

# Apostleship of the Sea

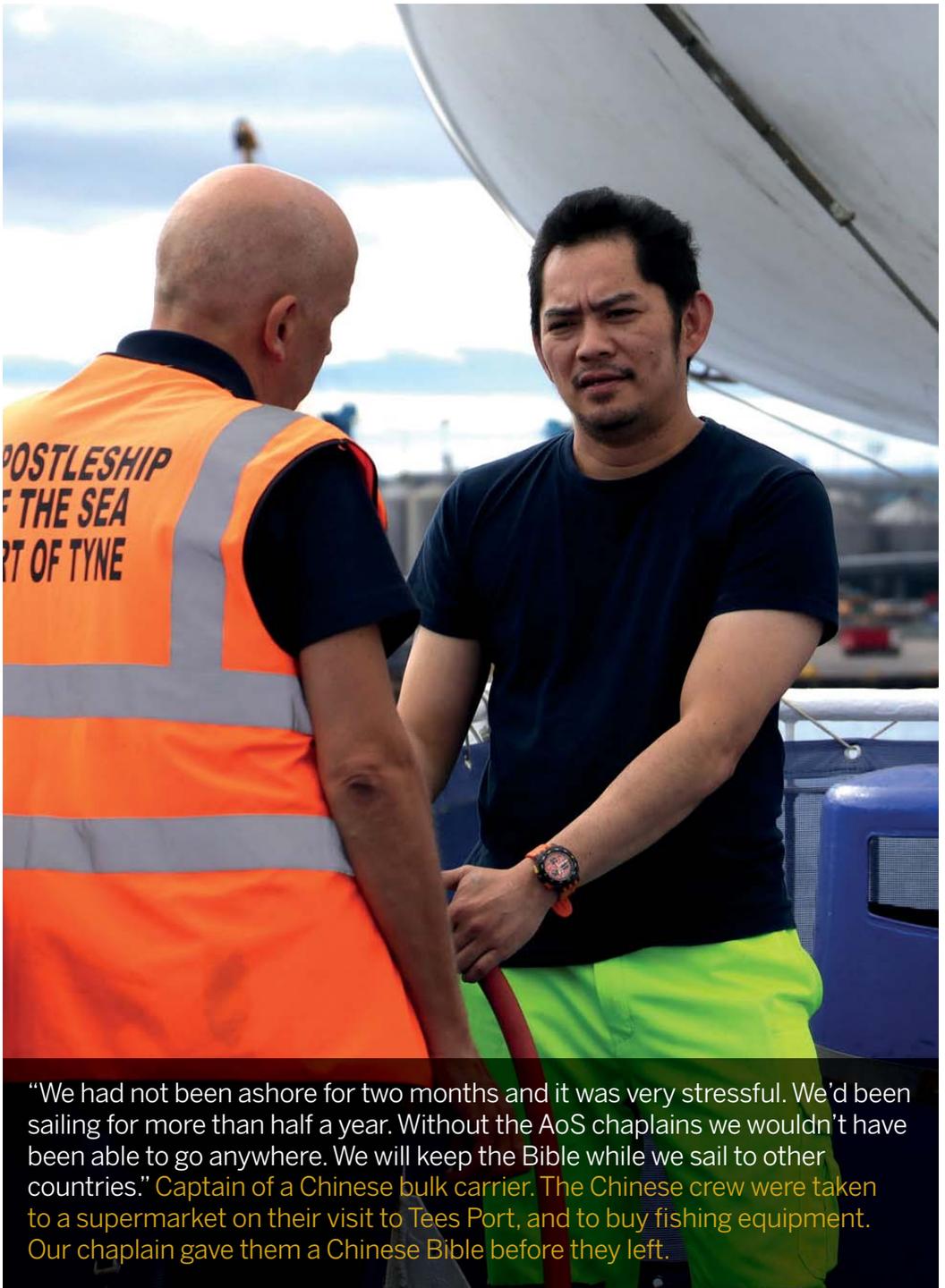
## Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

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### Annual Review 2018



**Apostleship  
of the Sea**  
Supporting Seafarers Worldwide



“We had not been ashore for two months and it was very stressful. We’d been sailing for more than half a year. Without the AoS chaplains we wouldn’t have been able to go anywhere. We will keep the Bible while we sail to other countries.” **Captain of a Chinese bulk carrier. The Chinese crew were taken to a supermarket on their visit to Tees Port, and to buy fishing equipment. Our chaplain gave them a Chinese Bible before they left.**



## View from the Bridge

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“Look around you. More than 90% of everything you see comes to us by sea. And it’s here thanks to seafarers. These brave, hardworking men and women endure storms, loneliness and months away from loved ones to deliver goods to our shores.

