

How you can help?

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

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.

Could you volunteer as a Mini Bus Driver? Please let me know!

Each year we need to raise around **£30,000** to keep the work of the Mission in this region going! We are a global but local organisation whatever we raise locally goes to support the seafarers in this region!

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.

Alternatively you could pay something into our bank account "The Mission to Seafarers" Sort code 20-79-25 and account number 40639117

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The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

Spring 2015

Welcome to our third edition of the Mission to Seafarers Newsletter for the South Coast region ... 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...



Spreading some Easter joy!

I do hope you all had a lovely Easter! Easter as we know is central to our Christian belief and many weeks have passed since we all celebrated this wonderful festival! Here in Southampton the Mission to Seafarers decided that we really wanted to spread the joy of Easter with the seafarers that came into the Port of Southampton. With the help of a generous donation we were able to buy 250 packets of Easter Eggs!



As you know seafarers bring us 95% of all the things we need and without seafarers we would not have the chocolate that we enjoy each and every day. I thought it was only fitting to be able to say "Thank You" back to the seafarers. The seafarers that I gave the chocolate eggs to were so thankful and grateful. I find the very act of giving something so small like a packet of chocolate eggs so rewarding. The looks of pure happiness on their faces said it all and it reminded me that a little act of kindness can mean so much! *Could you help us next Easter?*



New Jewels : Britannia and Anthem of the Seas



The Mission to Seafarers here in Southampton has been involved in the preparations for the new cruise liners setting sail on the high seas. It was lovely to have been invited to the ships' blessing ceremonies.

Britannia is a part of P&O Cruises and the Anthem of the Seas (pictured) is

Royal Caribbean's newest ship. It was decided to invite Rev. Tom Pyke who is our Honorary Chaplain in London to do the actual blessing. However I was asked to be on the ship for the day to wander around and talk with the crew. The ship is huge and it has 1600 crew members and can accommodate 5000 passengers! The ship is truly magnificent and ultra modern and the passenger areas are very luxurious.

Ministry on cruise ships is more specialised as there is a mixture of nationalities who join all their efforts to make this enormous machine work and run smoothly. The crew on the Anthem of the Seas is made up of 64 nationalities and are all very friendly. They really appreciated a Chaplaincy presence on board the ship. Every time the ship comes into Southampton one of the team from the Seafarers Centre goes on board and spends some time with the crew members. Southampton is one of the busiest cruise ship ports in the country.

Most of the cruise ships that call here are change over visits therefore the crew do not have much time to go out while they are in port. It's very important for us to visit the ship when the ship comes alongside. Being a Seafarer on board a cruise ship can be stressful and tiring as they do not get much time to go ashore. It's therefore vital that the Mission is there to provide a friendly face, warm welcome and perhaps even a phone card!



Old Friends coming back!

It was a pure delight to see the Hoegh Osaka back in Southampton again!

The ship came back in late April after undergoing renovations in Falmouth. She is now back sailing around the world bringing the consumers cars and heavy rolling equipment! Although most of the crew who are on board now are the new recruits, there were two crew members from the old team. It was wonderful to be able to meet up with Stanislav the Second Officer who was on board on that fateful night. He was so happy to see me and I was delighted that he was able to make some time to sit down with me and talk about how he is after the incident and what happened with the ship during repairs. The Second person I met again was Chief Engineer Swaminathan Sankararam whose picture is on the front page. He was going home for his annual leave but he made time to say goodbye to us at the Centre!



Please, think of seafarers on Sea Sunday

July is the month when we celebrate Sea Sunday across the country. Traditionally, we talk, think and pray for all Seafarers. Below is a prayer and if you would like to support us please check out the back page of this newsletter.

Almighty Father creator of the Oceans and Land
Whose Son sailed the seas and calmed the storms.

Anoint all seafarers with your Holy Spirit,
That as it breathed over the waters of creation,
So may you bring newness life to them and us.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

 If you are a twitter fan you can follow my tweets on: [#southamptonmts](https://twitter.com/southamptonmts)