



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

AUTUMN 2025

MARK DOWN MATE



The Love of My Life

Fishing crews returning to Lowestoft in winter 1965 told of huge gales and monstrous waves as harsh winter conditions began to bite. The Boston Pionair had sailed in early February hoping for a good catch and a safe return home. But as Valentine's Day came, it was clear that the cruel North Sea had claimed another victim. The Boston Pionair and its crew of nine were lost at sea.

“Margaret and Norma tell me the plaque has lifted a weight off their shoulders. Like many fishermen's widows, they have no body returned and no final resting place for their loved ones lost at sea. It may have taken sixty years, but they have a form of closure at last.”

Sixty years later, two visitors arrive unexpectedly at the Lowestoft Fishermen's Mission office. Norma and Margaret have heard that a memorial to lost fishermen is planned for the town, and they want their husbands, Billy and Brian, to be named on it. Brian was the skipper and Billy a deckhand on the Boston Pionair.

Amanda Wisner, Fishermen's Mission Area Officer for East Anglia, takes up the tale:

“Margaret and Norma were visibly upset. The passing of time had not lessened their loss. They still felt hurt that their men had not been properly remembered. The town memorial was planned as a more general tribute to those lost at sea, but Margaret and Norma rightly wanted something more personal.

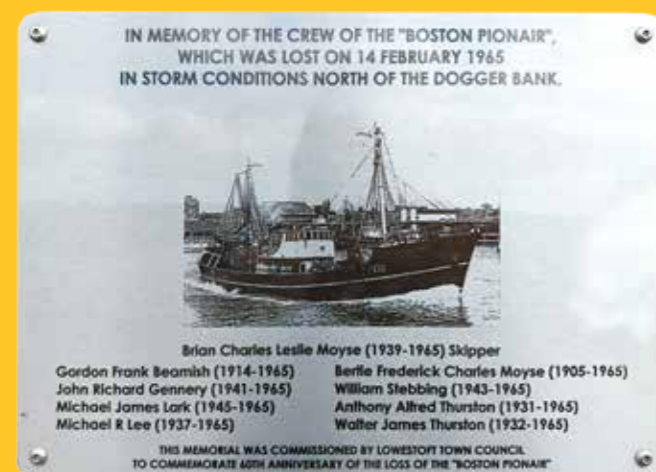
“I approached Lowestoft Town Council, who agreed that a specific

memorial was needed. Earlier this year, that was realised when a plaque – a fitting tribute for those lost on the Boston Pionair – was placed on the Lowestoft South Pier.

“Nearly two hundred people attended the unveiling ceremony with many from the families of those lost present. It was hugely moving to experience the shared loss and love they had for each other.

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The pain of loss runs a lifetime for those left behind. Please support our work today as we place a comforting arm around their shoulders. Thank you.



The Boston Pionair plaque

“Billy was the love of my life. It may have been sixty years ago that he was lost at sea but never a day goes by without him being in my heart.”

Margaret Savidge, Billy's widow.



Norma, Amanda and Margaret (l-r) beside the Boston Pionair plaque



The wrecked deck of Peter's boat after the wave had struck

Scraping the Bones



“My family were struggling to survive. Even the basic things we took for granted were a stretch. I was shopping with shrapnel, trying to put food on the table. It reached the point where I was scraping the salmon bones we used as lobster bait so we could eat. We had nothing.”

Mundeford fisherman Peter Dadd's boat capsized when engulfed by a huge wave – known by fishermen as the 'one in ten thousand wave'. Peter's boat was mostly destroyed and his livelihood ripped away.



Peter tells us of his recovery from that shocking experience and how the Fishermen's Mission supported him.

“The days following the capsizing were difficult. I had head injuries and found it hard to leave the house. I was also worried about my crewmate Martin and the trauma he experienced after being trapped underwater in the wheelhouse.

“The Fishermen's Mission called on me within 24 hours. They outlined what support was available and how they could help. Most importantly they allowed me time to talk through all that had happened. Psychologically, the incident hit me hard and for a while I lost my confidence. It was good to have someone there who listened and understood all I had been through.

