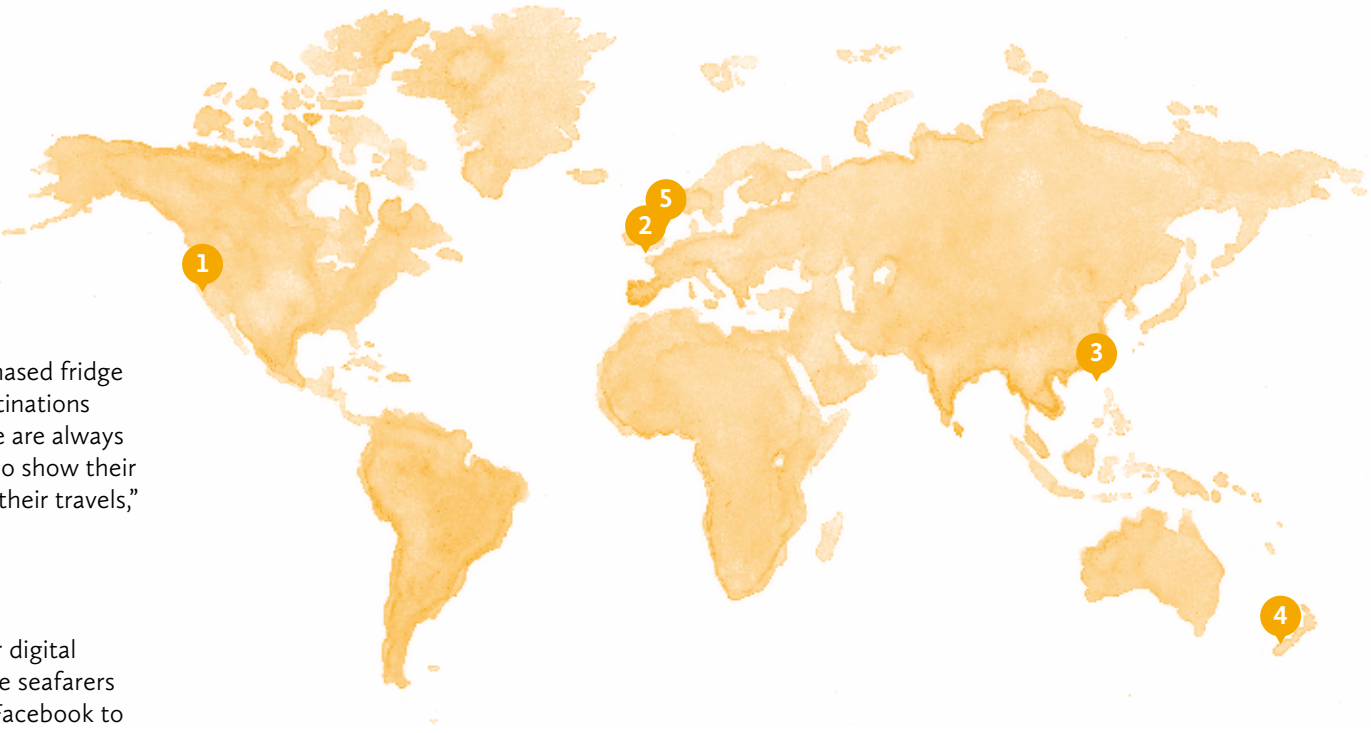
3 Hong Kong

With the expansion of our digital chaplaincy, more and more seafarers are using WhatsApp and Facebook to share their requests with our teams. “Our chaplains are spending so much time shopping and delivering essential items to seafarers,” explains our team in Hong Kong.

Delivering simple items, such as toiletries and snacks, can help to preserve the dignity of our seafarers and remind them that they are valued.



SEAFARERS IN THE PORT OF LYTTELTON RECEIVE A PIZZA DELIVERY



4 Lyttelton, New Zealand

The Revd John McLister, and assistant chaplain Glen Estrada, have bought everything from potato chips to PlayStations. “When a ship docks, we supply the crew with portable WiFi, our contact details, and the information on what shops they can buy from,” explains John.

Another popular request is for fast food. After months on board, a burger or a pizza is a welcome relief from the ship’s menu. “Glen and I are ‘Uber Eats,’” says John.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS RECEIVED BY CREW IN SOUTH TEES

“ Our chaplains are spending so much time shopping ”

5 South Tees, UK

Our volunteer team in South Tees received an emergency call on Easter Sunday from an inbound vessel with a single toothbrush between a crew of 17. The team sprang into action, unlocking the centre, stripping the shelves of toothbrushes and allied toiletries.