“And we are here to provide practical and pastoral care to every one of them, regardless of nationality, belief or race. Our 19 chaplains and 104 volunteers across 61 ports in Great Britain visit around 30 ships every day of the year to offer advice, practical help, care and friendship – and they provide vital support in times of crisis.

“For almost 100 years, we’ve been extending this hand of friendship, and welcoming the stranger to our shores. It’s only possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our supporters. In 2018, AoS supporters donated more than £1.5m to this ministry. I am so grateful.

“As you read through this booklet, I hope you’ll join with me in celebrating all that’s been achieved in 2018 – every seafarer helped, every ship visited, every Mass said, every volunteer that’s come on board. AoS is touching the lives of so many seafarers, and making a difference around the world.”

Martin Foley, National Director

“For I was a stranger  
and you welcomed me.”

Matthew 25.35

**10,048** ships visited in 2018  
**221,056** seafarers and fishermen helped

## A day in the life of a port chaplain

Anne McLaren has been a Port Chaplain in the Port of Hull for 10 years. With the support of ship visitors, she's visited thousands of ships and supported countless seafarers. Anne leads a team of more than a dozen volunteers and manages the Hull Seafarers' Centre, in King George Dock, open 24 hours a day, every day.





## Here Anne gives us a taste of life as a port chaplain.

“There’s no such thing as a typical day, but usually I head to our centre first thing in the morning to meet the volunteers. We check the shipping lists to see what vessels are expected and where. We cover the ports of Hull and Goole, which is 30 miles away, so we arrange where we’re going to spend the day.

“We start visiting the first ships around mid -morning and keep going until we’ve been to them all. I try to visit perhaps three or four ships a day, and it’s the thing I love most about this ministry.

“It’s a great privilege to be able to go to seafarers, bring newspapers and other information and invite them to our centre to talk and listen to them. The important thing is our presence on board. It’s the small things we do, the acts of help and support, that make a difference to the lives of seafarers.

“In the afternoon, I might go back to a ship to take seafarers into town or back to our centre. The building is open 24/7, and seafarers can come any time to use the free Wifi, get tea and coffee, watch TV or just sit in peace and quiet. I might also visit a seafarer in hospital during the afternoon. Often, we become like family for hospitalised seafarers. We visit as often as we can, including at weekends, until they are able to go home to their own families.

“The volunteers and I get together at the centre at the end of the day to de-brief and list the ships we’ve visited. As well as ship visitors, we also have volunteers who clean the centre, sort out technical problems and a million other jobs. I can’t stress enough how important these people are; I couldn’t do my job without them!

“As the day draws to an end I head for home, but my phone is on 24/7 for seafarers to contact me if they need support.”

Every day chaplains visit **four ships** on average

**19 chaplains** like Anne in Great Britain are visiting ships in **61 ports**



## Supporting seafarers around the world

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Our extensive network of chaplains means we can offer a warm welcome and a friendly face in almost every major port in the world. When a ship is in crisis, we alert our chaplains in the next port and prepare them to provide spiritual and practical help. It means we can provide consistent support to seafarers wherever they are.



220+  
chaplains



750+  
volunteers



300+ ports  
around the  
world



**70,000+**  
ships visited  
every year



**1 million+**  
seafarers  
supported  
each year



**Supporting**  
seafarers  
since 1920



“Without Joe, the AoS chaplain, this would have been extremely difficult to deal with. We have been shown so much generosity.”

Croatian seafarer, Zlatko Kosack



## Providing help in crisis around the world

At any one time, our London-based team is coordinating help for dozens of seafarers in crisis. This might mean arranging for a chaplain to visit a sick seafarer in hospital, intervening to ensure seafarers are paid if there's been a delay, or sending chaplains on board following the death of a crew member. It's vital help which makes all the difference to individuals who are far from home, grieving, or feel powerless and scared.

### On-board care in a crisis

In March, a Panama-flagged container ship was boarded by pirates who rammed the vessel into an oil tanker. The Russian and Ukrainian crew were terrified. We arranged for our chaplains in the next two ports, one in Nigeria and then Durban, to visit the ship to offer support. We brought toiletries, checked on their wellbeing and were assured that many seafarers had been sent back home to recover.

