



**THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION**

Autumn 2016

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

135 years of serving our fishermen

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Providing a lifeline of welfare and support to fishermen and their families

A smile regained

"I feel terrible to be asking for help when there are many other people in a much worse situation than me, so I don't mind if I don't get any assistance."

The words of Christopher Anderson during a welfare visit from Fishermen's Mission Pastor, Fleetwood Superintendent George Ayoma.

In reality Christopher was in desperate need. Carpets threadbare, kitchen flooring non-existent, essential household goods falling apart and a dangerous cooker that meant Christopher struggled to prepare meals.

Christopher comes from a long line of Fleetwood fishermen and he is named after his uncle who was tragically lost at sea in July 1930 aged just twenty.



Christopher Anderson fishing (far right)

George Ayoma listened intently as Christopher showed him a picture of his uncle and told his story.

Later George reflects on the visit, "Talking to the nephew of that young lad who died some 85 years ago, I am struck by how these often heart-breaking memories impact today. We



George Ayoma calls on Christopher Anderson

cannot always address the sadness or fears relating to these tragic stories. However we can deal with more immediate areas of need, the struggle with poverty, a new carpet, a safe cooker, a bed".

Practical help and simply listening to people's stories are the heartbeat of the Fishermen's Mission outreach programme. Your support means we can give Christopher Anderson one of life's most treasured gifts, a smile, a precious smile.

Coastal Blessings

The sun shone on the Fishermen's Mission this summer at a whole host of open-air services. Hundreds of people gathered together around our coastline to celebrate the life of local seafaring communities and the work of the Fishermen's Mission

These included a Thanksgiving service for the fishing industry in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. Blessings of the fleet in Looe in Cornwall

and Amble in Northumberland. A Harbour blessing in Troon, Scotland and a 'Songs of praise' service at the Herring Queen Gala in Eyemouth.

At all these wonderful occasions Fishermen's Mission Superintendents were delighted to lead the events, especially at Amble, where our mascot 'Albert' ensured everything ran smoothly!



Troon



Amble



Looe



Kilkeel

Fishing the Broch

Meet Miriam Kemp, the Fishermen's Mission Superintendent at Fraserburgh. Miriam hails from a fishing family and growing up in a fishing port means she understands the tough life our fishermen lead. Miriam comments,

"It's a precarious occupation. The weather is atrocious most of the time. The winters are severely harsh. 2015 saw the loss of five boats and five lives from Fraserburgh alone. Not everyone understands the cost paid by fishermen and many do not value enough the vital food stuff these guys bring us".



Mending nets

Mission volunteer outreach worker Sylvia in caring for these fishermen who are 1,000's of miles from home. Later there will be welfare visits to fishermen who are unable to fish due to illness or injury

are ever the same and the work can be very testing at times. But serving fishermen is in my blood and I wouldn't want to do anything else".

Miriam tells of one such visit to a retired fisherman's widow whose husband had recently died. Funeral costs and loss of benefits had plunged her into debt. Miriam was able to give sound advice, arrange long term grant funding from the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society and to be simply a friend and a shoulder to cry on at such a heartbreakingly vulnerable time.

Miriam's compassionate care of our fishermen is only made possible by your gifts to us. Please can you be a part of Miriam's outreach work by supporting us today. Thank you.

Today Fraserburgh is the largest shellfish harbour in Europe. It is home to over 130 boats catching mostly prawns and crabs and a further 14 pelagic vessels fishing for herring and mackerel. Add to this a large number of retired fishermen and their dependants and you have a heavy workload for our Fraserburgh Port Team.

and to the many retired fishermen and their families along the 130 miles of coastline covered from Fraserburgh.

