



140
THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

140 YEARS SERVING FISHERMEN & THEIR FAMILIES

network

The Newsletter of the Fishermen's Mission

Autumn 2021



**Moving
forwards
for 140 years**

Sarah Ready: Sarah@peakyfish.co.uk, Poppy, James Photography

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

Ruth's on a Mission

"We are always looking to find new clients who may need our support. I once asked an active fisherman if he knew of any former fishermen who might have retired in the area. He replied: 'we don't retire here, we keep on fishing forever!'"

These are the words of Ruth Charles who joined the Fishermen's Mission in September 2020 as our Mission Area Officer for south east England. Starting a new job during the pandemic has been difficult but Ruth has made a flying start. Ruth comments:

"I haven't really been able to get out and about and make my face known in the harbours, so I've had to be creative in how I've gone about outreach and supporting those needing help. Thankfully, through phone calls and emails, I have helped clients access financial support during such a difficult time for the fishermen here. Many of the new clients I've supported haven't ever needed to ask for help before, and although all our client interactions are kept confidential, the fact they have been supported without needing to physically meet me has helped some come forward who maybe wouldn't have approached me at the harbour."

Ruth's patch includes Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, half of Dorset, and the Channel Islands.

Unloading on Selsey beach



Ruth is assisted by Mission Port Officer Daniel Huff who covers Shoreham to Eastbourne in Sussex. Most of the fishing here is carried out by smaller inshore vessels crewed by one or two fishermen with the fleet spread across 35 harbours along the coastline. Ruth comments:

"It's great to visit more harbours as the Covid-19 restrictions are eased."



Wonderful Whitstable

I always say to people I meet they might not need us now, but they may know someone who does. Word of mouth is one of the best ways to get the FishMish's message out there."

As part of our 140th year celebrations, Ruth and Daniel are taking on their own fundraising challenge! Ruth will be running 140km in 30 days ending with the Great South Run on Sunday 17th October and Daniel will be walking the full length of the South Downs Way which is just over 140km. Ruth said:

"I plan to run 5ks near the harbours in my area, so if you see me out running please give me a wave!"

Please support Ruth and Daniel's fundraising efforts for the Fishermen's Mission, by visiting their JustGiving page.

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/140kmchallengefishmishseengland



Ruth Charles at the Camber, Portsmouth

Stories of remembrance

“The families have become more than just clients I see. They are real people with real stories. When we go to visit a port, this is what we do. We listen. Not to the stories we want to hear but to their stories, the stories they want to tell us.”

George Ayoma, Fleetwood Fishermen's Mission.

As Fishermen's Mission Area Port Officer for Fleetwood, George Ayoma has a varied caseload from meeting clients in his Fleetwood office to visiting the remote fishing ports of Cumbria.

Here George tells us about a poignant port visit he undertook this July.

“Today is a significant day in the lives of several families in Maryport, Cumbria. Twelve years earlier I came here in response to the news that the Aquila, a local fishing vessel manned by four of the port's family men, had been lost off the west coast of Scotland whilst returning home with its hard-earned catch.

“Twelve years later I stand at the Aquila memorial overlooking the

harbour. I lay flowers with Pauline and Kathleen, who lost their partners on the Aquila that day and have gone through years of tortuous grief. Only they know the full impact it has had on their lives. I also meet with Shaun who was only a boy when the Aquila went down, and his dad was lost. Today he brings his own small children to the only place they can go to meet the grandad they never knew.

“I also meet Timothy Rowley. Against all the odds, Timothy is the one member of the crew who survived. He recalls that dreadful day, how he clung to wreckage from the boat saying ‘I'm too young to go’ until he was rescued from the icy waters. Today I find Timothy still trying to recover from the trauma of seeing his friends



George with survivor Timothy Rowley

perish around him. Timothy is in better shape, and I feel that maybe he has made a breakthrough and there is hope for the future.

“There are a lot of tourists visiting Maryport today. Very few of them know the story of how a picturesque harbour like this can have such a sad story of loss and tragedy. Maybe they will look at the memorial at Maryport harbour and read the words inscribed:”

**‘Three sons of Maryport who never came home.
When winds and tides are rolling in
In silent thoughts you will hear them sing’**



George meeting client Mark Atkinson

Remembering loved ones lost



From tragedy comes hope

It is known as Black Friday. One Friday in 1881 that saw 26 fishing boats and 189 fishermen from Eyemouth lose their lives at sea. A few months earlier 10 boats and 58 fishermen from the island of Yell, Shetland, also perished. From such great loss the Fishermen's Mission was born.

Friday 14th October dawned bright and sunny with the gentlest breeze. After a week tied up ashore due to bad weather the fishermen of Eyemouth were keen to get out to the fishing grounds. Hungry mouths needed feeding, they had little choice.