### Responding to crew deaths

The tanker Key Fighter was on route to London from Norway when two seafarers tragically died on board after being exposed to toxic gas. Our chaplain, Wojciech Holub, went on board as soon as possible to support the grieving crew. "One of the dead men was very much a father figure," said Wojciech. "He had been due to retire, and this was his final contract. The crew were terribly distraught and overcome by sadness." At the request of the Filipino crew, Wojciech blessed the ship and prayed with the group. "It was a terrible time, but the seafarers were grateful for our presence and reassured by the pastoral support," added Wojciech.

### Visiting seafarers in hospital

Croatian seafarer, Zlatko Kosack (main picture, left), was badly burned while working on an oil tanker near Grangemouth,

Scotland. He was rushed to hospital, needing an urgent skin graft operation. Our chaplain, Deacon Joe O'Donnell, stepped in to help, not only visiting Zlatko but arranging for him to receive home-cooked food, sorting accommodation for Zlatko's wife, and bringing Zlatko a special gift as he celebrated his 50th birthday in a hospital bed! Zlatko said, "Without Joe, the AoS chaplain, this would have been extremely difficult to deal with. We have been shown so much generosity."

### When there's no one else to help

When a Tanzanian-flagged vessel arrived in Durban, South Africa, it was infested with rats and cockroaches, and the crew had not been paid for months. Two men needed medical attention, and others urgently needed to send money home. Our AoS chaplain organised a doctor, arranged for the ship to be fumigated, sourced an emergency grant so the crew could buy food and collected clothes and toiletries from local supporters. Eventually the crew was repatriated and paid once the troubled ship had been sold.

In 2018...

**146 seafarers** were visited in hospital

**We helped in 60 major incidents**

**We dealt with two crises every week**

## Faith on board

More than half of all seafarers are Christians – and when faced with the dangers and loneliness of life at sea, seafarers lean on their faith more than ever. We give spiritual support, including arranging Mass on board, helping seafarers get to church and providing faith resources such as Bibles and prayer books to whoever wants them.



*Mass for maiden voyage*



*Keeping in touch*



*Practising faith*

**MV Koushun** was on its maiden voyage from Japan to Canada and then to Europe. The crew was keen for a Mass on board to mark the vessel's launch and wanted the bridge to be blessed. Our chaplain, Steve Willows, arranged this during their stop-over in Immingham.

**Two Filipino seafarers,** Anbe and Romeo, on deck duty on board Marseille Maersk at Felixstowe were thrilled to receive a Catholic newsletter, the *Apostolatus Maris Manila News*, delivered to them by our Felixstowe ship visitor.

**In Tilbury,** our chaplain organised a last-minute Mass on board the *Top Trader*. Seafarers rarely get the chance to attend Mass on long voyages, and they cherish the opportunity to be able to practise their faith.



on board

Praying for seafarers

### Our Ipswich ship visitor

Julian Wong invites seafarers to write prayer requests in his little book, which he then takes to his weekly rosary prayer group at a local church. Here, Estuye Olitin, from the ship Jonni Ritscher, writes his requests.

### More than 200 crew

from two cruise ships were transported to the Vatican to celebrate Mass. Both P&O Ventura and Cunard's Queen Victoria were docked in Civitavecchia at the same time, and our teams in the Vatican and Great Britain joined forces to give the

crews a special day out. They enjoyed a tour of St Peter's Basilica then celebrated Mass together in a chapel, with several crew providing the music, doing the readings, and offering prayers in their own languages.

**Seafarers on 2,894 ships** were provided with faith resources

**83 Masses** celebrated on ships

**50%** of seafarers are Christians and **1/3** are Catholics

## The difference we make

“Port chaplains and ship visitors bring a much-needed dose of humanity, not only when ships are detained or at other very stressful moments, but they are out there, ship visiting, day in, day out. Their help for seafarers is second to none.”

**Captain Ron Bailey, Harbour Master,  
Clydeport Operations Ltd.**

“Seafarers greet me with a big smile... to see the look in their eyes when they discover I'm interested in them is heartening. Occasionally they will ask me to pray or organise a Mass. It's a very simple ministry at one level but it makes such an enormous difference to seafarers.”

**Patricia Ezra, East Anglia port chaplain**

“What a lovely visit to the Vos Star tonight. It was great to talk and the woolly hats are greatly appreciated. It's been a tough time with illness in the family. It's the support from strangers that lets us know we're not alone out here. Thank you all!”

**Tim Hughes, seafarer**



Two Ukrainian brothers, both chief engineers on different ships, had a rare catch-up when their ships docked not far from each other on the same day – and our chaplain arranged for them to meet.