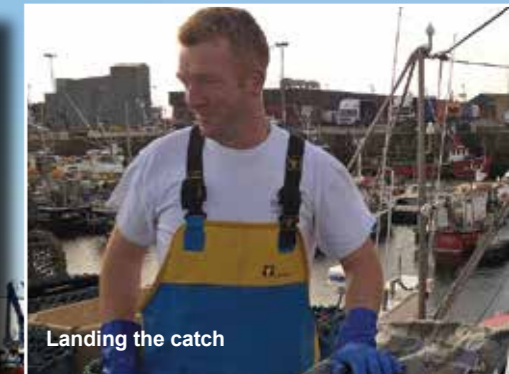
Miriam describes her work,

"From day to day banter with fishermen at the harbour, befriending retired fishermen, providing basic needs for fishing families struggling financially, caring for those suffering heartfelt loss and grief, no two days

The day begins at the Harbour calling on local and visiting boats. Miriam will also chat with the Filipino, Sri Lankan and Ghanaian crew members. She works closely with Fishermen's



Meeting local fishermen



Landing the catch

In an instant...

Date: 20th March 2016
Place: Twenty miles south east of Kilkeel, Northern Ireland.
Weather: Fine
Situation: Kilkeel Fishing Vessel Carraig Cuan taking on water and sinking fast. Three crew on board.



Experienced crewman Jerome McCartan takes up the story.



Jerome McCartan

"The trawl was progressing normally, everything ok, but then we had some water in the bilges. That is not unusual but the skipper ensured we put on our lifejackets as a precaution – a

decision that saved my life. Within seconds mild concern turned to panic and I was suddenly in the sea. The freezing water engulfed me. I quickly began to lose consciousness. I spent 25 minutes in the water before help arrived. Hypothermia had set in and I was close to death."

The Coastguard helicopter rescued all three crew and transferred them to Drogheda hospital.

That evening Fishermen's Mission Superintendents at Kilkeel Lesley Hammond and

Ingrid Perry visited the hospital to check on the condition of the fishermen. Two were being discharged and were given fresh clothes for the journey home. Jerome had been in the water the longest and was still quite poorly as the hospital team strived to get his body temperature to rise. Thankfully Jerome recovered and left hospital but that was not the end of our involvement.



Lesley Hammond & Ingrid Perry

Lesley Hammond comments on the days following the sinking, "We kept in close contact with Jerome via phone calls and visits. Understandably he was very nervous even walking by the harbour and had a fear of returning to the job he loved. With help and support from his friends and the Fishermen's Mission Jerome eventually was able to walk along the harbour, then board a fishing boat and finally return to sea. It's great to see him once again doing the job he has done all his working life."

The trauma and stress of shipwreck can never be underestimated. 2015 saw the Fishermen's Mission help 280 fishermen following emergencies at sea. Without your support we could not even help one.

TROON'S HOME FROM HOME

Imagine yourself as a fisherman. Wrestling with nature. Taking on all the sea can throw at you. Risking life and limb to bring home a catch as you do the UK's most dangerous job. Now imagine doing that job in a foreign country where hardly anybody speaks your language. The climate is the complete opposite of what you're used to and the people you love are thousands of miles away.



Troon Superintendent Paula Daley

For over a decade the Fishermen's Mission has been caring for migrant fishermen from all over the world who work on UK fishing boats.

Fishermen's Mission Superintendent for Troon, Paula Daley recalls the opening of our first Troon Centre in 2006, "Back then we had mainly Filipino fishermen who were living on fairly small prawn boats. Their transit visas prevented them from leaving the harbour area. It was great to be able to offer them basic facilities, showers, television, Wi-Fi and most importantly Skype, enabling them to make the all-important contact with their family at home – particularly at Christmas time."

Ten years later and changes in regulations see Troon hosting a number of migrant crew from within the EU. Mainly from Latvia and Romania, they fill crew spaces on boats when local crew are not available. When in port they use the Centre and return to their boats to sleep at night. Troon Centre is also used every evening by Filipino, Ghanaian and British fishermen.



Preparing for sea



Troon Centre in busy use

Paula comments

"Everyone is welcome! The updated facilities including a kitchen, laundry and showers are much more comfortable than they were ten years ago and technology has improved.

Fishermen can access the internet through their phones and it remains a pleasure to hear so many chatting away to their families in countries around the world. The Troon Centre is really busy and greatly appreciated." Alongside practical facilities, Troon staff and volunteers are available to offer support and advice. This ranges from listening to problems over a cup of coffee, to arranging medical appointments. Very occasionally more serious situations arise meaning other agencies are called in ensuring the men have the best possible support.

