



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

Spring 2020

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission



**For our
Fishermen**

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

Image supplied by Seafish. www.seafish.org

THE CARING POWER OF A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Shadrack and Maxwell's story is a fantastic example of how our outreach provision works in a joined-up way to help support fishermen who need emergency practical support when they come to our ports.

Nick lends a helping hand to Shadrack and Maxwell

Shadrack and Maxwell are both from Ghana and between them have 20 years of commercial fishing experience.

While both men were working on a scallop boat in Irish waters, Shadrack had a serious accident on board which cost him the partial loss of a finger. Once out of hospital, our welfare hub in Killeel, Northern Ireland, ensured that he was able to contact his family in Ghana and have a hot shower. They then informed our South Coast outreach team where their boat was scheduled in for repairs.

Once in Portsmouth, Shadrack and Marshall were paid, but in Northern Irish pounds - not legal tender in the UK. Stranded in an unfamiliar city with no money or food, our South

Coast Superintendent Nick O'Neill wasted no time in supporting them, organising their wages in sterling, buying them food and warm clothing and liaising with medical professionals to ensure that Shadrack received vital aftercare for his injury.

Shadrack told us, "I am very grateful for everything that the Fishermen's Mission has done for us", while Maxell added, "the charity is excellent and helped us with all the issues we had when we came to Portsmouth."



Shadrack and Maxwell at Portsmouth Harbour

From the Irish Sea to the South Coast of England the Fishermen's Mission provides practical emergency care where it is needed most. Everyday new challenges arise for our Port Superintendents, challenges that can only be met with your help, as Nick O'Neill explains;

"The Fishermen's Mission relies heavily on gifts in Wills to enable our welfare outreach teams to reach out to both UK fishermen and those working temporarily along our coastline. Leaving a legacy really can be the power behind the emergency care that my colleagues and I provide".

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, please call Sophie, in complete confidence, on 01489 566922 or email her at SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk

Shadrack and Maxwell repairing their nets



“Homelessness is a growing problem among young fishermen. We have seen a sharp rise in cases over the last 18 months. These guys, often in their early twenties, come to the Newlyn Fishermen’s Mission having nowhere to sleep that night.”

Newlyn Senior Superintendent Keith Dickson

For hearth and home

The fishing ports of Cornwall have featured much on our TV screens of late. Though the programmes may depict a picturesque local industry, there is another story that needs to be told.

Senior Superintendent Keith Dickson has served the 40 fishing coves and harbours of Cornwall for nearly 20 years. Supported by colleagues Eddie Fletcher, Ian Murray and a team of essential volunteers, Keith is based in Newlyn, the biggest Cornish port. One of the blessings of working from Newlyn is the regular contact Keith has with active fishermen who know where to come when help is needed. Keith explains more about the problem of homelessness for young fishermen;

“We often find that changes in their personal lives mean that when these fishermen are not away fishing, they have nowhere to live. They may sofa surf, sleep in a car or on the streets. When the fishing is poor, they have no way of finding the advanced rent and deposit required for their own place. Our first priority is to get them back home, wherever that may be. If that’s

impossible we use grants from the Shipwrecked Mariners Society and Seafarers Hospital Society to initially set them up with a roof over their heads.”

The fisherman’s life is a precarious one with constant danger at sea and economic pressures at home. Bad weather, poor fishing, boat breakdown and injury can prevent a fisherman from earning a living. Keith Dickson explains what that means in reality, “It’s never easy for anyone to ask for help, least of all fishermen. They only approach us when the basics of food, heat and light are at risk for them



Senior Superintendent Keith Dickson

and their families. We provide food vouchers, support with utility arrears and refer them to the Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL) which provides specialist help in navigating the benefits system. We know the importance of hearth and home and will do all we can to ensure our fishermen and their families are cared for.”

Please donate today to help ensure Keith and his colleagues can care for homeless and struggling fishermen and their families. Thank you.



Sorting nets at Newlyn quayside

Image supplied by Seafish: www.seafish.org

Image supplied by Seafish: www.seafish.org

Going the **extra** mile

“The sheer remoteness of the coastline I cover is very challenging. To visit one isolated beneficiary may take up a whole day but if help is needed, I’m always ready to do whatever it takes to reach them.”

So speaks Karen Calder, the Fishermen’s Mission Superintendent for Mallaig in the North West of Scotland. Karen’s patch is approximately 3,500 square miles of tourist clogged traffic in the summer and unpassable single-track roads in the winter. Travelling tens of thousands of miles every year, Karen makes welfare calls across fishing ports and islands from Ardnamurchan to the Kyle of Lochalsh, taking in Lochaline and Kilchoan.