“For those who work long periods at sea, chaplains provide much needed support in the absence of friends and family. They can comfort, reassure and offer spiritual guidance to those in need”

**Jo Utteridge, former dance captain and production manager on Costa cruise ships**

“Taking seafarers on trips out is very rewarding. They often speak of it as a once in a lifetime experience. From Southampton, they often want to go to Stonehenge – so I act quickly, sort out a minibus, and off we go.”

**Peter Morgan, Southampton port chaplain**

## Support and prayers: Stella Maris Masses around the nation

Masses to celebrate the feast of Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea, took place in 15 dioceses around Great Britain, where the work of Apostleship of the Sea was upheld in prayer.





**Hundreds of people attended Masses at cathedrals and churches from Aberdeen to Portsmouth, Norwich to Falmouth, during September and October. New chaplains and volunteer ship visitors were commissioned, and prayers were offered for the ministry of AoS.**

Deacon Peter Barrigan, a port chaplain in Tees, spoke at a Stella Maris Mass in Middlesbrough.

He said, "Our ministry is to be present, and very often deliver little acts of kindness – provide seafarers with phone cards, rosaries, transport into town, and mainly to listen. These are brief encounters. Jesus' ministry consists of many brief encounters... Jesus spending time with strangers, listening to them, carrying out acts of kindness. We are in a privileged position to do this under the

protection of Our Blessed Lady Star of the Sea, Stella Maris."

Meanwhile, in Falmouth, Fr Brian Kenwick told the congregation, "Seafarers are often vulnerable, powerless and helpless, a long way from home, in need of a friendly face and a helping hand. They have a natural awareness of the presence of God and look to Mary, Star of the Sea, to guide them to a safe harbour. This love continues to them, as expressed and proclaimed by AoS chaplains and ship visitors."

And in Grimsby, the congregation of St Mary on the Sea was told by Fr Colum Kelly, "You prayed for AoS, engaged with our ministry and responded to it. The story isn't just a series of words, but is now part of you, and it has become richer because of the wonderful work done in this parish."

# Fundraising heroes: thank you for making the work possible

We are so grateful for everyone who supports the work of Apostleship of the Sea – from the knitters turning out woolly hats for seafarers, to all the churches celebrating Sea Sunday, from everyone who pray with us to those who donate to make this ministry possible.

These are some of our fundraising highlights from 2018...



*Thank you for your many donations*



*Thank you for beautiful pictures*



*Big than Pat the*

**These generous parishioners from Scarborough** collected clothes, hats, food and faith materials for seafarers visiting Teeside docks – and had a tour round a ship to see their donations in action.

**Children from St Polycarp's Catholic Primary School** in Farnham, Surrey, produced these beautiful paintings for Sea Sunday. They were passed to a chaplain and distributed among seafarers.

**Pat Hunt, known as 'Pat the Hat',** celebrated her 80th birthday this year by turning out another batch of hand-knitted woolly hats for seafarers. Pat, who lives in Horden, Co Durham, has been knitting hats for seafarers for years – and her colourful creations are warmly received on ships arriving at Tees dock.

**Kind supporters knitted 3,160 hats for seafarers in 2018**



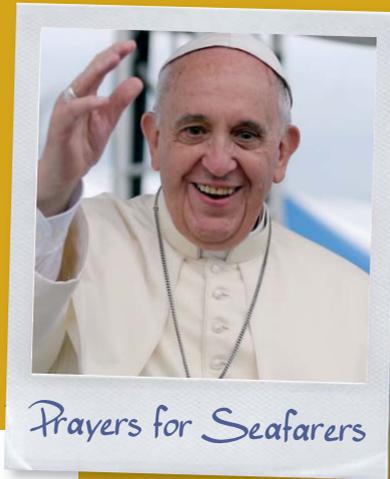
**Christmas cheer** was spread among seafarers away from home in December, after supporters donated dozens of shoeboxes filled with presents. In Immingham, strong winds and a steep

# Sea Sunday 2018

## Pope prays for seafarers

Sea Sunday 2018 was marked with a message from Pope Francis, who prayed for seafarers and fishermen across the world.

"I pray for them and their families as well as for the chaplains and volunteers of the Apostleship of the Sea," the Pontiff said during an address in St Peter's Square, Vatican.



gangway almost prevented the goodies getting on board, but chaplain Steve Willows called in the help of a crane and the boxes were hoisted up to the waiting seafarers. 'One seafarer commented that people sometimes forget the human element to shipping,' said Steve, 'but AoS and our many supporters definitely don't.'

