



THE  
FISHERMEN'S  
MISSION

Spring 2018

# network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

## Into the unknown



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

# The Fisherman's Rock

When fishermen fall on hard times the effects are felt by the whole family. A scarcity of fish and atrocious weather has meant the fishing on the South Coast of England has been particularly difficult.

In such hardship fishermen's children can miss out on things other families take for granted, such as school trips. We recently received this letter (right) from a fisherman called Andy. We publish it today to show how your support really does mean that together we can improve the lives of fishing families when times are toughest.

Dear Sir / Madam

I am just writing to express my gratitude and to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I cannot express in words how much Nick o'Neill (your south coast officer) helps me and my family out, the man has a heart of gold and has been there for my family and me through these very difficult times. He has been a rock to my fiancé and 2 little girls. I can't thank Nick enough for everything he does for my family, he is always there for my three girls, it is so good of the mission and Nick to always be on the end of the line, and his support for me and my family, emotionally, and financially should be commended. I can't thank you and your staff enough for helping financially for my little girl's school trip as money is obviously tight what with me not at sea (where I belong). So, from me and my 3 girls a very very big thank you. Nick O'Neill deserves a medal for his compassion and dedication to all the fishermen on the South coast, Thank you, Kind regards, Andy.

Superintendent Nick 'rock' O'Neill



Nick O'Neill comments, "Fishing is such an unpredictable and

volatile career. As well as constant danger at sea there are often economic pressures as well. We were able to access a grant from the Royal Merchant Navy Education Foundation to cover the cost of the school trip for Andy's daughter and we are currently

working hard to improve their housing conditions which are not great."

Andy's letter also speaks of Nick's dedication, compassion and emotional care, characteristics that are a hallmark of every Fishermen's Mission Superintendent. With your continued support we can be 'the fisherman's rock,' dedicated to caring for our fishermen and their families.



Boats ashore at Hastings

# The story of a Constant Friend

*Kilkeel, Northern Ireland. A Saturday night in September. As midnight approaches Fishermen's Mission Superintendent Lesley Hammond receives a call from a Filipino fisherman. One of his crewmates, Jory, has fallen overboard in the harbour.*



Ingrid & Lesley

Lesley alerts the RNLI and calls her colleague Superintendent Ingrid Perry to meet her at the Fishermen's Mission Centre. Within minutes they arrive and meet the crew rushing towards them carrying Jory's body, wrapped in a duvet.

Jory is taken into the centre where the crew administer CPR. Lesley calls for an ambulance. She then rushes to the Lifeboat station for a defibrillator. Lesley diverts the Lifeboat crew from launching to attend Jory. Both RNLI and Coastguard take over the fight to save Jory in the Mission Centre.

There is an agonising wait for the ambulance. The battle for Jory's life continues as the distraught crew are comforted by Lesley and Ingrid. In the early hours Jory reaches hospital with only a faint pulse. Lesley and Ingrid stay with him overnight before returning to support and pray with the crew.

After barely 3 hours of broken sleep Lesley and Ingrid return to Jory in the Intensive Care Unit. They speak to

Jory but he barely responds. Later they return to the Fishermen's Mission Centre to update the crew, Skipper and the Philippine Embassy. Using a local Filipino translator, they speak to Jory's wife, thousands of miles away in the Philippines. Another night follows at Jory's bedside.

After only a couple of hours sleep, Ingrid returns to the Mission Centre. She supports the crew and contacts UK Immigration to arrange Jory's

wife's journey to the UK. Her fisherman husband is deteriorating fast and on life support.

Ingrid accompanies the skipper and crew to the hospital. They gather around the bedside to pray and weep for their friend. A Fishermen's Mission New Testament is placed in Jory's hand.

It's soon clear that Jory's wife will not make it to Northern Ireland in time. A Filipino speaking nurse contacts her



The Fishermen's Mission Centre is overflowing for Jory's memorial service



and permission is given to turn off the life support machine.

Lesley and Ingrid comfort the heartbroken crew. They return to Jory's boat, the Constant Friend, to gather together his few belongings.

**Over the course of six emotionally exhausting days Lesley and Ingrid exemplified the emergency response of the Fishermen's Mission. Your donations mean we can be there in the darkest of days for fishermen and their families. Thank you.**

# Around the Ports

## All taken care of

On a typically cold January morning Superintendent Steve Murray walks along the Peterhead harbour, meeting fishermen on their boats. He calls on the crew of FV Shalimar PD303, checking all is ok, chatting about the fishing and family, dealing with any needs the fishermen may have. Daily visits like this one build relationship and trust with the crew, some of whom are thousands of miles from home.