The boats calmly left Eyemouth harbour, blissfully unaware of the hurricane force winds stirring to the south. By noon the fleet were in the teeth of a severe storm. Their wooden boats splintered like matchsticks as wild seas engulfed the crews.

Some boats fled for the shelter of home but were cruelly dashed on the rocks around Eyemouth harbour. Women and children looked on helplessly from the shore. Terrified, they watched their menfolk drown as one boat after another was torn apart by the waves.

A few months earlier on July 20th a fishing tragedy struck the small community of Gloop on the island of Yell, Shetland. Fishing 40 miles north west of Shetland, the open fishing boats had little chance as a northerly

gale engulfed them. The storm claimed the lives of 58 men leaving 34 widows. 85 children lost their fathers that fateful day.



Aubrey Jamieson from the Shetland Fishermen's Mission at the Gloop Memorial



The Gloop Memorial, Yell



In the days that followed the fishwives and their children waited forlornly on the beach, looking out to sea as wreckage washed ashore around them. They looked on with desperate hope whilst knowing the chances of survival were slim. Only seven bodies were recovered.

1881 was a year of fishing tragedy but one man committed to do something about it. He was appalled by the loss of life, the injuries sustained, and the horrendous conditions suffered by fishermen. Ebenezer Mather, a Methodist minister, took the words of Jesus to 'preach the word and heal the sick' as his inspiration and formed the National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

Today we remember all the fishermen who have lost their lives over the past 140 years. We thank God that since the day it was formed the Fishermen's Mission has brought hope from tragedy.



Widows and Bairns memorial by Jill Watson

The widows and bairns

140 years ago, the widows and bairns faced towards the sea, watching on and crying, sobbing for their menfolk who were drowning and grasping for dear life just off the shore, while the storm raged around them.

140 years later fisherman's wife Betty Gray watched on just as helpless, from her cliffside home overlooking Cove Bay. Lifeboats and helicopters circled, and fishing boats searched. Peter Gray's creel boat had been found unmanned, empty, floating a mile out at sea.

The fishing hamlet of Cove is stunning, with cottages dotted around the cliff side leading down to the harbour. The 1881 Eyemouth disaster claimed the lives of eleven Cove fishermen. In May 2021 another Cove fisherman lost his life to the sea. Peter Gray's wife of 42 years, Betty, with memories still fresh in her mind, remembers that day and her fisherman husband as he tended his creels that Sunday morning.



Peter Gray – always a fisherman

"I saw all the emergency activity in Cove and feared the worst – something didn't feel right. Peter loved

the fishing and hardly missed a day at sea in over 40 years. He was a fifth-generation fisherman – the Gray family have been part of the fabric of Cove for many years. He was such a kind man, always willing to help out with anything. I'll miss him terribly."

Claire McIntosh, Fishermen's Mission Port Officer in south east Scotland, speaks of how she supported Betty and the local fishermen.

"At times like this we are just there to give whatever help we can. That could be something practical or simply chatting and listening. It was a privilege to be part of Peter's funeral service that fittingly took place in Cove. I also spent time with Declan, Peter's nephew, who fished with him and Peter's friends in this close-knit fishing community."

The years may pass but the perils of a life at sea remain unchanging. 140 years ago, the Fishermen's Mission began caring for our fishermen and their families and we are proud to still be doing that today. Please donate now to ensure we can be here for the next 140 years.



Betty and Claire at the Cove Widows and Bairns memorial



Fishing boats at Cove

cc-by-sa/2.0 - Fishing boats at the Cove by Calum McRoberts - geograph.org.uk/p/718186

1,000 jabs and counting!

That's the amazing number of Covid-19 vaccinations delivered to our migrant fishermen this summer! All around the coastline the Fishermen's Mission in partnership with the Seafarers Hospital Society and local NHS providers have arranged special vaccination appointments.

Carol Elliott, Programme Delivery Manager for SeaFit tells us:

"We want to ensure that all fishermen working from our ports are kept safe and well by receiving the vaccine. Due to the transient nature of their work many migrant fishermen who are age eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine are not registered with a GP, making them at risk of slipping through the



Ocean Pioneer crew Fraserburgh

vaccination net. The international crews are highly valued members of the fishing community, working alongside UK fishing crews in confined spaces."

The jabs have been very well received with one Peterhead skipper telling us:



Joel & Rolando in Scarborough



Whitby



Newlyn

"I'm very grateful to the NHS and Fishermen's Mission for getting my crew vaccinated. It's great for their families at home knowing their loved ones are well looked after."

At the Fishermen's Mission we believe our migrant fishermen should have the same security and peace of mind as local crew members. Your support makes this possible.



Macduff



Your Legacy Lifeline

The Coronavirus outbreak has had a devastating impact on people's lives and livelihoods in the UK and the Fishermen's Mission is determined to keep up with demand on our welfare outreach services to help those who still need support.