“I'd lost most of my lobster pots and my boat was destroyed from the deck up, although the hull had survived intact. I decided to rebuild the boat, trusting her to keep me alive should the same thing happen again. However, the rebuild proved expensive, exhausting all our financial options.

“My family were struggling to survive. Even the basic things we took for granted were a stretch. I was shopping with shrapnel, trying to put food on the



table. It reached the point where I was scraping the salmon bones we used as lobster bait so we could eat. We had nothing.

“Again, the Fishermen's Mission were there. They helped pay our food bills and kept a roof over our heads. This allowed me time to get the boat back out fishing again. They have helped me provide for my family, which means everything.

“Fishing has been a struggle since then, but I know I'm lucky to be here and to have the Fishermen's Mission alongside me.”

Fishermen like Peter never know what the next wave might bring. Please donate today to ensure we can ride the storm with them. Thank you.

“People like Rosie have rarely known the comforts in life we may take for granted. Being able to help, even in small ways, has a huge impact.”

Miriam Kemp, Fishermen's Mission Area Officer for Fraserburgh and the Moray Coast.

Coming up Rosy for Rosie

“Every time I call round, her smile stretches from ear to ear! In her broad Doric tongue, Rosie says she finally feels at home - warm, comfy, and able to enjoy the simple pleasures of life for the first time in many years.”

For Rosie, fishing has been as much a part of her life as if she herself was hauling in the nets. Raised on the Moray Coast she has only ever known the stirring aroma of the quayside and the sight of boats of all sizes plying their trade in the North Sea. Miriam Kemp, Fishermen's Mission Area Officer for Fraserburgh and the Moray Coast, tells us her story.

“Rosie fell in love and married Bert, a local trawlerman. Though life was at times tough and money never plentiful, they enjoyed many happy years together before Bert passed away far too early, over twenty years ago. Sadly, some misplaced investments the couple made resulted in Rosie facing real hardship. Being a fisherman's widow made things even tougher.

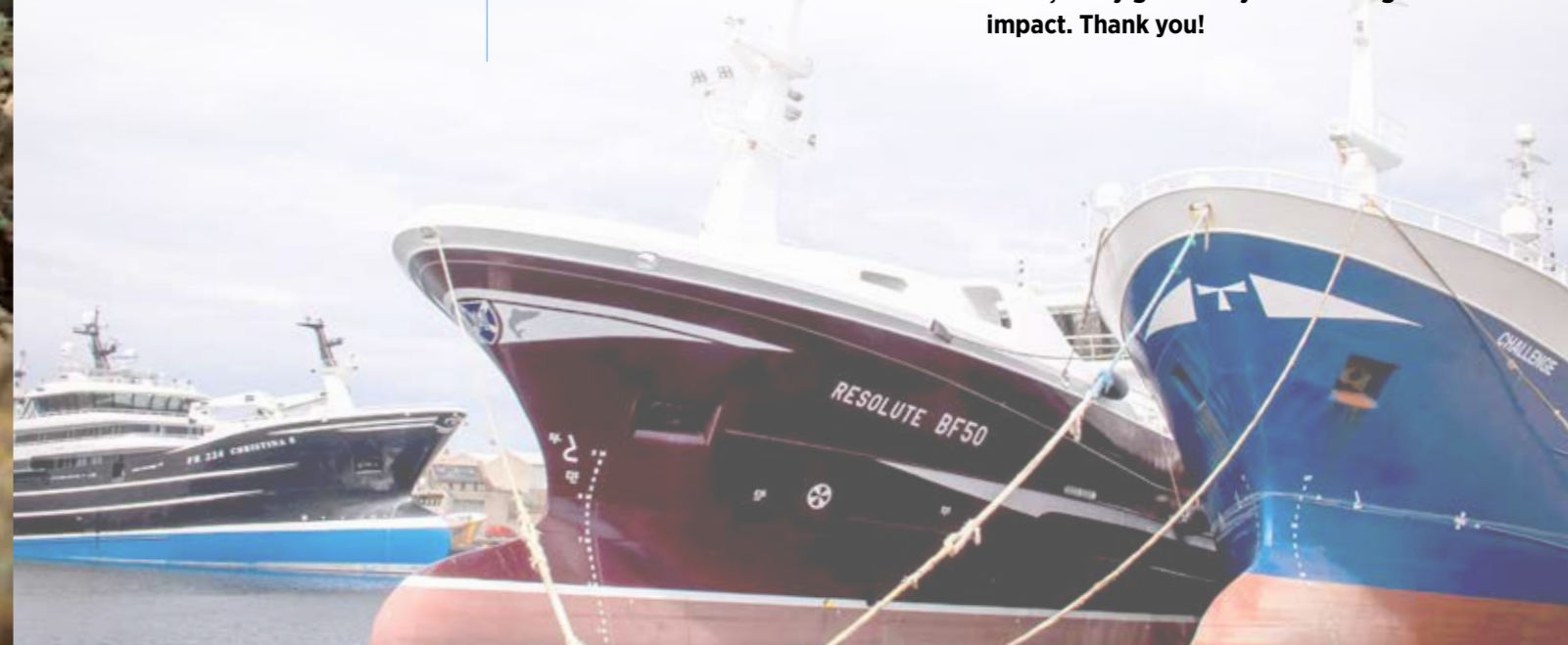
“The Fishermen's Mission stepped in and facilitated a lifetime grant from one of our maritime partners, the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society. As the years have passed, we have continued to keep an eye on Rosie and earlier this year it became clear she was struggling at home. We helped her move into sheltered accommodation. The only flat available was in a very poor state but that did not deter Rosie. Even at 84 years of age she was a wonder with the paint brush and decorated the whole place in brilliant white emulsion!