What started with a toothbrush, has now grown. “Our team started to make up welfare packs of toiletries, biscuits and chocolates – all duly quarantined and safely delivered to the gangways,” explains volunteer, Alexe Finlay.



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WeCare Goes Online

As our WeCare programmes go from strength to strength, we're introducing e-learning modules to reach more seafarers.

In January 2019, with the support of the UK P&I Club, The Mission to Seafarers embarked on an ambitious new initiative called WeCare. The objective was to address an issue at the very heart of seafarers' mental health and wellbeing: relationships.

By providing free educational courses in social and financial wellbeing, WeCare has reached more than 6,000 seafarers and their families. Tom O'Hare, project manager for WeCare, explains, "WeCare is all about giving seafarers and their families a space to talk about their feelings and emotions, and to discuss how they work together to provide support to one another when they're apart."

INTRODUCING E-LEARNING

The 2020 global pandemic exacerbated pressures seafarers and their families faced. On board quarantines, restricted crew changes, and chronic uncertainty have all affected the health of

seafarers at sea and at home. At a time when they needed support more than ever, we were unable to provide face-to-face interactions, ship visits or group workshops.

As a result, WeCare transitioned to e-learning. "We knew we had to act quickly to present WeCare to seafarers," says Tom. "E-learning allows us to reach seafarers directly whilst they are on board ship.

We're able to address issues such as homesickness and financial concerns by providing positive lessons that build confidence in the face of adversity. "WeCare provides seafarers and their loved ones a space to address long-distance communication and financial matters whilst they're apart, but also provides assistance for when they're brought together again."

CONTINUITY OF CARE

Thanks to the support of the UK P&I Club, the TK Foundation, and Prime Training, the WeCare e-learning programme will be available to seafarers from March 2021.

Both flagship courses, Social Wellbeing and Financial Wellbeing, will blend multimedia content with reflective learning exercises to engage seafarers. Each course is one hour and is complemented by wellbeing videos, weblinks and downloads to use on board.

Looking forward, WeCare is about continuity of care. As Tom reflects, "WeCare is more than just a programme or a course online. It's a continuous cycle of providing mental health and wellbeing resources to seafarers throughout their time at sea."

WeCare

WeCare e-learning will be available to order from February 2021. The programme is presented by Ocean Technologies Group and may be hosted through an organisation's private learning management system. To find out more visit: missiontoseafarers.org/wecare

Find out more about our sponsors

The TK Foundation is a private foundation named for J. Torben Karlshøj, founder of the Teekay Shipping Company, now Teekay Corporation. The TK Foundation's mission is to enable disadvantaged youth to succeed and promote maritime education and safety.

The UK P&I Club is a leading provider of P&I insurance and other services to the international shipping community. The UK P&I Club and The Mission to

Seafarers have a long relationship of working together to provide support and advice to seafarers and their families across all four corners of the globe.

PRIME is a global provider of seaborne transportation for refined petroleum products, light chemicals, LPG and ammonia internationally. The company is focused on prioritising crew welfare and is committed to investing in the training and development of their team.



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

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Seafarers Happiness Index

The latest report from the Seafarers Happiness Index (SHI) has been released, revealing an average happiness score of 6.37/10 for the final quarter of 2020.

Against a backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, we heard from crews all over the world. There were glowing reports about ship owners who have invested in seafarer welfare, but also concerns about workload, the erosion of freedoms, and treatment while in quarantine.

CREW CHANGE TENSION

Problems surrounding the crew change crisis continue. Increased workloads and contract extensions are pushing some seafarers to breaking point.

As one commented, “No one seems happy at all at the moment and how could they? I am stuck on my ship. It is the hardest time I have ever known, even after 30 years of seagoing.” Seafarers also spoke of feeling misunderstood as shore workers fail to grasp the pressures of the job.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

There were, however, some signs of progress. There were reports of improvements across areas such as connectivity, food onboard, and even a boost for recreational activities. Although not a ticket home, actions by companies to improve the facilities onboard are hugely welcomed by seafarers.

So, while we heard good news when it came to life on board, it was clear that seafarers are still struggling, and the issue of crew changes is still very much at the fore.

“No one seems happy at all at the moment and how could they?”