Thank you. Your help means fishermen thousands of miles from home as well as those closer to the ones they love can be cared for by the Fishermen's Mission.

Wonder women!

Lesley Hammond and Ingrid Perry showed off their Superhero skills by abseiling down the Europa Hotel in Belfast. 170 feet of decidedly dicey dangling descent held no fears for our Kilkeel Port Officers.

Lesley comments, "We wanted to do something different. The weather wasn't great but we made it down anyway, raising an amazing £1,260. A fun fundraiser for a great charity and a great day's craic!"



GORGEOUS GANSEYS

Hull is moving towards an exciting year as it prepares to be the City of Culture 2017. Keen to embrace the spirit of the year is the Fishermen's Mission. Celebrating Hull's rich fishing heritage and our invaluable welfare work within its community.

Two main exhibitions are planned at Hull's Maritime Museum (May-June) and the city's Holy Trinity Church (July-August).

In addition to these exhibitions, throughout the year a number of local events are being organised in and around the city and the Fishermen's Mission has been invited to participate in them. Our aim is to involve local school children, retired trawlermen,

fishing families and Hull's wider community to ensure their contribution to the Year of Culture is a true reflection of Hull as a close knit community with fishing running through its veins.

So why not get involved? Tracey Stephens, Fishermen's Mission Superintendent in Hull says,

"Come to Hull! Make a diary date to visit Hull in 2017 and see the exhibitions. Also please pray for God's help in our extensive preparations for next year".



Not forgetting the Gorgeous Ganseys, the fisherman's jumper, Hull volunteer Ruth Creasey says,

"For autumn of 2017, a Gansey exhibition is being planned and we need the help of Fishermen's Mission supporters around the UK. We are asking people to knit a medium sized Gansey or loan us a Gansey featuring their own specific regional pattern. The deadline date is July 2017.

The cost of the wool will be paid for and the knitted Ganseys will be returned or auctioned off as you wish".

A challenge to the Fishermen's Mission family... let's get knitting!



Typical Humber Gansey



Herring girls knitting traditional Ganseys

Paul & Steve's BIG adventure

Invited to attend Her Majesty The Queen's Patron's Lunch in June, Peterhead Superintendent Steve Murray accompanied fisherman Paul Buchan to London for a never to be forgotten weekend. Paul lost his leg in a horrific fishing accident in June 2015. One year later Steve Murray has a surprise for Paul, a super-fast rib trip on the Thames! When boarding the rib, Paul said "This is the first time I have been

on the water since my accident." Steve's heart sank, wondering if he had done the right thing, Steve comments, "We set off and the rib picked up speed. As it bumped off the waves the spray hit our faces and I knew it had been the right decision - Paul was just beaming and for that priceless moment alone it was worth the whole weekend".



Paul presents Steve with £670 raised for the fishermen's Mission.



Paul speeds down the Thames

National Fish & Chip Day 2016

Fish and chip shops across the UK joined with the Fishermen's Mission on Friday 3rd June 2016 to celebrate the nation's favourite takeaway on the second "National Fish & Chip Day."

Hundreds of the country's top fryers

championed all that is so great about fish and chips whilst also raising money for the Fishermen's Mission. Close to £8,800 has been raised, with an incredible £2,016 coming from one shop – Kingfisher Fish & Chips in Plymouth. Owners

Craig Maw & Nikki Mutton donated £1 from each portion of fish and chips sold on the day and held a raffle with the first prize being free fish & chips for a whole year! Indeed, things got so busy we had to send Albert along to help out!



Albert meets Craig Maw at Kingfisher fish & chips Plymouth

Fantastic Fish Friday

Friday 17th June 2016 was Fish Friday, the National Fundraising Day for the Fishermen's Mission. Once again we were thrilled to have Tesco donate 5% of their fish counter sales on Fish Friday and many stores were invaded by pirates & mermaids as Tesco staff donned fancy dress and decorated their fish counters. Our Albert was amazingly popular and made friends with a Cornish pasty in Tesco Truro!

