



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

NETWORK

Photo courtesy of Kevin Ritchie, Shetland



SPRING 2025

The city built on fish

“There were trawlers as far as the eye could see, densely packed into the quay, steam billowing from their funnels. The Trawlermen, those three-day millionaires, fresh from the Arctic fishing grounds, landed their catch on a dockside thronged with bobbers, gutters, sorters and net menders.”

A scene that was played out at St. Andrew’s Dock for over 150 years as Hull staked its claim to be the biggest fishing port on earth. Today, it is a very different scene, but the beating heart of Hull’s fishing heritage still holds strong across the city. Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer Sal van Beem comments:

“Many living here vividly remember the fish dock in its heyday, including 100-year-old Lilian Pearce. Hull born and bred, Lilian served in the Land Army in WW2 and her late husband Peter braved the trawlers for 36 years. We’ve known Lilian for many years and secured grants for her when times have been tough including one from the Hull Fishermen’s Trust Fund which she will receive for life. Today she lives in a care home, but it is always a joy to visit her. She says the secret to her long life is the love of good friends & family, I like to think we are a part of that.”

Another client Sal works with is Mandy. Sal tells us her story:

“Mandy’s husband Steve fished out of Hull for many years. We began supporting this couple when Steve was diagnosed with a life-changing illness. Steve had

to leave the fishing and sadly passed away in 2023. But we kept in contact with Mandy and were delighted to help her by sourcing an EPV scooter.”

Mandy tells us of the difference this has made to her life:

“It’s brilliant! I can get out in the fresh air, go out with my daughter & ride alongside her as she walks the dog. I now speak to neighbours on the estate that I haven’t been able to see for a long time. I am looking forward to the summer and being able to go to the seaside for a ride out. I’ll actually be able to get out of the car instead of just sitting in it! It’s a life saver for me, honestly, I’m so grateful to the Hull Fishermen’s Mission.”

Hull may have changed over the years, but the professional and compassionate support the Fishermen’s Mission gives in the town remains. Please donate today to ensure our generations of care can continue. Thank you.