Thousands of churches around the world celebrated Sea Sunday on 8 July. This was a day to remember and pray for seafarers, their families and all those who support them. The AoS flag flew above Westminster Cathedral, in London, and our staff, trustees and volunteers were out and about talking in parishes.

**Sea Sunday 2019 takes place on 14 July. Could you speak in your church on that day and inspire more people about the work of AoS?**

We'll provide free resources for you to use, including posters, an insert for your parish bulletin, a short talk and a children's activity. Email info @apostleshipofthesea.org.uk to find out more, or call 020 7901 1931.

Many people gave generously towards the Apostleship of the Sea collection – and the day raised more than £511,000, enough to support a staggering 85,000 seafarers in ports around the world.

Thank you so much!

Apostleship of the Sea is a member of the Institute of Fundraising. We abide by the IoF Code of Fundraising Practice, which means all our fundraising activities represent best-practice and are legal, open, honest and respectful.





## Port chaplain awarded British Empire Medal

Port chaplain Revd Roger Stone was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2018 for services to the pastoral care of seafarers.

**Roger had been with us as a port chaplain since June 2010, and was our South West regional coordinator. He received his BEM in May and attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. Roger said, “I am proud to work with the greatest and most effective maritime charity in the world, and I am privileged to serve so many wonderful seafarers from countries around the world.”**

Roger was a permanent deacon in West Sussex before seeing a job advert for a port chaplain. Despite not knowing anything about shipping at the time, he embraced the challenge of doing something different.

In his years with AoS, Roger has supported a group of abandoned seafarers whose company hit financial trouble, helped nine fishermen who were found to be working

in slave-like conditions and comforted several seafarers following deaths at sea. He learnt some Tagalog and Visaya in order to communicate with the many Filipino seafarers he met and has organised pastoral visits by cardinals and bishops to ships docked near the Vatican.

AoS National Director Martin Foley said, “This award is richly deserved. Roger was a first-class chaplain, always willing to go the extra mile to support seafarers, fishermen and their families. I am delighted that his ministry has been recognised.

“Roger would be the first to acknowledge that his work would not be possible without the support of AoS colleagues, and I thank them, too, for their selfless dedication to serving seafarers and fishermen.”



## What's coming up?

### New magazine for seafarers

We're launching a new monthly magazine for seafarers, Stella Maris. Aiming to support the spiritual and mental health of seafarers, the magazine will carry faith reflections, practical advice and inspiring stories.

It will include the Sunday gospels with a commentary written specially for seafarers, as well as a self-help section covering issues like isolation and long-distance parenting. The magazine, initially in English and Ukrainian, will be available at seafarers' centres around the world and will be distributed to seafarers by ship visitors.



### Celebrating 100 years of service

Apostleship of the Sea was founded in Glasgow in 1920 – and we're preparing to celebrate our centenary in the same city with chaplains from all over the world.

Back then, we ran hostels in all major port towns where seafarers could stay while their ships were in port, often for weeks at a time. Today, the turn-around time for ships in port is as little as a few hours – but our founding belief that every seafarer deserves support, friendship and a warm welcome remains at the heart of our ministry.

In October 2019, we'll be hosting a world congress in Glasgow with additional events around Great Britain. Workers in ports will be invited to join us for tea and a toast.



We want to say a special 'thank you' to Seafarers UK, a charity that has been helping people in the maritime community for more than 100 years. We received a grant from Seafarers UK in 2018, which provided vital in-port support to seafarers.

# Funding our work

## Our income

We're so grateful for the faithful generosity of AoS supporters. Our income from donations and legacies has increased by 2.8% compared to 2017. Thank you so much!

## Our expenditure

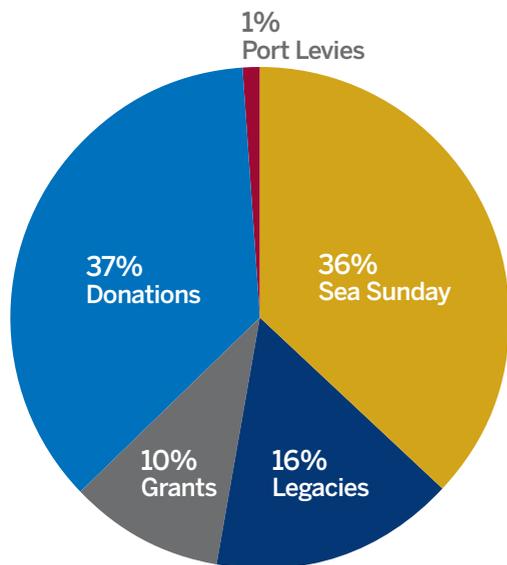
We support 19 chaplains in 61 ports around Great Britain, and we also helped the work of AoS in Canada, Jamaica, Seychelles, South Africa and Ukraine.