Overall
happiness score
6.37 ↑
from 6.35

The Seafarers Happiness Index, sponsored in 2020 by leading P&I insurer the Shipowners' Club and maritime solutions company, Wallem Group, 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: happyatsea.org



the SEA

The Sea newspaper enables seafarers to keep up-to-date with all the latest maritime news, opinion, interviews and lifestyle.

To download your copy of the latest issue visit missiontoseafarers.org/the-sea



The Mission Signs Declaration to Support Seafarer Welfare

The Mission to Seafarers has signed The Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change.

The crew change crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to impact seafarer welfare. The Neptune Declaration is a global call to action, formed by Maritime Industry Crew Change Taskforce following discussions at the Global Maritime Forum's Virtual High-Level Meeting in 2020.

The alliance, which includes the ICS, ITF and Global Maritime Forum, is calling for progress in the following main areas:

1. Recognise seafarers as key workers and give them priority to COVID vaccines
2. Establish and implement gold standard health protocols

3. Increase collaboration to facilitate crew changes
4. Ensure air connectivity between key maritime hubs

The Revd Canon Andrew Wright, Secretary General of The Mission to Seafarers, commented, “It is vital that the crew change issue is finally, fully and swiftly resolved. This, together with the linked demands of the declaration, represent basic practical and humanitarian necessities.”

Read more about the declaration at globalmaritimeforum.org

A Word from **Esben**

Esben Poulsson, Vice President of The Mission to Seafarers, muses on some of the positive changes that the pandemic is helping to bring about within the shipping industry.

I think there is little doubt that from many points of view, the year 2020 will go down in history as a truly momentous one.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit very hard. After a certain degree of optimism during the summer that the worst may be over, the fourth quarter saw an alarming increase in cases, especially in Europe and the U.S. – including a worrying new and even more infectious strain.

Yet despite the endless challenges facing nearly every major industry, not least shipping, seaborne trade kept going and some segments, especially containers, actually saw greatly improved results. The pandemic's most direct effect on our seafarers remains in relation to crew change where, although some improvement has occurred, especially in terms of reducing the period seafarers serve beyond their agreed contract date, we still have much to do.

“The Mission’s work has truly never been more important”

As such, the Mission’s work has truly never been more important. It is therefore heartening that many shipowners have recognised this, contributing generously to our now completed Flying Angel Campaign of 2020, and to our new



campaign, Sustaining Crew Welfare. In seminars, key-note speeches, webinars and meetings, I continue to highlight the great work of the ‘Mission Family’, and to fully recognise our dedicated seafarers. As such, I believe that one ‘positive’ result of the pandemic has been to bring a far greater awareness of the work of The Mission to Seafarers family and of our seafarers, both within, and outside, our industry.

The year has also shown how amazingly our industry has adjusted to a whole new way of working – with virtual meetings in effect becoming the norm. It shows me yet again – and I celebrate my 50th year in the industry this year – how flexible and resilient this wonderful industry is!

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).

OBE Congratulations

Our Vice President Dr Grahaeme Henderson has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list.

We would like to congratulate Grahaeme for receiving the award for services to the international shipping industry.

“I feel immensely proud to receive this honour and thank the many people at Shell and in the shipping industry, who have given so much to make international shipping safer and more sustainable, as it serves the needs of society,” says Grahaeme.

As Vice President of Shipping and Maritime at Shell, Grahaeme’s work spans Shell’s entire business. He is active in a variety of shipping industry bodies and is also a



“I feel immensely proud to receive this honour”

member of the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on the Oceans.

We were delighted to appoint Grahaeme as Vice President of The Mission to Seafarers in May 2020 and are grateful for the immense knowledge and insight he brings to the organisation.

Justice, Hope & Joy Let this be your legacy

The Mission to Seafarers offers emergency assistance, practical support and a friendly welcome to crews visiting over 200 ports in 50 countries. Legacy gifts are a vital part of our funding, and your generous contribution will make a real difference to those facing peril at sea or distress in our ports.

For more information about leaving a gift in your will, contact Johnny Dowling at john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.org or **020 7246 2939**. You can also find out more about our work by visiting our website: www.missiontoseafarers.org

Registered charity no: 1123613 (England and Wales) and SCO41938 (Scotland)





More Ways to Connect

As COVID lockdowns continue, we're developing new ways to help you share our work with your friends, families and colleagues.

We've got a lot of exciting options for churches, community groups and schools, including opportunities for frontline speakers to join your virtual services. We're also developing a series of new videos exploring different aspects of our work, which you can share with your friends or incorporate into virtual events.