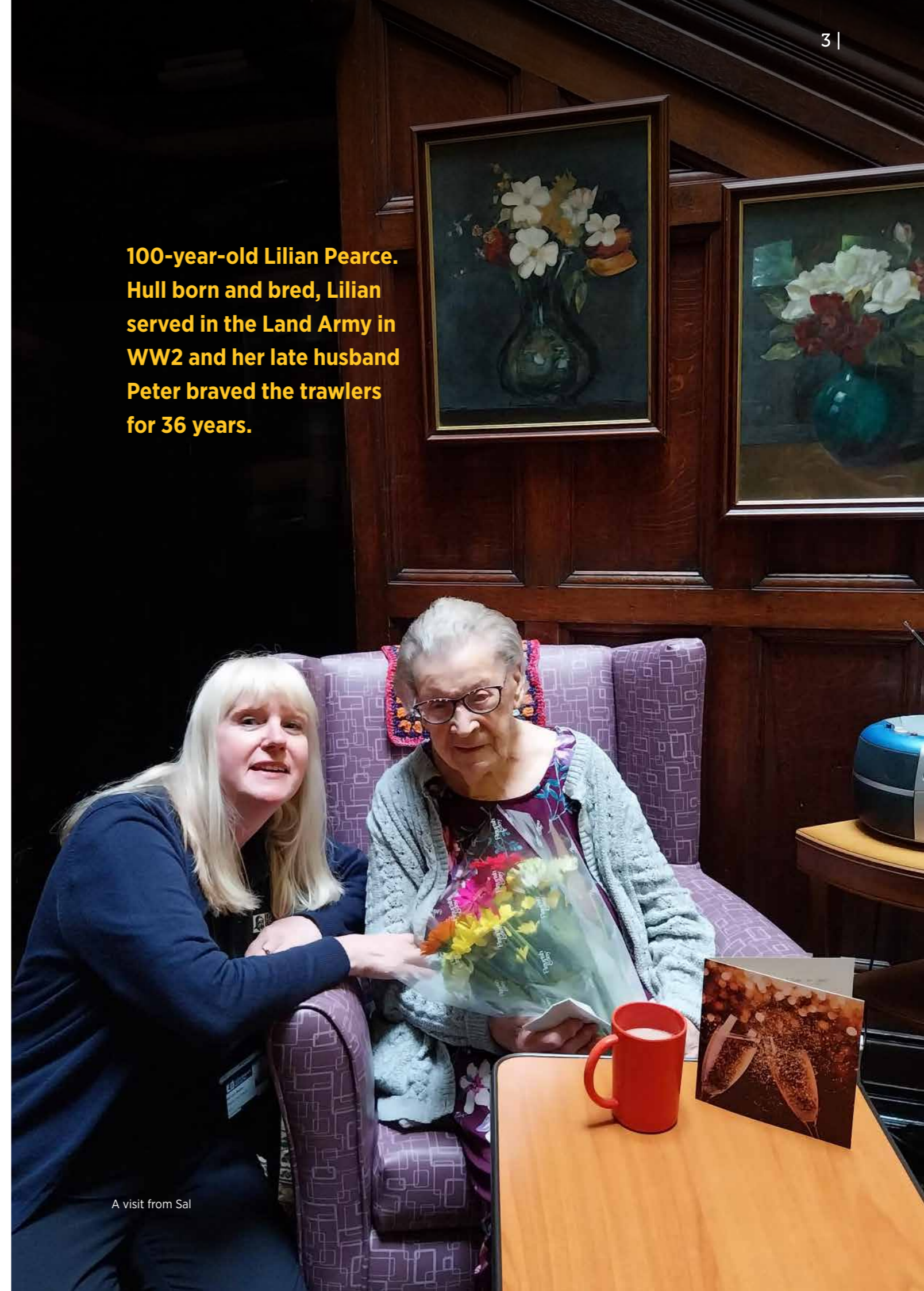


Mandy reclaims the streets of Hull!



The Yorkshire team: Sal van Beem, Dawn Bargate (North Yorkshire Coast), Kelly Olver (Fundraising Manager, Yorkshire) Sally Taylor and Rebecca Theobald

100-year-old Lilian Pearce. Hull born and bred, Lilian served in the Land Army in WW2 and her late husband Peter braved the trawlers for 36 years.



A visit from Sal

All taken care of



James and his fisherman's best friend

“The Fishermen’s Mission have really helped me over the years, they have always been a great support when things have been tough. It means a lot to know we are not forgotten and that somebody cares.”

James, a former fisherman from Southwest Scotland.

Every day, in all weathers, fishing boats venture out into the challenging seas around our island to bring home the catch. Some sail from large ports, with the sounds of a bustling quay and a busy fish market ringing in their ears. For many though, the daily trip to sea is from a tiny cove or inlet where they will be one of only a handful of small boats. Here the fishing means man working hand-in-hand with the sea, using knowledge and experience built up over centuries.

For Louise Liddell, Fishermen’s Mission Area Officer for Southwest Scotland, understanding this challenging way of life is key. Louise explains:

“My patch is vast and includes bigger ports such as Troon and Stranraer alongside smaller fishing villages and aquaculture sites dotted around the coast and islands. I encounter a wide range of client issues across the different communities so being adaptable and knowledgeable about each one is crucial.

“I’d not long been in the job when the FV Serinah sunk. I provided immediate support to the three young fishermen and their families involved. I now encourage fishermen across the southwest of Scotland to get the training they need to ensure they are as safe as possible when at sea.

“My work also sees me supporting those struggling with addictions and

mental health difficulties. Accessing local services for our clients can be very difficult and even once referrals are made things can break down. However, our clients remain engaged with us so we can continue to strive to help them.”

Often the work is very practical. Here Louise tells us about James, who had been a fisherman since 1988.

“James spent many years at sea but due to a family bereavement and the desire for a more stable family environment and a settled income, James left the fishing. Life then became very tough for James when his partner Liz suffered a horrific car accident. James became Liz’s carer, and we helped the family with a referral to Occupational Therapy. We also ensured they were getting the benefits they were entitled to whilst there was no income for the household.

James loves to chat about the fishing, which he so clearly loves and misses greatly. Keeping him up to date with news from the local boats means everything to James and helps him through what has been a very difficult time.”

Louise can only give her professional and compassionate support to fishing families in need because of your support. Please donate today to ensure all our fishermen are cared for.