Steve comments,

“Fishing remains an inherently dangerous occupation. These guys find themselves working in the harshest environment on earth. It’s a big and busy port. We strive to not miss anyone needing help, caring personally for each one. Sometimes a fisherman far from home receives bad news and we become their family, supporting them in difficult times.”

Steve works alongside Superintendent David Haggath at the recently refurbished Peterhead Centre. Here, the fishing community can relax in the lounge or use the showers, kitchen and internet facilities. Christmas Day 2017 saw a festive feast served

Image supplied by Seafish: www.seafish.org



*Over 100 fishing boats landed 171,000 tonnes of fish in 2017.*

*Huge pelagic vessels over 80 metres long, landing herring and mackerel, share the port with small inshore crab and lobster boats.*

*600 fishermen from the UK, Europe, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Ghana call this their home port.*

*More than 300 Fishermen’s Mission beneficiaries to care for with possibly many more in the community needing support.*

*Welcome to Peterhead, the UK’s largest fishing port.*

for 89 foreign fishermen who would otherwise have spent the day on their fishing boats.

For Steve and David no two days are the same. Sometimes their work is as unpredictable as the seas where the Peterhead boats fish.

Steve reports,

“We recently helped Dilip, a Sri Lankan fisherman who crushed his hand in an accident at sea. He had fingers amputated, losing the use of his hand. It’s unlikely he will fish again.



**Bobby recovering at home**

Our job is to reassure him and help prepare him for the future. At the same time, away from the Port, we helped a 71-year-old retired fisherman who was left traumatised after a robbery at his home. Bobby is so thankful for the support of the Fishermen’s Mission. It’s about being a trusted friend to those close to home and those whose home is far away.”

**The vast scope of care provided by Steve and David in Peterhead can only happen with your support. Please continue your giving to fund this vital work.**



**Steve meets the crew of the Shalimar**

# Carried on the *tide*...

Fishermen's Mission Superintendent in Eyemouth, Claire McIntosh reports....

*It's mid-January 2016. This is my first day on the job as Superintendent. I'm on the harbour side at Seahouses. The freezing rain lashes down and a wild, biting gale blows me almost off my feet...a mere glimpse of the conditions my fishermen endure every day of their working lives.*



Bustling Eyemouth harbour

I was "on a Mission" to find and help fishermen and their families, combing the harbours of the North East coast between Seahouses and Port Seton, taking in Eyemouth, St Abbs and Dunbar. Along this stretch of coastline 150 fishing boats land their lobster, langoustine, crab and whelks. Each of the communities I serve are small, close knit neighbourhoods with a strong and long-standing fishing tradition.

My quest is to reach out to fishermen in their environment, becoming a trusted fisherman's friend. This might be at the quayside, their boat, the park bench, the local Men's Shed or their own home. Needs vary from providing warm clothing or a replacement cooker to helping with benefit claims. We might pay for fuel or rent because the fishing has been non-existent. I also conduct funerals and comfort the bereaved and lonely.

Reg is a retired fisherman living in Eyemouth. His health is not the best and his living accommodation was unsafe and entirely unsuitable. I've acted as Reg's advocate with his GP, social services and housing authorities. Reg's 'boat came in' when I secured a more suitable home for him and applied for welfare benefits;



Claire and Reg, safe and cared for

Reg says his health and quality of life have been transformed, he feels safe and cared for.

Reg remembers the old Fishermen's Mission building in Eyemouth and the popular tradition of Sunday Nightcap which continues to the present day

at the Eyemouth United Church hall. Nearly 40 years on, this group have remained faithful supporters of our work in Eyemouth. Sunday Nightcap follows a traditional pattern of favourite hymns, prayer and thought-provoking talk. Every Sunday the group take an offering, raising funds for the Fishermen's Mission. In the last 18 months these generous friends of our work have raised almost £10,000.

The spirit of the Nightcap and my service to those I meet is summed up in the words of that great hymn:

*"Blessed be the tie that binds,  
Our hearts in Christian love,  
The fellowship of kindred minds,  
Is like to that above."*



Claire McIntosh 'chats' with local fishermen

# SWEET SMELLING FISHERMEN!

Days spent on a fishing boat handling salty ropes and seaweed covered nets, fish bait and guts, can produce its own unique aroma for our fishermen. Here at the Fishermen's Mission we care for the whole person, mind, soul and most definitely body! That's why we are especially grateful to the Scottish Fishermen's

Trust for a grant of £10,488 which was used to develop shower and toilet facilities at our Peterhead Centre as well as essential replacement flooring at Fraserburgh. The sweet-smelling fishermen of Peterhead also extend their thanks!



