



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

Autumn 2018

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

A unique way of life

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

Gifts that go on **giving** after your lifetime

Last year, gifts in Wills from our supporters helped us provide nearly 200 people with emergency grants so they could put food on the table for their struggling families. They enabled our frontline outreach teams to visit over 6,600 individuals who benefited from compassionate and knowledgeable support.

Even as little as 1% of your Estate could be a big help to the Fishermen's Mission and its ability to support fishing communities, while still ensuring your loved ones are provided for. And of course, it won't cost you a penny during your lifetime.

Mark is 31 and lives in Portsmouth with his partner Laura and two children. He's been a fisherman



A fishing family, Laura, Mark and their children

for eight years, working on a self-employed basis dredging for mussels and clams. He's seen his share of drama and danger at sea.

Mark doesn't own a boat himself, and like many self-employed people, has

to manage an erratic income. His first contact with the Fishermen's Mission came about when he sought help on behalf of a young deckhand who was experiencing mental health issues.

Not long afterwards, Mark and Laura started to experience financial hardship. Increased regulation of local fishing grounds and restrictions on catch species left Mark regularly working long hours for next to nothing. Feeling they had nowhere to turn, they contacted the Fishermen's Mission for help.

Nick O'Neill, our Superintendent for our South Coast Outreach Programme, supported Mark and his family in person and via telephone calls, helping them address their rent and bill arrears by facilitating a grant which safeguarded the family from the devastating crisis of homelessness.

He also provided emotional and pastoral support to Mark and Laura as



The Spinnaker Tower overlooks Old Camber Docks, Portsmouth.

they did their best to cope with their situation.

Mark told us:

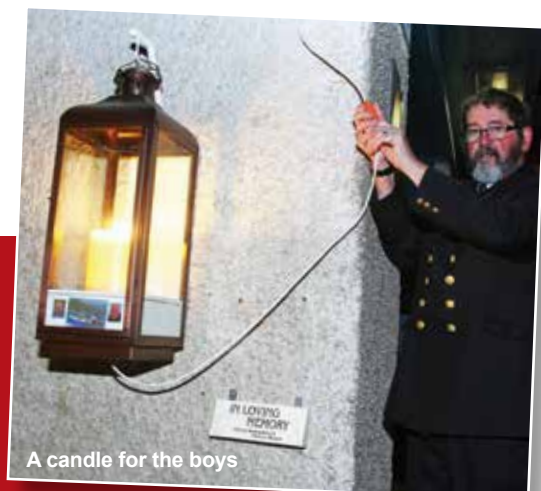
"We no longer see the charity as an organisation any more, but thanks to Nick's help and support, we now see them as friends who helped us through one of the darkest times of our lives."

Your gift in a Will, no matter how small, could help us give support to someone like Mark. For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, please order our FREE legacy pack by calling Sophie, in complete confidence, on 01489 566922 or email her at SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk.

The scene at Old Camber Docks, Portsmouth.

A CANDLE FOR THE BOYS

January 18th 2018. Matthew Ramsay, Fishermen's Mission Superintendent for Kintyre and Oban receives a call. It's not good news. The FV Nancy Glen from Tarbert has gone down. One crew member is rescued but two are missing, believed to be still in the boat. Heavy snow delays Matthew's journey to Tarbert but after a sleepless night he makes it to the port.



A candle for the boys

Matthew describes the scene, "My day there was one of my hardest. Seeing the pain etched on the faces of the families as they waited for news was dreadful. All the local fishing boats were out searching but to no avail. It was obvious that Duncan MacDougall, the skipper, and Przemek Krawczyk, crew member, had lost their lives. Over the following days I was able to offer comfort and financial support, if needed, and just 'be there' for the families."

On the 3rd February, following a short service, Matthew was honoured to light a candle on the harbour wall. It would stay lit until the missing boys came home. Following concerted local pressure and a fundraising campaign supported worldwide, the government agreed to raise the boat. Thankfully both bodies were found aboard. Three months on from the tragedy Matthew conducted Duncan's funeral with



Tied up Tarbert Trawlers

Przemek's funeral following a couple of days later. That night the candle on the harbour wall was extinguished. Matthew Ramsay knows from experience that a long road lies ahead for the families of these fishermen, but it is a journey they will make with the Fishermen's Mission alongside them. For the past five years Matthew has been supporting the family of Oban

fisherman Scott MacAlister. Scott's son was only a few months old when his dad's boat was lost. The family deeply appreciate the help Matthew brings them.