Louise Liddell with James



Louise Liddell visiting boats at Troon harbour

Challenging **journeys**

“I’m continually in awe of how hard the fishing community works. Struggles with new legislation, an ageing fleet, challenges in recruiting crew, along with the sheer remoteness of this part of the country, make it so tough just getting the catch from the sea to the market”.



The serene scene at Carradale Harbour



Alistair Mclean holds a heavy collection bucket with Chris Holden

I wonder what your morning commute or trip to the nearest shop or medical facility entails? Maybe a short drive, walk or bus trip? Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer for Kintyre, Chris Holden, supports fishermen in one of the remotest parts of the UK. Here Chris paints a picture of the challenges faced to bring fresh fish to our plates.

“I cover an area of beautiful coastline that is longer in miles than that of France and takes in 28 inhabited islands. The nearest large acute hospital is a three-and-a-half-hour drive away in Glasgow. I work out of Campbeltown, often considered the UK’s most remote mainland town.

“Much of the fishing here is from small towns and villages. These range from Tarbert which is an historic fishing hub, to the Isle of Luing which has a population of only around 200. Both fishing communities were dealt tragic blows in January 2018 and December 2023 when much-loved fishermen were tragically lost.

I can meet some fishermen face-to-face, but due to the logistics and distances involved, a lot of my interaction is by phone and messaging. This was something we majored on during the Covid pandemic and it works well and efficiently here.

“I’m continually in awe of how hard the fishing community works. Struggles with new legislation, an ageing fleet, challenges in recruiting crew, along with the sheer remoteness of this part of the country, make it so tough just getting the catch from the sea to the market.

“The fishing industry here relies on the dedication of drivers with refrigerated trucks taking long and hazardous journeys along winding single carriageway roads. One of our local Campbeltown drivers, Al Mclean, knows these journeys well and he is always ready to expect the unexpected. Few would be prepared to do the job he does. When most people are in their beds, he is transporting the hard-worked-for catch to the fish markets. He genuinely cares about the industry and the people he works alongside.

“Al recently had a big birthday and requested donations for the Fishermen’s Mission rather than presents. He was thrilled to see £1,300 raised. I was overwhelmed by Alistair’s kindness and the donations raised shows the respect and appreciation people here have for him, our fishermen, and the Fishermen’s Mission.”

We are very grateful for every penny donated to keep our crucial work afloat. Thank you for your support which makes such a difference in the lives of our fishermen in need.

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Chris Holden, Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer for Kintyre



Tarbert Harbour shows its colours

No fisherman left behind

“The Fishermen’s Mission have been very good and helped more than expected. You’ve done it for us - Jane was so kind and helpful and it’s lovely to know the support is there” Brian, a former Anglesey fisherman.



The remote and rugged coastline of Northeast Anglesey boasts a number of picturesque fishing ports. They are often protected from the crashing waves of the Irish Sea by breakwaters, providing peaceful harbour inlets with a few boats resting on the gently lapping waves. The fishing along this coastline is small but challenging, with sometimes only a handful of fishermen and boats carrying on centuries-old fishing traditions and practices. These are proud men and women of the sea, bringing home the catch.



Jane Devereux with Brian

“Fishing families are rightly proud people. Making a difference for good in their lives, even in small ways, is at the heart of what the Fishermen’s Mission does across Wales and the whole UK.”

For Jane Devereux, Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer in North Wales, keeping in contact with the fishing communities is essential but also challenging. Jane explains:

“I often rely on word of mouth to pick up clients. Thankfully the support and care we can provide is being widely circulated and new clients are coming through.”

The proof of that arose when Jane visited Malwyn Griffiths, the Harbour Master at Amlwch. He helped Jane contact a local fisherman who was finding things tough after ill health brought some major life changes. Jane takes up the story:

“Brian and his partner live with their adorable Jack Russell terrier in a windswept row of stone Welsh cottages. When I arrived, we had a laugh as I greeted the dog first before shaking Brian’s hand! Over a panad (a cuppa), I learnt that Brian could no longer go to sea and had to sell his boat due to ill health. I put them in touch with SAIL (Seafarers’ Advice and Information Line), who act as the Citizen’s Advice Bureau for seafarers, as there was now no regular household income. As Brian had fished for most of his life he was entitled to regular grant support. SAIL also advised Brian



Jane Devereux meets Amlwch Harbour Master, Malwyn Griffiths

about putting his finances in order for the future.