Newly refurbished Fraserburgh Centre

## The Legacy Lifeline

### *Gifts that take care of family first*

Last year, nearly 40p in every pound received by The Fishermen's Mission came from gifts in Wills.

Special donations from people who had looked out for their loved ones first, but also contributed to a cause close to their hearts.

Legacies that helped people like retired fisherman John, who worked in commercial fishing for 30 years and now lives alone in a small village in Suffolk.

After retirement, John's mobility declined until walking any distance was both painful and slow. Also recovering from a serious illness, John was soon unable to leave the house. With virtually no contact with the outside world and rapidly losing his independence, he became isolated and depressed.

Thankfully for John, a friend told him about The Fishermen's Mission Community Outreach Team based at Lowestoft. Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins, and colleague Superintendent Mark Kears, immediately got John the help he needed, successfully helping

him apply for a grant to buy a mobility scooter. Three years later, Tim & Mark are still on hand to provide practical and emotional support.



Senior Superintendent  
Tim Jenkins



John with his life changing scooter



John told us: "I can't thank the Fishermen's Mission enough for what they have done for me. My whole life has changed now I can get out and about. Life is worth living again."

**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](mailto:SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk)**

## Calling all fishmongers!

And attention all supporters, churches and clubs!

Friday 6th July 2018 is **FISH FRIDAY.**

A day to promote the Fishermen's Mission and raise funds for our fishermen. Decorate your fishmonger shop, have a fishy supper, dress up as a fish! Whatever you do, let's join with Albert to raise oodles of Fish Friday cash! Interested? Visit [www.fishermensmission.org.uk/fishfriday](http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk/fishfriday)

**FISH FRIDAY IS COMING!**



## Attention Fish and chip lovers!

Crispy battered fresh fish and succulent piping-hot chips!

The nation's favourite food is worth celebrating. Which is why National Fish and Chip Day returns on Friday 1st June 2018. Once again, the Fishermen's Mission are delighted to be the charity partner for this amazing event. Why not visit [www.neoda.org.uk/fishandchipday](http://www.neoda.org.uk/fishandchipday) to get your fish and chip shop involved. It's a great way to promote your chippy, champion the UK's tastiest food and support the Fishermen's Mission!



*"To everyone who supports our work, by doing whatever you can, a heartfelt thank you from our fishermen and their families."*

## Super Seasalt

Celebrity designed shopping bags, coastal themed Christmas cards and a charity sale combined to make 2017 yet another sensational fundraising year from Seasalt, with £24,000 raised for the Fishermen's Mission. Seasalt have always had a close affinity with fishing communities and the Fishermen's Mission, raising an incredible £77,700 over the last 6 years.

Julian Waring, Regional fundraising manager for the South West commented,

"We are hugely proud to have the support from the Seasalt team and their wonderful customers who have not only raised funds but also the profile of the Fishermen's Mission".



Neil Chadwick, Seasalt Chairman and co-founder with Julian Waring and Newlyn Superintendent Keith Dickson

## Harmonious Happenings at Helston

Meet Rosie and Emily. Not only are they brilliant supporters of the Fishermen's Mission they also have the voices of angels. Last Christmas they went carol singing and their beautiful renditions of 'Away in a Manger' raised a festive £18.60.

They presented their donation to Mel King, our Helston Charity Shop Manager.

Mel comments, "What a special donation this is, how lovely of the girls to think of the Fishermen's Mission".



Rosie and Emily making Helston happy!



It was a busy Christmas at our Charity shop in Helston, Cornwall. The highlight was an evening where grown-ups were banned from the shop! Children came and chose small personal gifts for their parents and carers with the help of a team of volunteers. The gifts were then wrapped, the labels written and the secrets kept until Christmas day!

Santa lends a hand

# Our beautiful rose is Coming Home

## And it can be yours!



The Fishermen's Mission in partnership with Country Garden Roses are delighted to bring you 'Coming Home'. This dazzling Floribunda rose has striking red tinged buds that burst open to reveal dramatic yellow cream and pale white blooms. This stunning rose can be the centerpiece of your garden all summer long.

'Coming Home' is the perfect gift, and as you enjoy 'Coming Home' you can be especially thrilled knowing that every rose sold means a donation to the Fishermen's Mission.



### Order Today

make a difference to your garden and the lives of our fishermen

Call 01939 211900 or visit [www.countrygardenroses.co.uk](http://www.countrygardenroses.co.uk) and search for 'Coming Home'

A rose costs £29.95 inc p&p. £4.95 is donated to the Fishermen's Mission

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk)

### How to contact us:

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