Miriam Kemp

“By using local contacts and through securing further grant funding we were able to help carpet the whole property and provide a new cooker. Rosie is now enjoying life in her cosy new home. Every time I call round, her smile stretches from ear to ear! In her broad Doric tongue, Rosie says she finally feels at home - warm, comfy, and able to enjoy the simple pleasures of life for the first time in many years.”

Together, you and the Fishermen's Mission supply essential care through lasting relationships. For people like Rosie, every gift from you has a huge impact. Thank you!



A Brighter Future

Much in demand by holidaymakers, fishermen's cottages are often described as idyllic places for a break away on the coast. Whitewashed stone walls housing quirky interiors with traditional sea views. Sometimes the reality is very different as one of our Port Officers relates:

“The first thing to do was get the electricity back on. As we waited for the power to return, I chatted to Tommy about his life. I noticed there was a guitar in his room and I urged Tommy to play it. It was wonderful to see the real Tommy come alive as he strummed some old tunes.

“Imagine waking up every morning to the smell of acrid dampness and the sight of mould-blackened walls. The permanent gaps in your windows are stuffed with rags – yet still chill winds blow in. No heating or power means the only light you have comes from a streetlamp outside your window and you can never get warm.

“This was how I met Tommy, a retired fisherman living in a less than idyllic fisherman's cottage. I was astonished that anyone could live in such squalor. Tommy had been seriously neglected by his landlord and the electricity company who had mistakenly turned off his supply. Throughout the winter Tommy only survived through the good will of local pubs - even replacing his tin of cold baked beans with a turkey dinner on Christmas Day.