After being a fisherman for nearly 20 years, Matthew instinctively knows the joys and pains of life in a fishing community. He is most at home "Yarning with the fishermen and hearing their stories." There are also times of joy such as the recent blessing of the "Summer Rose" a new Oban fishing vessel. Matthew's work was also recognised when he was made Honorary President of the Clyde Fishermen's Association.

Fishing families who have lost loved ones to the sea need the specialist help that Matthew and the Fishermen's Mission can bring. Please continue to support our work, it is only made possible through your donations.



John McAlister receives a Fishermen's Mission Bible following the blessing of FV Summer Rose.

Around the Ports

BOSTON – A HAVEN FOR FISHERMEN

Welcome to Boston, Lincolnshire. The River Witham flows into the tidal River Haven before completing the six-mile journey to the sea. This natural confluence has been home for fishermen for over 1,000 years. Today Boston hosts around 26 boats, landing their catch of cockles, mussels and shrimp.



The Stump overlooks the Witham

Photo courtesy of Tony Boughan <https://photorelect.blogspot.com/>

With significant numbers of active and retired fishermen in the area, the Fishermen's Mission came to Boston in March 2015. Working three days a week, Boston Superintendent Suesan Brown tells us the motivation behind her work, "Boston Fishermen are proud folk, spending their lives in the harshest conditions to earn a crust for their families. It is only right that we are there for them when life is difficult." Suesan cares for a growing number of beneficiaries but always recalls meeting Keith, "The first words Keith said to me were 'I wish I'd never retired from fishing!' His washing machine had broken and along with other appliances, it was in dire need of replacement. We filled in a grant application over a cuppa and Keith began telling me tales of his old fishing days. He then spoke of how



Boston Superintendent Suesan Brown

much he missed his wife who had passed away. It's so important for me to sit and listen, to pray and laugh, and to cherish the memories that

Keith shares. Our care may start with a broken appliance but soon becomes life changing for someone like Keith".

Another retired Boston fisherman, Johnny "Cockles", contacted Suesan as ill health meant he was struggling to sleep. After organising a new bed and support mattress to ease Johnny's back pain, life appeared to improve. But for Johnny, the real issue was loneliness and isolation. Suesan gently encouraged and coaxed him to look for a life outside of his flat. A while later she received a call from a very happy Johnny. He had met up with some old fishing friends and was living life again!

Boston has a rich fishing heritage. Work is nearing completion on a carved wooden memorial to the lost fishermen who sailed from Boston. The memorial will be a focal point for future Services of Remembrance in the town.

Suesan Brown comments,

"Remembering those who have gone before and caring for those who are here today is all part of the Fishermen's Mission work. I am so grateful to all our supporters who make this possible."



A work of remembrance in progress



Johnny "Cockles" goes Cockling

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A Community of Care



“The Fishermen’s Mission try to be the open eyes, the listening ears and the caring hands at the heart of our fishing communities. Working from home, just a few minutes walk from the harbour, means I’m often chatting with fishermen and beneficiaries.”

Kirkcudbright Superintendent Marian Dixon

The words of Marian Dixon, Fishermen’s Mission Superintendent in Kirkcudbright, a beautiful fishing port on the Solway Firth.

Marian is a trusted, friendly face amongst the fishermen of the Kirkcudbright Shellfish fleet. Often routine conversations can lead to helping fishing families in real need. For Marian this has included supporting a local lobster fisherman whose house had been made uninhabitable after a fire, to caring for an ex-fisherman struggling with serious illness.

Being at the heart of the community is also valuable in raising funds and awareness of the Fishermen’s Mission. In the small village of Borgue, Michelle, Martin and Luke Thomson, have incredibly raised £3,500 in their first two years at the Borgue



“And Home to Bed”

Hotel. This is in continuing gratitude for the support received from the Fishermen’s Mission in North Shields after Michelle’s son Dan was lost at sea in 2010.

Working closely with fishing families means Marian is there when most needed.

Marian explains,

“This April, local fisherman John lost his fight against cancer. Having supported the family through John’s illness we, in partnership with other maritime charities, will endeavour to ensure that John’s wife Amanda and her young son Nico are given the best support possible. Amanda has written some poetry, hoping that her experience may help others. She has agreed that we share these words with you.”

3 months
3 days, 1 hour
And 12 minutes.