Albert also called in at Harbour Lights restaurant in Falmouth



Albert visits Harbour Lights Falmouth

who, along with sister restaurant Frasers in Penzance, have raised a massive £10,000 for the Fishermen's Mission. The Fishermen's Friends also sang for us at Port Isaac, Cornwall.

Thank you to all our Fish Friday supporters and particularly the UK's wonderful Fishmongers who really got behind Fish Friday 2016.

Albert meets a Cornish Pasty at Tesco Truro on Fish Friday (left)



Fishermen's Friends sing at Port Isaac, Cornwall

Mountain Bikers!

Amazing Craig Taylor and his friends from Kirkwall tackled Britain's highest peak and then undertook a 108 mile bike ride to raise a brilliant £4,000 for the Fishermen's Mission.

A seven hour trek up a snow covered Ben Nevis in early June was completed by Craig with friends George Currie, Erlend Currie, David Currie and Magnus Currie.

Two weeks later Craig and Roy Norquoy, Fishermen's Mission Superintendent for Orkney, combined roads and ferries to cycle 108 miles, completing the 'Pentland Firth Cycle Challenge'.

Craig's incredible efforts were prompted by two separate tragedies at sea earlier this year, in the Western Isles and off Orkney, which claimed the lives of four fishermen.



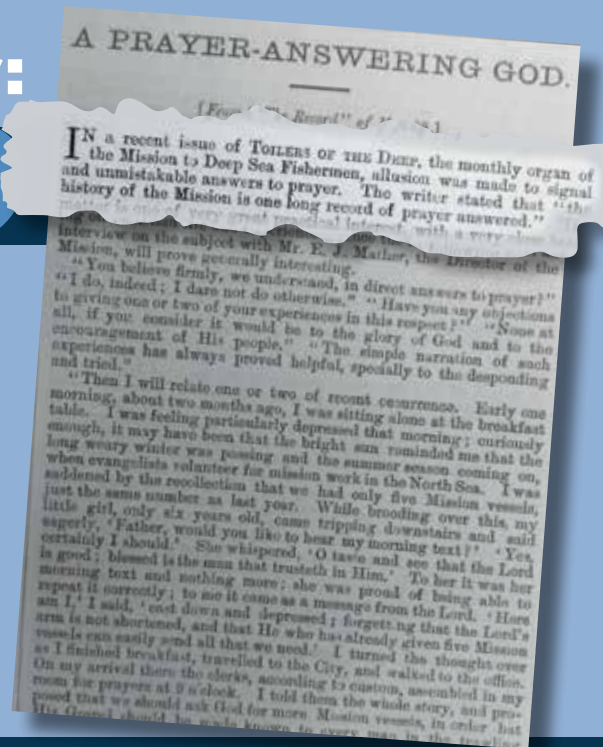
2017 Prayer Calendar:

A message from Fishermen's Mission Pastor George Ayoma.

One hundred and thirty years ago in 1886 the 'Toilers of the Deep' was the title of the Fishermen's Mission magazine. The June 1886 edition contained these words, "the history of the Mission is one long record of prayer answered."



Why not join us in praying for the work of the Fishermen's Mission by receiving one of our 2017 prayer calendars? These will be sent to you in early December. Just tick the box on the enclosed donation slip and return to us at the address shown or visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar/ and sign up there. Thank you for your prayers, they are so important.



How 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 634 1020** or donate online at www.fishermensmission.org.uk/autumn16 or post a cheque to our address shown below. 88p of every £1 generated is spent on providing our services.

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 do get in touch **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or email enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk

Remember us in your will

Everyone wants to ensure that friends and family are well provided for if you are writing or updating your will. However, just a small gift to the Fishermen's Mission can make all the difference to our work and ensure that your help continues. If you would like a legacy leaflet call **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or email: legacy@fishermensmission.org.uk

How to contact us:

Telephone us: 01489 566910

Freephone: 0800 6341020

Email us: enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk

Write to us:

The Fishermen's Mission, Mather House,
4400 Parkway, Solent Business Park,
Whiteley, Hampshire, PO15 7FJ



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