

Press Release

The Apostleship of the Sea



Apostleship of the Sea Now Active in Jersey

Apostleship of the Sea is the frontline service for the care of seafarers visiting British shores. We provide practical and pastoral care to all seafarers. Our volunteer ship visitors welcome seafarers, offer welfare services and advice, practical help, care and friendship. We are proud to announce we now have an active volunteer ship visiting service in Jersey to look after the welfare needs of all visiting seafarers.

Apostleship of the Sea was founded in Glasgow in 1922. At this time Britain had one of the largest merchant fleets in the world, employing many thousands of British seafarers. Apostleship of the Sea ran large seafarers' hostels in all the major port towns where seafarers could stay while their ships were in port, often for weeks at a time.

Today's seafarer is no longer in port for a few nights, but often only for a few hours. 90% of world trade is transported by ship. However the life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. In these changed circumstances they no longer need the reactive welcome of a hostel, but the pro-active outreach of a ship visit to assess practical needs, backed up by a modern drop-in centre inside the docks. These centres are equipped with email terminals and telephones to facilitate contact with loved ones back home whom they may not have seen for nine or even twelve months.

While the nature of our work has evolved in line with society and industry, our founding belief that every seafarer deserves fair working conditions, human rights and compassion remains at the heart of what we do. Apostleship of the Sea has the largest number of welfare visitors providing these services in the UK. We operate in more ports than anyone else responding to precisely these needs. We are experts in what we do, and we will continue to evolve and adapt as the maritime and shipping environment demands.

Apostleship of the Sea relies wholly on voluntary contributions. We are only able to continue our work through the generous donations of our supporters and volunteers.

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Further information for Editors

The Apostleship of the Sea, AOS, is a maritime welfare charity, providing practical and pastoral support to seafarers, regardless of race, colour or creed (if any).

Ninety percent of world trade is carried by ship, and some 100,000 seafarers visit British ports each year. They are commonly away from home for nine to 12 months at a time, suffering loneliness, depression and even exploitation. They also have to work in gruelling and often dangerous conditions. AOS chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores. They recognise them as brothers with an intrinsic human dignity which can be overlooked in the modern globalised maritime industry. For more information visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

For further information about the work and vision of AOS please contact Sheila Bailey Director of Fundraising and Communications Tel: 07712864747 or at sheilabailey@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk