

## How you can help?

We are always looking for willing volunteers! Could you help with organising some fundraising events like holding a coffee morning or an afternoon tea?

Are you in a church? Then perhaps you could be our **Parish Church link!** This position would not be strenuous! It would involve passing on the newsletter to interested people. Perhaps getting people together for a coffee morning. Collecting some knitted hats and passing them on to the Chaplain.

*Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7pm A talk by Ron Hancock on the History of the Port of Southampton.  
Held at the Southampton Seafarers Centre*

**The Mission is trying to raise the profile in this region and we do need your support!**

If you like this newsletter or would like to make a contribution to the ongoing work of the Mission then please send us a cheque to 'The Mission to Seafarers' and send it to The Chaplain. The Mission to Seafarers, 12/14 Queens Terrace. Southampton. SO14 3BP.

Written by John Attenborough. Port Chaplain

John.attenborough@mtsmail.org

0777 432 8595

Registered charity no: 1123613



# The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

January 2015

**Welcome** to our new Newsletter for the South Coast region of the Mission to Seafarers... This newsletter will hopefully give you an insight of what we do and how we do it... it will also tell some stories of the people we have involved locally, whether that is committee members, volunteers, ship visitors and other people in the maritime community! We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the news and information that is in it...



**Christmas** You might think that Christmas has long since gone and its in the distant past already... However The Mission to Seafarers was busy over the Christmas period with getting Christmas Present wrapped up and ready to be distributed to the seafarers that would arrive into the port on or around Christmas. We had **three** churches support us this year. St. Johns in Hedge End, St. Marys Church within the city and St. Thomas' Church in Lymington. With their help we collected lots of toiletries, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors and lots of chocolate.

With a little help from some willing volunteers we wrapped up almost 100 presents which I think is an excellent start and something we aim to build on in the years to come! ***Perhaps you might be willing to led us your support to this?***



The Seafarers of course really appreciated these wonderful gifts. Being far away from home is hard enough but at Christmas life at sea is especially hard and difficult. The feeling of helplessness can be magnified. That is why something as simple gift means so much. A warm hat or two, chocolate and some essential items go down a treat. Thank you for all those that supported this worthwhile initiative.

The seafarers pictured below were from a ship called the M/V Najade. The officers and crew were made up of Dutch, Ukrainian, Russian and Filipino. The crew told me that they were so grateful for our thoughtfulness and kindness! They wanted me to pass on this message!



## Hoegh Osaka



Accidents do happen and can happen at anytime! That is why the Mission to Seafarers is there to help whenever there is need! Our arrival to support the crew was crucial. We managed to speak with them all, and we offered to take the men to the Southampton Seafarers' Centre to make them more comfortable, get them urgently needed clothing and food, and to assist them to contact home. We arrived at the Centre at around 2am. Stephen Hulbert, the centre manager, had called ahead to Centre Staff, who came in straight away. When we arrived there was hot soup, coffee, and sandwiches ready for them all, and Stephen's wife had bought in blankets, jumpers and socks. They were really needed. I made sure that all the crew could use my mobile phone. By 4am the shipping agents and the lawyers had arrived and arranged to transfer the men to a local hotel.

*More on this story in our next newsletter edition!*