“Chatting with Brian also revealed their cooker was not working. I sourced a grant to provide a new one for them. Brian could not believe we could help in this way and is now letting other active and retired local fishermen know just how the Fishermen’s Mission can help them.

“Fishing families are rightly proud people. Making a difference for good in their lives, even in small ways, is at the heart of what the Fishermen’s Mission does across Wales and the whole UK. Let’s get that message out there!”

At the Fishermen’s Mission we never want any of our fishermen or their families to face the unique struggles of the fishing life alone. Your support means all fishermen can turn to us for help. Thank you.



Amlwch Harbour

Always in our hearts

Seventy years ago, in January 1955, two trawlers from Hull, the Lorella and the Roderigo, were steaming through the treacherous waters of the North Cape of Iceland, attempting to reach shelter as storms engulfed them.

In fishing cities like Hull the pain of loss lingers from generation to generation. And that pain is not a stranger to many fishing communities around the UK, affecting families, friends and whole communities.

They were close to safety when a radio message from a third trawler, the Kingston Garnet, called for help as they were trapped by a fouled propellor. Lorella and Roderigo altered their course, braving the hostile winds, to assist the Kingston Garnet. Arriving at the scene, the Kingston Garnet had freed herself and was also desperately running for shelter.

The Lorella and the Roderigo turned with full steam ahead, but conditions had worsened. The winds reached hurricane strength and dangerous ice had built up on the decks and superstructures of the vessels.

The last radio message from the Lorella was a faint mayday call, "Heeling right over, can't get her back," and then she was lost. The Roderigo continued her vain attempt to reach safety before she too succumbed. Her final mayday message was a repeated call from her skipper, "She's going over, going over."

All hands were lost. Forty fishermen perished. Their number added to the more than 6,000 fishermen lost from Hull alone.

In fishing cities like Hull the pain of loss lingers from generation to generation.

And that pain is not a stranger to many fishing communities around the UK, affecting families, friends and whole communities. The lost are always in our hearts and we never forget them or the price they paid for our fish.

Today, technology and legislation may have vastly improved safety at sea but fishing remains our most dangerous peacetime occupation. Statistics from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch show us that 77 boats were lost at sea for the ten years from 2014-2023 with the loss of 59 lives. Each one is never just a number, never just a statistic. Each one is a cherished loved one, a much-missed friend.

2024 saw maritime charities including the Fishermen's Mission come together for the first National Fishing Remembrance Day. Fishermen's Mission Port Staff helped lead services held at fishing ports around the UK coastline. This year's National Fishing Remembrance Day will be on Sunday 11th May. Once again, this will be a day for us to come together, either at quayside services, or in our own churches and homes to say a prayer and remember those fishermen who did not come home.



**NATIONAL FISHING
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

11th May 2025

For more information on National Fishing Remembrance Day events please visit our website: www.fishermensmission.org.uk/FishingRemembranceDay

The National Fishing Remembrance Day is created in partnership between the Fishermen's Mission, The Seafarers' Charity, Stella Maris, Seafish, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.



Celebrity chefs cut loose in Cornwall

■ Fancy enjoying a fabulous five-course set menu from a team of talented award-winning chefs?

■ Keen to indulge in a unique dining experience in a stunning location with entertainment, exquisite locally caught seafood and a charity auction?

■ How about joining a very exclusive number of diners for a one-off culinary event whilst also raising funds for your favourite fishing charity?

If the answer to any of those foody posers is YES, we have exciting news for you! Our third Fishermen's Mission Charity Dinner will be taking place at St. Issey in Cornwall on Saturday 14th June.

Top chefs including BBC's Great British Menu winners Jude Kereama and Ben Palmer will be cooking up a storm alongside Stephane Delourme, formerly Rick Stein's Executive Group Chef.

Julian Waring, Fishermen's Mission Fundraising Manager for the Southwest of England tells us more:

"This is our third Cornish charity dinner and it's promising to be the best yet. The previous dinners raised over £55,000 for the Fishermen's Mission and we're



*hoping for a similar response this time around. **Tickets are strictly limited with only 100 places available for this exclusive event. They sell like hot cakes so don't miss out!***

Please visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/shop to book your seat today!



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 using 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

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