As Karen explains, coping with remote geography is just one of several challenges for many of the retired fishermen and fishermen’s widows she cares for;

“Simple things like the weekly shop can become major tasks with the nearest supermarket being more than



Isle of Skye Superintendent Carol Jones



Superintendent Karen Calder visiting boats at Mallaig Harbour

two hours travel away. For those living on the islands the cost of keeping their homes warm almost doubles once the expense of transporting heating oil is factored in. Working with local partner agencies such as the Lochaber Food Bank means we can help out in practical issues like these. More importantly we are a friendly face for the elderly who can become very lonely and isolated in such circumstances.”

In Mallaig itself the Fishermen’s Mission centre is kept busy with visiting crew. Here fishermen can use showers, do laundry, and contact home via Skype which is important not only for overseas fishermen but for UK fishermen as well. Karen explains;

“In Mallaig we often find that our boats have a number of fishermen who are not local but the remoteness of where

we are means they can face the same challenges as the non-UK crew. Keeping in touch with their families at home is so important to them.”

The Isle of Skye is also in Karen’s area and newly appointed Superintendent Carol Jones has already made great connections in the fishing community. This will certainly enhance the profile of the Fishermen’s Mission on the Island, leading to an increase in beneficiaries who may not have readily made themselves known.

For Karen, going the extra mile means being there for fishing communities in need wherever they may be. Your donations put fuel in Karen’s car, pay for her mobile phone and tablet and allow her to be a local friend across a remote landscape.

A fisherman's home from home

Many people are unaware that a significant number of fishermen working in the UK fleet are away from home for extended periods of time. They may be following the fish as the seasons come and go or working on boats in waters far from where they live.



By kind permission of Paul Cordes

Volunteers Hugh and Mary Ward join Superintendent Peter Dade to welcome the visiting fishermen to the 'crew hoo's'

The Fishermen's Mission is committed to caring for visiting fishermen. Theirs is a life spent working and living on their fishing boats, often with very basic amenities and few creature comforts. Around the ports we ensure the basics of life are taken care of by providing showers, kitchens and restrooms as well as providing free access to Skype, allowing fishermen to contact their families.

for fishermen who were staying on board over the holiday period. Many fishermen enjoyed hot food, karaoke and a game of pool. We were also delighted to distribute Christmas shoe boxes filled with goodies donated by the local Mothers Union. We are hugely grateful to the volunteers who transported fishermen to the North Shields 'crew hoo's' and made the event such a success."

Many fishermen really miss their families at these special times of year. Bringing some joy to those who are finding it tough is so important".

Fishermen working thousands of miles from home can rely on the Fishermen's Mission because every pound you give enables us to be there every day of every year.



Always a warm Christmas welcome at Troon

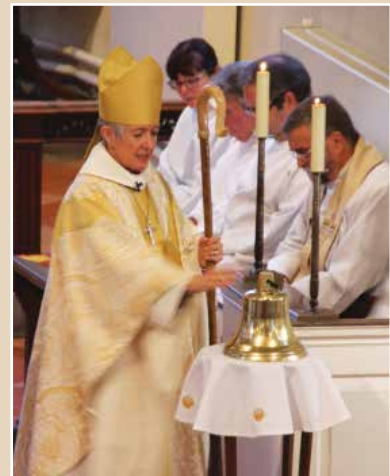
Missing birthdays, anniversaries and special family times like Christmas can be painfully routine for these fishermen. To ease the difficulty of a Christmas away from home, special events were held in Troon and North Shields to bring festive cheer to visiting fishing crews.

North Shields Superintendent Peter Dade describes the scene, "Boxing Day saw up to 50 visiting vessels in port, so we held a Christmas party

Troon also hosted a Christmas party for fishermen who were far from home. South West Scotland Superintendents Paula Daly, Karen Burston and Grant Wilson were assisted by volunteers Pressie Mulhern and Elizabeth Hannah.

Troon Superintendent Paula Daly commented, "The Centre was filled with Fishermen from India, Ghana, the Philippines, Indonesia and the UK.

North Shields also celebrated a special birthday with a memorable church service to give thanks for 120 years of the North Shields Fishermen's Mission. Over 200 people filled the town's Christ Church including many from the local fishing industry. During the service a book of remembrance and a ship's bell were blessed by the Right Revd. Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle.



The blessing of a ship's bell

By kind permission of Paul Cordes

ACTION STATIONS... IT'S **FIT MISH 139**

**If you were 139 years old,
I wonder how fit and healthy
you would be?**

**2020 sees the 139th birthday of the
Fishermen's Mission and we have
launched FitMish139 to show just how
lean, keen and ready to serve we are!**

Much has changed since 1881 when the National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen was founded by Ebenezer Mather. We have evolved from our fleet of Mission ships, caring for fishermen at sea, to today's highly successful outreach work around the ports and harbours of the UK.