Emergency grants to put food on the table for a struggling family, advice on where to go for help with debt issues or how to access government benefits – these are all real examples of how we've been helping hundreds of families in fishing communities still reeling from the effects of the pandemic.

Above all, this last year has shown how quickly the world can change and this makes gifts in Wills, no matter how large or small, all the more important to the Fishermen's Mission. More than ever before, this special way of giving has a vital part to play in allowing us to literally transform peoples' lives for the better.



For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, or to order your FREE legacy booklet, please call Sophie, in complete confidence, on 01489 566922/07901 673148 or email SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk

When the Boat Comes in

British fishing lives through the year

Our spectacular 2022 Calendar can be yours!

In March we launched a competition to find artwork and recipes for our 2022 Fishermen's Mission calendar. The judges enjoyed all the entries with colourful art and yummy dishes from all ages. The quantity and quality of the entries were amazing, making the judging job very difficult.

With mouth-watering recipes and stunning artwork in place, our 2022

Calendar can now be purchased through the enclosed Christmas Card and Calendar flyer or from our online shop <https://fishmishmarket.org.uk/shop/> Many thanks to all who took part and a special thanks to Graham Young who gave many voluntary hours into designing and arranging the calendar.



September features the artwork of Ian Murray, a retired Scottish fisherman. Ian spent most of his working life fishing out of Aberdeen, hunting for white fish. 79-year-old Ian took up painting around two years ago. He says: "I've used acrylic paint on a Welsh slate and the image is of my Uncle John Muir's boat, Ocean Dawn KY 371. He skippered her from 1970 to 1985 when permission to fish Faroese water was withdrawn from UK fishing boats. She was the last UK great line fishing boat."

Starting the Calendar year are two celebrity supporters, actresses Caroline Quentin and Sophie Thompson. You'll see their artwork and why the Fish Mish means so much to them. Caroline Quentin tells us: "I love the sea, I think there's salt water in my blood! I'm delighted to be involved with the Fish Mish. It's important to me and my family that we support their vital work and look after our fishing families."



Along with the beautiful artwork, each month features a tasty recipe. In February, Fishermen's Mission trustee and volunteer, Rev. Derath Durkin, has shared with us a Hake and Chorizo Stew with a Spanish Flavour. This deceptively simple dish is packed with tasty Mediterranean ingredients to get you in the mood for the warmer spring months.



2022 FEBRUARY

SPANISH HAKE AND CHORIZO STEW
by Rev. DERATH DURKIN

Method

1. Heat oil, sauté the onions for 5 minutes, add the garlic and chopped chorizo and cook for 10 minutes to release the oil.
2. Add the haddock, cook for 4 minutes.
3. Add the potatoes, 100ml water and the chorizo. Simmer for 15 minutes until the potatoes are tender and the chorizo is cooked.
4. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Ingredients

- 1kg haddock, cut into 2cm cubes
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large potato, cubed
- 200g chorizo
- 200g potatoes
- 200g water
- 2 x 100g packets of chorizo
- 2 x 100g packets of potatoes

Serves 4

Add the fish and chorizo for 5 minutes. Add the water and potatoes, and simmer for 15 minutes. Check the seasoning and serve in bowls with garnish, optional with bread.

Rev. Derath Durkin is a trustee of Fishermen's Mission.

2022

1 Tue	17 Thu
2 Wed	18 Fri
3 Thu	19 Sat
4 Fri	20 Sun
5 Sat	21 Mon
6 Sun	22 Tue
7 Mon	23 Wed
8 Tue	24 Thu
9 Wed	25 Fri
10 Thu	26 Sat
11 Fri	27 Sun
12 Sat	28 Mon
13 Sun	
14 Mon	
15 Tue	
16 Wed	

We'd love you to be a part of our 140th Anniversary.
Here are a few ways you can join us...



Take a look at our fabulous 140th Anniversary commemorative online book.

Read how the Fishermen's Mission has worked to transform lives throughout its history. You can watch our specially commissioned 140th Anniversary hymn and leave your own 140th Anniversary greeting in the book! Visit <https://www.theonlinebookcompany.com/OnlineBooks/FishermensMission140thAnniversary/>



...And don't forget our 2022 Prayer Calendar!

Join us in praying through 2022 for our fishermen and their families, our Port Staff and so much more! To receive your free Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendar tick the box on the perforated donation slip and return it to us or call us for free on 0800 6341020. You can download your copy from www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar

Come and celebrate with us!

You are warmly invited to our Fishermen's Mission 140th Anniversary online Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 12th November at 12 noon. More details to follow on our website

www.fishermensmission.org.uk

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 6341020** or donate online at www.fishermensmission.org.uk or post a cheque to our address shown below. **For every £1 we generate we spend 88p on 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 6341020** 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 6341020** or email: SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk

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