

# It was the **best** of times, it was the **worst** of times'

From November 2013 to March 2014 severe storms continuously battered the coastline of the UK. Particularly badly hit were the South West coast and Northern Ireland.

I spent time with fishermen who had no money for rent or electricity and very little food on the table. Their distress was difficult to bear but we knew we could help. During those hard months I met with hundreds of fishermen and their families and we have formed a strong bond'.

During this time fishermen were unable to go out to fish for more than three months. It was a desperate time for our fishermen and their families. Without any means of income they found themselves struggling to hold their lives together.

The Fishermen's Mission was made for times such as these. We were able to offer immediate, practical help. We provided over £350,000 in emergency grants to pay outstanding and urgent bills and offered vouchers to buy food and necessities.

Keith Dickson, Superintendent for the South West, based in Newlyn, Cornwall recalls 'It was one of the most desperate situations I have experienced in my 15 years of working for the Fishermen's Mission'.

'I spent time with fishermen who had no money for rent or electricity and very little food on the table. Their distress was difficult to bear but we knew we could help. During those hard months I met with hundreds of fishermen and their families and we have formed a strong bond'.



Keith Dickson, Superintendent based in Cornwall

'Fishermen and their families trust and rely on the Fishermen's Mission and I am proud that we were there for them when they needed us most'.

It was a similar story for Maurice Lake, Superintendent based in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland.

Maurice says 'It started with a phone call from a local young fisherman to say he was struggling desperately and could I help. I said I would come to him and see what we could do'.

**6** Fishermen and their families trust and rely on the Fishermen's Mission and I am proud that we were there for them when they needed us most. **9** 

'He asked if I would speak to two other fishermen at the same time who were also in need of support and advice. When I arrived to meet them the next day there were over eighty fishermen waiting for me. I was almost overwhelmed with the need and the sheer numbers of people.'

'My team were fantastic. They all leapt into action and one by one we worked our way through. Over just a few days I met hundreds of fishermen and provided them with as much help as we could'.

Martin Rice, local fisherman added 'I know that after this act of generosity the fishermen will support the Fishermen's Mission in the future when the fishing improves. People far and wide have really been impressed by what the Fishermen's Mission has achieved in Ardglass in averting great hardship for many families who have quietly endured their lot. Even my sister in Bedfordshire has said that the shop she is working in as part of their annual fundraising programme will run an event in support of the Fishermen's Mission. This just speaks volumes'.



'I saw one fisherman in tears when he received his cheque. It was very humbling, and all I can say is the Fishermen's Mission have done an excellent job in turning round a difficult situation in our fishing port and I know everyone really appreciated what they have achieved.'

Whilst it was the bleakest of times for our fishermen it has been one of the Fishermen's Mission's finest moments. We stood by our principles of providing practical, financial and emotional help. We didn't dally over drawing up long application forms. We used a simple, effective approach relying on the expertise of our staff.

When times are hard, friends are vital. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all our friends who gave so generously to support us. Particularly we want to thank Seafarers UK who immediately contacted us and offered £50.000 so that help could be offered straight away and then went on to contribute more to the fund. We also offer heartfelt thanks to Trinity House, Fishmonger's Company, Cornwall, Devon and **Dorset Community Foundations** and HRH The Prince of Wales as well as the thousands of people who donated to show their support of our fishermen during this time.



Above: Martin Rice, Ardglass

Left:

Maurice Lake, Superintendent based in Northern Ireland remembering last Winter with Davy Hill, co-owner of F/v Gleaner

## A Royal Fishermen's Mission

We are, of course, extremely proud to have Her Majesty The Queen as our Patron. We were very fortunate to have met with members of the Royal Family throughout the year.



Chief Executive, David Dickens, with HRH the Princess Royal

We were extremely grateful to both Her Majesty
The Queen for her letter of encouragement and
concern for our fishermen and His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales for his words of encouragement
and donation towards the Emergency Appeal.

HRH The Prince of Wales visited Looe in Cornwall and was introduced to our Superintendent Keith Dickson, our Port Officer, Ian Murray and two local fishermen from Newlyn, Jeremy Hoskins and Johnny Murt. His Royal Highness has made donations towards our funds following the winter storms and has asked to be kept informed of our future work.

Our Chief Executive, David Dickens spoke with HRH, The Princess Royal at the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society's 175th Anniversary gathering in Clovelly, Devon. Her Royal Highness is the Patron of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society and was interested to learn how both charities work closely together to help fishermen and their families throughout the UK.

Superintendent Finlay Macleod and his wife Catherine, were honoured to be part of the group that welcomed Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and



The Earl of Wessex at the Royal Norfolk Show



HRH the Prince of Wales at Looe

Countess of Wessex to Stornoway in May. Finlay was able to share with the Royal couple his work in the area, particularly during the winter storms, and the support he offers to local fishermen and their families.

HRH The Earl of Wessex chose the Fishermen's Mission as his charity at The Royal Norfolk Show. He stopped at our stand and chatted to Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins from Lowestoft and Regional Fundraising Manager for the East of England, Andy Malcolm. He also met 'Albert' who was out and about on his very first appearance!





## A Fabulous

## Fish Friday

Fish Friday 2014 was a huge success! Our partners Tesco (photos opposite) made a real effort and raised more than ever before.

We also have a marvellous Fish Friday event in Birmingham City Centre where Duncan Lucas (Passionate about Fish) and Gregg Howard (Our Plaice in Hagley) served fish and chips all day in return for a donation to the cause!

## It's a Shop

We are proud to announce the safe arrival of our very first charity shop. It was opened on 26th July 2014 by Nathan Outlaw, two Michelin star chef, who, along with his staff, has been a key supporter and great friend to the Fishermen's Mission for several years. The new shop very much has the family feel which is often so strongly connected with the work of the Fishermen's Mission. We have received a really warm welcome

from the people of Helston.









## A new member of the Family!

We are absolutely thrilled to be able to tell you of the newest arrival to the Fishermen's Mission family. Our Superintendent in Mallaig, Karen Calder, gave birth to Keir George on 13th July. Weighing in at a very healthy 7lbs 2ozs he was more than two weeks early and gave Karen a bit of surprise. This is the first baby born to a Superintendent for many a year!

## And a timely visit ...

ishermen's Mission Port Officer Peter Donald was on his way home to Arbroath from Aberdeen and decided 'by chance' to call in at the little fishing village of Gourdon. He had made his first contact with some of the fishermen there in the early spring, following the disastrous winter weather, and he was hoping to continue the new relationships.

He went to see Derek, a local fisherman, who looked shocked to see Peter. Derek shared with Peter that he was going into hospital the next day to have his leg amputated. He had an aggressive tumour attached to an artery in his upper leg. He had not told anybody outside of the family, and he was frightened at the prospect of the operation.

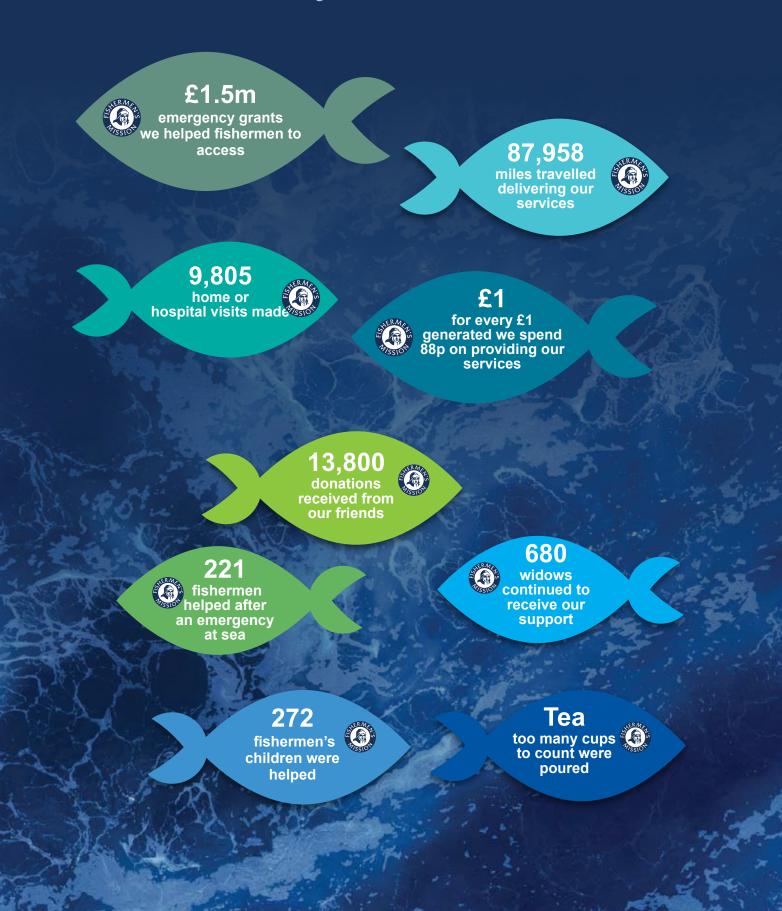
Peter had spent some time with two fishermen who had leg amputations and was able to assure Derek that they had made great recoveries, one of them even being able to ride his bike again. He did not trivialise the situation, but he encouraged Derek to trust in God who had kept him safe throughout his many dangerous years at the fishing. Derek went on to tell him about the time he had been the sole survivor from the loss of a vessel.



Next day Peter received a message from Kevin, Derek's son, to say '.....thank you very much for visiting dad yesterday, your visit helped him greatly. ......He wanted me to tell you talking to you yesterday helped him a lot and improved his outlook on things.' The following day he told him the good news that all had gone well in the 6 hour operation, and the cancer had been completely removed. He said '....dad is determined he will get back to sea and said again last night what a difference talking to you had made to him and settled his mind. Whatever you said has certainly helped him a lot.........'

A timely visit, a heart to heart – all part of the work of the Fishermen's Mission

## 2014 The work of The Fishermen's Mission







## The Chief Executive's Report

**Commodore David Dickens CBE** 

2014 was one of the busiest twelve months in the Fishermen's Mission for a number of years, underlining the importance of making sure that fishing communities understand the full range of support available through the organisation and the high quality of the people that deliver our services.

Nowhere was this more evident than in our Emergency Appeal. Following the prolonged severe weather during winter 2013/14, we provided assistance to many fishermen and their families that were unaware of our capabilities and reach. While the emergency response pressed our resources hard, thanks to early and generous support from Seafarers UK, Trinity House and other maritime charities, as well as our friends and supporters, we were able to deliver event and life changing support to nearly 800 fishing families, disbursing over £350,000 in the process.

The legacy of the appeal has been universally positive, not only in the growth of outreach, but also in underlining our commitment to staying in tune with developments in the fishing industry.

The headline for the year is the significant increase in numbers of visits, casework and financial assistance provided, but the real achievement has been raising awareness of our work to meet future need.

By the end of the year the long term development of our centre-based facilities moved into its last phase, with the downsizing of the last three remaining traditional large centres expected to complete during 2015.

The provision of 24/7 self-help facilities continues to be popular with active fishermen. In 2014 a major refurbishment of facilities at Troon was completed and a new 24/7 centre provided at North Shields in time for the 2014/15 prawn season and this has been well received and used. Elsewhere, Scrabster moved into a new welfare office within the port's business centre and Aberdeen and Lowestoft offices were given a facelift.

Harnessing the power of social media, to improve our service to beneficiaries, raise awareness and streamline administration, has taken significant steps forward this year, with the launch of a new website, the engagement of a Digital Manager and an intranet facility imminent. We are also seeing the benefits of other communications methods (for instance, Twitter, What's App etc.) in engaging swiftly and effectively with fishermen and supporters alike.

During a challenging, but deeply rewarding year I am indebted to all the staff at the Fishermen's Mission for their care, professionalism and dedication in making a real difference to fishermen and their families in difficulty. I would also like to thank most sincerely all those that have supported us with financial or other assistance – without you none of the above would happen!

Commodore David Dickens *CBE, RN, Chief Executive* 



## **Summarised Income and Expenditure**

For the year ended 31 October 2014

	2014	2013
INCOMING RESOURCES	£,000	£,000
Incoming resources from generated funds:		
Voluntary Income : Donations and Gifts	1,926	1,395
Legacies	930	961
Investment Income	159	85
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Income from Catering and Accommodation	211	262
Charity Shop	15	-
Net realised loss on sale of fixed assets	(70)	165
Rental Income	37	34
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	3,208	2,902
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Less: Costs of generating funds		
Fundraising and publicity	695	632
Charitable Activities		
Charitable expenditure	2,124	1,775
Governance		
Governance costs	63	67
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,882	2,474
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		
Before Transfer	326	428
UNREALISED GAIN ON INVESTMENT ASSETS	178	771
ACTUARIAL LOSS/(GAIN) ON DEFINED PENSION SCHEME	(341)	306
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	163	1,505
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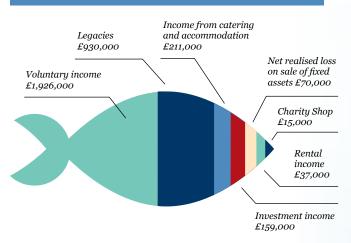
#### TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

The summarised financial information shows the income raised and expenditure of the Mission for the year. The information is taken from the full financial statements which were approved by the Trustees on 25 February 2015. In order to gain a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity, the full audited financial statements, Trustees' Annual Report and auditors' report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the charity.

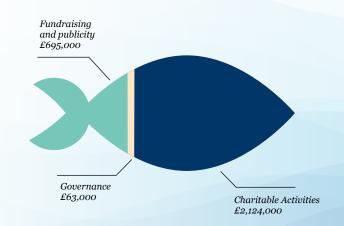
Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Jill Henderson, Chairman Board of Trustees

#### **INCOME TO 31 OCTOBER 2014**



#### **EXPENDITURE TO 31 OCTOBER 2014**





### **Our** Finances

#### **Overall Results**

Financial Year 2013/14 was another sound year for the Fishermen's Mission's finances. An operating surplus of £325,482 (2012/13: £427,910) exceeded budget due to another exceptional year for legacies and continued reduction in overheads. To meet the requirement of FRS 17 the final salary scheme Pension Fund income and expenditure are shown on the Fishermen's Mission's accounts.

#### **Fishermen's Mission Reserves**

2013/14 was the first full year following the overhaul of the Reserves strategy with the resultant increasing diversity of funds. Three sub-portfolios exist; one to generate much needed revenue income; one to cover a major operational emergency; and a capital fund to cover Trustees covenant to the final salary pension scheme and strategic development. As a whole, the investments also provide some £4m for 2 years business continuity. The Reserves continue to be wholly invested in pooled funds, OEICs and fixed interest products to meet an overall strategic risk profile at level 4. Argentis Financial Management continues to act as the Fishermen's Mission's IFA.

Against uncertain market conditions for most of the year, the Fishermen's Mission portfolio experienced a satisfactory net gain of just over 4.2%. The portfolio also generated £114,230 (2012/13: £104,454) in dividend/interest payments for revenue flow.

The Net Movement of Funds for the year was £162,903 inflow (2012/13: £1,505,356 inflow) which has been transferred to the relevant funds. The Fishermen's Mission free reserves at 31 October 2014 stood at £5,725,851. Free reserves available for use by the Fishermen's Mission are deemed to be those that are readily realisable, less funds whose uses are restricted or else designated for a particular purpose. The calculation excludes funds invested in property and other fixed assets that will continue to be used in the day to day running of the Fishermen's Mission.