## Donations and legacy gifts received in 2018 came to £1,560,056.

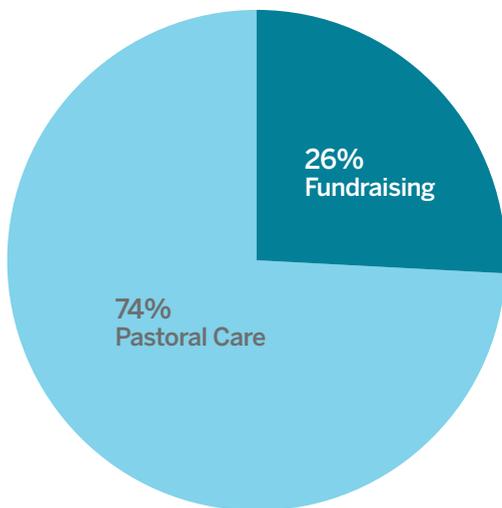
We remember with thanks those who left donations in their wills.

We've used your money wisely and carefully to have the greatest impact. Your support has meant more port chaplains available to help, more Masses celebrated on board, more sick seafarers visited and more faith resources provided. Thank you so much.

## Income



## Expenditure



Apostleship of the Sea | 39 Eccleston Square | London | SW1V 1BX

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## The impact of your gifts in 2018

### Doing more with your money

	2017	2018	%
Ships visited	10,173	10,048	-1.2%
Seafarers helped	223,806	221,056	-1.2%
AoS Port Chaplains	18	20	11.1%
Masses celebrated on ships	74	83	12.1%
Volunteer ship visitors	111	115	3.6%
Seafarers hospital visits	58	146	151.7%
Phone and internet for seafarers	2,790	2,331	-16.5%
Transport provision	1,824	1,805	-1%
Faith resources provided	3,201	2,894	-10%
Other help/resources provided	5,891	6,200	5.3%
Cruise chaplaincy sailing days	333	212	-36.3%



AoS GB helped our Vancouver port chaplain secure funding for a new vehicle



**Around one in seven seafarers is helped through AoS thanks to legacy gifts. Leaving a gift in your will is a significant way to support this ministry. To find out more, call 020 7901 1931.**

### **Legacy gift a vital support for injured seafarer**

The generosity of a legacy donor has provided vital help for a Filipino seafarer in intensive care for a month.

Maureen Swan, from Twickenham, kindly left £5,000 in her will to AoS. Her compassion for seafarers meant that when long-serving seaman Rame Desamparado was injured in a car crash, he and his family received the help they needed.

Part of Mrs Swan's gift was used to pay the hospital costs of caring for Second Officer Rame, who was involved in the accident while on leave in the Philippines.

He had a long period of rehabilitation following his stay in intensive care. Mrs Swan's daughter, Kate, said, "I know my mother would be delighted to have supported a family in this way."

Alastair Emblem, AoS Legacy Officer, added, "Usually, income from legacies helps provide chaplaincy services to seafarers visiting UK ports. But occasionally we receive special requests to support seafarers in trouble. Mrs Swan's thoughtful gesture has brought relief to a poor and traumatised family on the other side of the world."

# Yes, I want to help support the faith and welfare of seafarers

Here is my gift of £

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Date of birth:

Donate online at [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/donate-now](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/donate-now)

## How would you like to Pay?

**Cheque or postal order –**

Made payable to: **Apostleship of the Sea**

**Credit Card – Please fill in the details below**

(Ensure we have your name and address. We do not accept Amex.)

Please debit my:

**Mastercard**  **Visa**  **Maestro**  **Delta**  **CAF Charity Card**

Card no:

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Name (as on the card):

Expiry date:  /  Security code CSV:

Signature:

Date:

By providing us with your address you give your consent for Apostleship of the Sea to contact you by post. Apostleship of the Sea will not disclose your personal data to any other organisation.

I do not wish to receive any further communication from AoS

**I would like information about leaving a gift in my Will to AoS**



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# Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of  
Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

*giftaid it*

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of  and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Apostleship of the Sea. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.



Thank you for your support