

# St Luke's Charity for July 2020

## The Mission to Seafarers

SEA SUNDAY is on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Most members of St Luke's will be familiar by now of the work of the Mission to Seafarers as this congregation has supported Sea Sunday, their principal fundraising event, each July for twenty years or so. Their world-wide network dedicated to the welfare of seafarers and their families has been described in Crossway each year, often including details of a particular element of that work such as dealing with the devastating effects of piracy on seafarers and their families. This year I will simply quote an extract from an appeal by the Director General, Rev Canon Andrew Wright, describing the effects of the pandemic on the people we rely on so heavily for our food and our trade.

*“With your help, The Mission to Seafarers continues its support around the world in these unprecedented times. Crew, and their families, are facing particularly tough challenges at present. International travel restrictions, the closure of borders and limited flight availability mean it is often very difficult for them to finish their long contracts. Many have had to work on. Others are unable to join ships at the start of their contracts, meaning financial hardship. All this is very detrimental to morale. There is great anxiety about family at home. Many crews are denied shore leave, meaning they cannot access facilities ashore, shops or medical care for example. In most ports, normal welfare facilities are not available and ship visitation is unable to take place as usual. These are very difficult times.*

*The Mission has been playing its full part, in partnership with others, in advocating internationally on behalf of seafarers. We have been lobbying governments and international organisations to facilitate transit, to*

## **St Luke's Charity for July 2020**

### **The Mission to Seafarers**

*recognise seafarers as essential workers and to protect their access to such support as is proper for their well-being. We have also been flagging up the heroism of seafarers. Amidst dramatically challenging circumstances, they are vital in sustaining supply lines, including the delivery of food and medical items. Without them, we would be in far worse difficulty”.*

I realise that we are all inundated with appeals from charities needing support at this time but anything you can donate this on Sea Sunday, with gift aid if applicable, will be even more than usually appreciated.

If we are still unable to be in the church, their address is The Mission to Seafarers, St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL or you can donate via their website [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

Contact me as St Luke's Champion for this charity or look at the website for more information. Since this is a registered charity (Number 1123613), you may Gift Aid your donation = 25% more!

*John Hardy – Tel. 01732 453527*