

Press Release

The Apostleship of the Sea



A NEW SEAFARER CENTRE IN PORTSMOUTH FOR THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) announces a new seafarers' centre located in Portsmouth. The centre which stands at the Flathouse Quay was made possible by the hard work and generosity of a combination of AOS workers and supporters and the financial and practical support of the local shipping community. This centre will greatly improve the level of practical care that AOS can give to seafarers arriving to the area. It will be equipped with communications facilities such as telephones and internet, and areas to rest and relax and socialise.

The Official opening of the Cabin is set for Monday 9th June at 12.00pm and it should be a good turn out, with a mixture of seafarers, AOS guests and MEDIA. Ship visitor and AOS volunteer Geoff Breeze states "We hope that by having an official opening we can raise awareness of the fantastic service these seafarers' centres provide and all the practical work AOS does for visiting seafarers."

Few people realise just how much we depend on seafarers for our daily existence. In fact, 95% of UK trade still travels by sea. However, to provide for our daily needs, seafarers face danger, endure loneliness and cope with separation from their homes and families for up to 12 months at a time. Being imprisoned on their ships for weeks or months at a time, seafarers often yearn to step onto solid ground and contact their loved ones away from the noisy, unpleasant and all too familiar surroundings of their ship, without having to travel into town for this purpose.

Until now there have been no facilities on port with seafarers relying on AOS ship visitors visiting them onboard. The new Seafarer centre will be a lifeline for seafarers visiting one of the busiest commercial ports in the UK.



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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: 0771 286 4747
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