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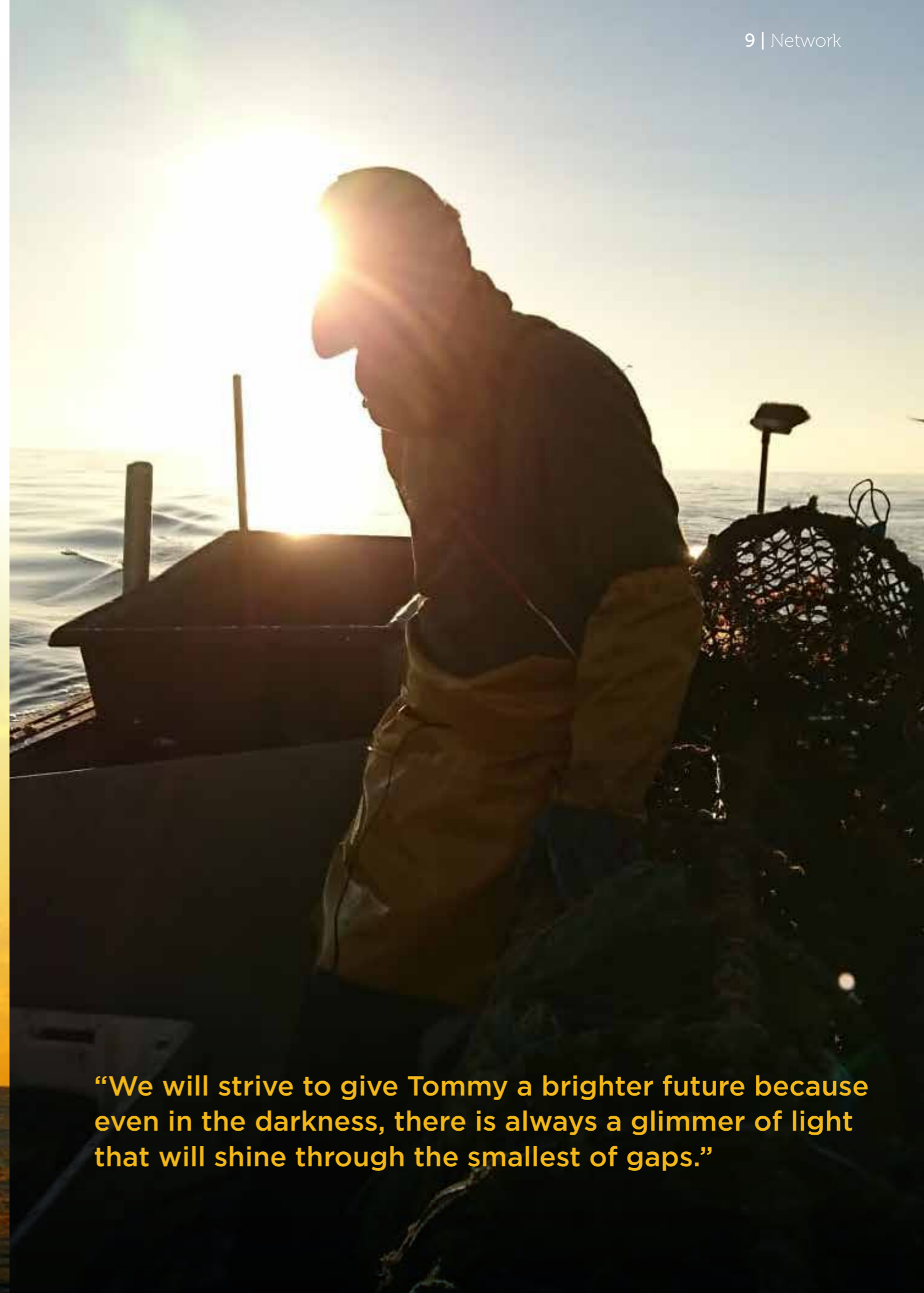
Tommy to play it. It was wonderful to see the real Tommy come alive as he strummed some old tunes.

“With the electricity restored, I began the complex tasks of dealing with landlords and council housing teams. Tommy was living in this state because he lacked skills in talking to officials like these when things were wrong. Our role as an advocate in these situations cannot be underestimated. Giving a voice to those who don't have the words to speak makes a life-changing impact.

“Tommy's is a complex case. Happily, a resolution in sight. We will strive to give Tommy a brighter future because even in the darkness, there is always a glimmer of light that will shine through the smallest of gaps.”

Your prayers and gifts can help us secure a brighter future for fishermen like Tommy. Please support our work today in whatever way you feel able. Thank you.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Ritch, Shetland



“We will strive to give Tommy a brighter future because even in the darkness, there is always a glimmer of light that will shine through the smallest of gaps.”

Their future in your hands

Following a horrific injury at sea, a fisherman told us:

“This is one of the worst things that could have possibly happened to me. My whole family have suffered. I don’t know what me and my family would have done without the Fishermen’s Mission.”

Our fishermen need the reassurance that in times of crisis, hardship and loss they will have the support of the Fishermen’s Mission.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of many people like you including a gift in their will to the Fishermen’s Mission we can support fishing communities around the whole UK coastline.

Perhaps this is something you might consider, please?

There are many good reasons for writing or updating your will. If this is on your “to-do list” it would be wonderful if, having provided for family and friends, you could please include a gift to the Fishermen’s Mission. It’s a way of helping fishermen long into the future.

Doing so will cost you nothing today but will make a life-changing difference for fishermen and their families facing difficult times ahead. We also have a special scheme with solicitors that may allow you to write your will for free.



Andy Perry, Fishermen’s Mission Legacy Manager

For a confidential chat or to receive a copy of our “Guide to Gifts in Wills” please give me a call today. My direct line is **01489 566922** or you can email me at **andyperry@fishermensmission.org.uk**

Thank you
Andy Perry
Legacy Manager



Fly the flag for the Fishermen’s Mission!



Every day the Fishermen’s Mission are changing lives for good in our fishing communities. It’s a beautiful team effort as you, our wonderful donors, join with us to make amazing stuff happen!

So, let’s take a day to celebrate, to fly the flag for all we are achieving, on 14th October 2025 – Fishermen’s Mission National Support Day.

Fishermen’s Mission flags will be flying high and proud around UK fishing ports on that day, and you can join us by showing your support. You can have a fishy fun day with a fundraising event for us. Maybe a coffee morning, a bake sale, or invite friends to a fish and chip supper. You could even do a sponsored challenge.

We are also urging our church supporters to pray for our work and maybe hold a special offering for our work on a Sunday close to National Support Day 2025.

www.fishermensmission.org.uk/NSD



And there is an exciting new way you can show your support for our fishermen as we launch...

THE BIG DIP

Join us in making waves this autumn!

- Get to a beach, get your cossie on, and take a BIG DIP in the sea
- Take a snapshot of your battle against the waves and post it on social media using #DipPics2025 or #FishMishBigDip
- Boast to your buddies of your dipping prowess and make a £10 minimum donation to the Fishermen’s Mission
- Your BIG DIP could win you £250 worth of vouchers from top swim brands Wild Moose and Made of Water



So... **LET’S GET BIG DIPPING!**
Visit **www.fishermensmission.org.uk/BigDip** or scan the QR code for more details.

Keep the dates...

The Fishermen's Mission 2026 Calendar is here!

For 2026 we are thrilled that artist Mark Lord has kindly granted us use of his stunning artwork. Every month, a captivating image beautifully reflects the spirit of the sea and the communities we support. These are accompanied by tasty seasonal seafood recipes celebrating the richness and sustainability of our nation's finest catch. Our spiral-bound calendar also has plenty of space to note down your important dates.

At £10 each, the Fishermen's Mission 2026 Calendar is a must!

Order today from www.fishermensmission.co.uk/shop or use the order form enclosed with your Network.

...And get ready for your 2026 Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendar!

As a Christian charity, the Fishermen's Mission is powered by prayer! Every week, we pray for our fishermen and their families, our Port ministry, and our supporters. We'd love you to join us as we pray by using one of our free Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendars. Every week, the calendar highlights a Port Staff member, an area of our work, or a fishing-related concern to pray for. We highly value your prayers!

To receive your Prayer Calendar, please tick the box on the enclosed gift form, call 0800 6341020, or visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar in December to download your copy. Thank you for your prayers!



Some of the ways you can help us

Make a donation

■ We receive no government funding or lottery support so every single donation makes a real difference to us. You can make a donation by calling **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020** or donate online at: **www.fishermensmission.org.uk** or post a cheque to our address shown below.

You can set up a regular gift online or use the enclosed gift form.

Become a volunteer

■ We are always grateful for the help given to us by our dedicated volunteers. If you can spare a few hours each month please call us for a chat on: **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020** or email: **enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk**

Pray for the ministry of the Fishermen's Mission

■ You can download our Prayer Calendar at www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar/

Remember us in your will

■ Everyone wants to ensure that friends and family are well-provided for when you are writing or updating your will. By including even a small gift to the Fishermen's Mission you can make a life-changing difference for fishermen and their families.

If you would like our 'Guide to Gifts in Wills' booklet call: **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020** or email: **andyperry@fishermensmission.org.uk**

How to contact us:

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