*Today we took your ashes to the Matala caves.
I carefully selected the caves that we knew .
More carefully still ,
I took the last remains of your body and gave
them up to the thin breeze,
to carry you one last
time to the places that you loved.
It was harder to give you up than I had
Imagined.*

*We walked along the water’s edge so familiar.
A quivering duo against the shimmering sea.
Up, up, up and away .
A freak gust spreading those final few grains in
a white arc twenty feet wide.
A colourless rainbow.*

*More places yet.
More people to see.
For this part of our journey the end is coming.
I don’t want to let you go.
I will still wait I know,
for you to come back to me.*

Amanda and Nico



The Kirkcudbright Fish Friday heroes

Allez les trois **Alberts** dans une banger!

It was an epic journey traversing Swiss mountain passes, sunflower drenched French fields and terrifying Italian hairpin bends as three Fishermen's Mission adventurers conquered Europe. Lowestoft Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins, South Coast Superintendent Nick O'Neill and



A much needed pit-stop

Fundraising Manager for the East of England Andy Malcolm took on the challenge under the codename "3 Alberts on tour". They were taking part in the Rusty Rex Rally, a 2,500-mile road trip from Riems to Nice, in a car costing less than £500. The 3 Alberts shared the driving and navigating duties for up to 14 hours a day before collapsing exhausted in some of the worst hotel rooms the continent has to offer! So, let's raise a cheer and a "bien fait les trois Alberts" for raising £15,000 for the Fishermen's Mission. A special thanks to the wonderful donors and sponsors who supported the trip.



Ain't no mountain high enough!



A typical scene "en route"

THE VOYAGE OF MINI ALBERT

Huge congratulations to Fishermen's Mission supporter Julie Snowden who has completed a 4,112 nautical mile trip across the North Atlantic. This epic voyage was



Hoist the mainsail Mini Albert

made as part of the Clipper round-the-world yacht race. Joining Julie on this arduous fundraising adventure was Mini Albert who played his full part as knitted crew member. Julie works for Seafish and had to learn how to sail before heading for the ocean.

She commented:

"I now see a different aspect on the industry I work in. Mini Albert and I raced across an ocean to see what it was like out there, it was tough, but not as tough as it would be if you were making a living from the sea."

You can find out more about Julie's challenge via her blog at www.shesetsail.com



Mini Albert with shipmate Julie

And why not help Julie reach her Fishermen's Mission fundraising target by visiting www.justgiving.com and searching for Julie Snowden.



Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendar 2019

"Christianity with its sleeves rolled up" aptly describes the work of the Fishermen's Mission. Practical Christian care for those in need in our fishing communities.

Prayer underpins everything we do as the Fishermen's Mission family. We thank God for his goodness to us and ask for his guidance and wisdom as we carry out his work around the coastline. We pray for our fishermen, their families, our beneficiaries and supporters.

You can join us in praying for the Fishermen's Mission by receiving our free 2019 Prayer Calendar. To receive a calendar simply tick the box on the enclosed donation slip and return to us at the address shown or visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar.

Thank you for your prayers, they are so important.

Fish Friday Friends

Massive thanks to Tesco for once again sponsoring Fish Friday, the national fundraising day for the Fishermen's Mission. Fish counters across the country were transformed as staff and customers came together to champion fish, fishermen, and the charity who care for them.

Money raised from Tesco stores on Fish Friday will come to the Fishermen's Mission. We are proud and delighted to have Tesco as our Fish Friday friends, a partnership that has been flourishing for many years, raising over £120,000.



Tesco Fish Friday fun!

Let's not forget our friendly fishmongers, who once again wonderfully supported Fish Friday 2018. Thank you!

CELEBRATING BRITAIN'S BEST!

National Fish & Chip Day 2018 was a day to enjoy all that is great about our favourite dish, fish & chips! Hundreds of fish & chip shops held special events, raising funds for the Fishermen's Mission. Albert even showed off his fancy footwork, joining Morris dancers as

they enjoyed their fish & chips at Trinity House in London, where the amazing Kingfishers of Plymouth fried up free fish & chips in return for donations. Huge thanks to NEODA (National Edible Oil Distributors Association) and Seafish for another brilliant event.



Albert tries out his dance moves





Remembering 100 fishermen lost in 10 years

Thank you to our friends who sponsored this campaign

Keep in touch

#100in10#RemembranceWellies#JustSaying

www.fishermensmission.org.uk

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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: ophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk.

How to contact us:

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