We know that you understand the crucial role our seafarers play and, as a keen supporter of The Mission to Seafarers, you are perfectly placed to inspire others to support those who serve us at sea.

You could:

- Invite a speaker to your Sunday service
- Arrange a virtual coffee morning
- Share our videos with your friends

By listening to our chaplains on the frontline and asking questions about their work, you'll get an in-depth insight into what they do and why it's so crucial right now.

SEA SUNDAY

This year, Sea Sunday is on 11 July. We're anticipating that restrictions may still be in place, so why not arrange for a speaker to join your virtual event?

Following the success of our virtual Sea Sunday in 2020, we can provide everything you need to celebrate the unseen keyworkers who are working harder than ever throughout this pandemic.

If you'd like to find out more about booking a speaker or hosting an event, contact Johnny Dowling at john.dowling@missiontoseafarers.org

Adventure Race Japan 2022

The Mission to Seafarers' new Adventure Race Japan will take place on the Izu Peninsula, an area designated as a UNESCO Geopark in 2018.

Approximately 50 teams of three will take part in two days of trekking, running, and other challenges whilst enjoying spectacular views of Mount Fuji and the nearby Suruga Bay.

Two challenge levels will be available to ensure everyone can compete and those who want to push themselves to the limit will get every opportunity to do so.

Participants will have their team skills, enhanced communication, and endurance put to the test as they complete athletic



and fundraising challenges leading up to and over the weekend.

After extended lockdowns, the event offers corporate sponsors and participants prime business and networking opportunities as they come together in a face-to-face environment.

The event will highlight the crucial role that seafarers play in the global economy and enable us to work together to further support to these key workers of the sea.

To sponsor or take part in this event, please contact: krishna@missiontoseafarers.org

Your Challenge For 2021



The word challenge is literally a call to action.

In 2021 we're asking you to answer that call and help the global community of seafarers.

Most of us are capable of far more than we think. In 2021, why not give yourself a positive goal to focus on and raise funds for a great cause in the process?

You could set yourself a personal walking, running or cycling challenge, or pick one of the events we have planned

later this year. Whatever you choose, the Mission is here to help you complete the challenge of your choice.

You and your colleagues could find yourself on the amazing Nightrider cycle event around London in June, or cycling from Milan to Monaco this September. We can also help you arrange that parachute jump or finally undertake that wing walk! The only limit is your imagination.

To get involved in any event just contact events@missiontoseafarers.org or visit missiontoseafarers.org/events



REFLECTION

Our efforts within the current global challenges may seem insignificant. But we should never underestimate just how life changing our small acts of kindness can be.

Before he gave the blessing at our virtual Christmas Festival of Light and Hope, Bishop Nathaniel, of Hokkaido in Japan made reference to a very moving story. On the day after Christmas in 1906, his grandfather was part of a crew on a ship lost off Newcastle, in UK waters. All seafarers were thankfully rescued and for the next few weeks his grandfather was cared for by the Mission.

It was an experience that changed his life, and in fact he eventually ended up in full-time Christian ministry. His

grandson is testimony to the long-term legacy of what happened on that St Stephen's Day 115 years ago.

YOU HAVE A LEGACY

Recently I was walking through London when I was hailed by a man sitting on a wall having his lunch. It turned out to be a former pupil of mine from my days as a school chaplain. He recalled the impact on his life of something I had said many, many years ago.

It was a small thing which I would have thought was of no import, but for him

in some unexpected way it had been transformational. It is a reminder of the long-term impact of everything we do, even the small things.

I can only begin to imagine how seafarers and their families will speak about these dark times years from now. Many, I know, will recall the profound difference made through acts of service and kindness, large and small, by our port teams. These will have a lasting impact, as will the vigorous efforts of our IHQ teams and the prayers and generosity of our supporters.

WHAT CAN YOU LEAVE?

I once heard a talk on John's Gospel from Archbishop Rowan Williams. He reflected on the many encounters recorded in that Gospel between Jesus

and so many individuals – Nicodemus who came by night; the woman at the well; Mary in the garden; and others. He pointed out that in every case, “there was more of the person after the encounter than there was before”.

In every meeting something changed for the better. What a great observation. In all our doings and conversations, including those with seafarers, we should seek to leave more of the person after the encounter than there was before. If we do that, what boundless and unknowable legacies we will all leave.



What boundless and unknowable legacies we will all leave”



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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