One thing that has never changed throughout those 139 years is the commitment and loyalty of the whole Fishermen's Mission family to our fishermen. FitMish139 exemplifies that passion.

We are calling on all our friends and family at the Fishermen's Mission to take up a personal challenge to raise £139 in celebration of our 139th birthday. You can do whatever you choose; run, walk, or swim 139 miles and raise a pound for each mile or run, walk, or swim one mile and raise £139! You can give up something to improve your diet or start doing something to improve your health. FitMish139 is a way of enhancing our wellbeing whilst changing the lives of fishing communities for the better.

As you can see from these pages a number of our staff and their families have taken up and completed challenges and many more are working hard at FitMish139 as the year goes on. Here's a taster of the vast range of activities Fishermen's Mission staff will be undertaking....

Carol Elliott

Congratulations to our Get SeaFit Project Manager Carol Elliott who braved 40-degree heat and climbed the highest mountain in Madagascar. Carol was not alone as our knitted mascot 'Albert the fisherman' joined her!



South Coast Superintendent **Nick O'Neill** will cover 139km walking between South Coast ports and harbours.



Sue Bowles from our Head office team will make the ultimate sacrifice by giving up chocolate for a whole month!



Claire McIntosh

Eyemouth Superintendent Claire McIntosh is running 5k 139 times! Claire says, "I will need new knees and hips by the end but it's worth enduring for our fishermen".



Carol Jones, Isle of Skye Superintendent has a mountain to climb in the shape of an ascent up Blaven.





George & Megan

Hurrah for George and Megan who completed the 1.5km mini Great South Run. Their mum Mary, from our Head Office team, completed the 10 mile Great South Run raising over £400 for Fitmish139. Well done all!

Sharon Cooper our Fraserburgh Administrator will spend 139 days dieting, walking, hiking and generally being super healthy.



Miriam Kemp our Fraserburgh Superintendent will be singing 139 hymns and Christian songs in an 8 hour public singathon, accompanied by musician friend Lisa.



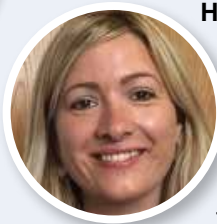
■ **FitMish139 is for the whole Fishermen's Mission family and we'd love you to get involved. No challenge is too small, so be inspired, come and join us in FitMish139.**

You can make a real change to your life and make a real difference to the lives of our fishermen and their families.

Go to Justgiving.com and search for FitMish139 where you can start your own personal challenge or support those already underway.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FitMish139>

Helen Lovell at Brixham will be re-discovering her love of running by completing 28 x 5km runs to get to 139km.



Tim Jenkins, our Senior Superintendent at Lowestoft, by his own admission -not the fittest, will cycle the 6 mile round trip to the office once a week.



Mallaig Superintendent **Karen Calder** and her son Gregor are climbing Ben Nevis.



Julian Waring

Well done to South West England Fundraising Manager Julian Waring who completed his first ever Half Marathon in Gloucester.



Andy Malcolm

Here's our East of England Fundraising Manager, Andy Malcolm, who is running or walking the 1.5- mile round trip to his village church to sing the Fishermen's Mission hymn 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' 139 times in 2020.



Hanna Taylor from our Head Office Team will Cycle a leg-aching 1,000 miles.



Superintendent **Sal Van Beem** at Hull has completed a dry January.



Save the Dates...

Watch out for **Julian Waring** and **Dean Lawrence** from the Fishermen's Mission in the new series of *Ready, Steady, Cook!* Airing on BBC2 in March 2020.



National Fish & Chip Day 2020

Fish and chip fans... Are you ready for National Fish and Chip Day 2020?

Friday 5th June 2020 will see lovers of our favourite takeaway celebrate National Fish and Chip Day. The Fishermen's Mission is really excited to be the chosen charity for this brilliant nationwide fish and chips bonanza! Why not get your local chippy to join the fun and raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission?

Visit www.neoda.org.uk/fishandchipday

Fish Friday 2020

Fish Friday is the National Fundraising day for the Fishermen's Mission. We are calling on the nations fishmongers, churches, clubs and all our wonderful supporters to have some fabulous fishy fun and raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission. You can host a fishy party, complete a fishy challenge or have a fishcake and coffee morning, the choice is yours!

Visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/fishfriday or call 0800 6341020 for more information.



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 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 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: SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk.

How to contact us:

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