#### Retirement Benefit Scheme (RBS)

During 2014, the RBS investments were generally static with Gilt Yields struggling for most of the period, with the result that the FRS 17 Valuation on 31st October 2013 saw a modest worsening of the scheme's deficit up by £140,000 to £1,145,000 (2012/13: £1,030,000).





## The Fishermen's Mission 2014

#### Jill Henderson, Chairman of Board of Trustees



Again I find myself announcing another very busy year for the Fishermen's Mission and very proud I am to do so. Over the last twelve months I am particularly pleased that our outreach strategy is now delivering on our vision to increase the numbers of actual and potential beneficiaries through the building of long term relationships and providing rapid, appropriate assistance when required. In all of this the establishment of mutual trust across the industry has been key, with our brilliant Port Staff at the forefront.

The momentum with outreach continues to endorse our long standing centre development programme, along with the resultant move to a more mobile, peripatetic approach. Additional resources are now being made available to engage more staff and volunteers to bolster our presence, particularly in the more remote areas, with seven additional Mission Port Officers established and more to come soon. A more dynamic and organised approach to volunteers is a priority for next year.

Disappointingly demand for our services in the aftermath of fatalities and serious injuries at sea remains stubbornly high. Our support to the bereaved takes many forms and often continues for months and even years which is testament to the sincerity and commitment of our staff.

During the year, all aspects of our Strategy to 2020 were taken forward, although progress with training and education for fishing families was less than anticipated, primarily due to resource pressures, notably at Head Office, this will be addressed as we move forward into 2015.

Also in line with our Strategy, efforts have continued to support safety initiatives to promote safe fishing. We have worked with those aiming to highlight shortfalls in welfare, employment terms and conditions for fishermen, especially migrant workers in some parts of the industry. It has been gratifying to see regular requests for our input on important issues at all levels.

This year also saw the launch of our first ever charity shop in Helston, Cornwall as a pilot to explore alternative funding streams as more traditional routes continue to decline.

All in all I am pleased to report that the Fishermen's Mission continues to make a real difference to our hard working fishermen and their families, while simultaneously taking forward all aspects of our vision for the charity by 2020. Much remains to be done, but I am certain of the will of all staff, volunteers and supporters in getting the job done.

Jill Henderson

Chairman Board of Trustees



## A Refreshing **New Look** for the Fishermen's Mission

During 2014 we decided that it was time to look again at our publicity and our logo. At the same time it was universally agreed that our website was looking a bit tired and it was time for a change to bring us up to date.

(@thefishmi page (Fishe to realise the and our fish different lever that many seprinted word also need to

Recent success with Twitter (@thefishmish) and our Facebook page (Fishermen's Mission) helped us to realise that chatting to our friends and our fishermen could now be on a different level. While still understanding that many supporters like to see the printed word, there are other ways we also need to communicate.

We launched our new website in March 2015 and at the same time reproduced most of our key pieces of publicity with some new colours and pictures.

Our logo is still instantly recognisable but the face has been redrawn to be clearer and easier to use. We have defined our colours to be more consistent and that is reflected through the website and our publicity.

If you would like any of our new publicity please do get in touch and if you are a tweeter or a facebooker then join in with us!

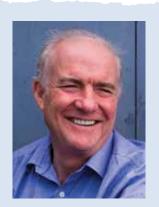


With huge thanks to Strawberry Soup for the new website, Laurence Hartwell for the lovely photos and Peter Hamilton of Profile Design for our publicity, we hope you like the look!



## Working with our Friends

Here are some words from just a few of our supporters!



Working as a fisherman is a dangerous and lonely job that very few people comprehend.

The Fishermen's Mission knows the hardship fishermen and their families face and therefore exactly how to help them.

#### **Rick Stein**

Vice Patron of the Fishermen's Mission

Rick Stein, Jill Stein and their restaurant teams have raised thousands of pounds to help fund the work of the Fishermen's Mission and continue to do so.





Ed Whittle and Stuart Fusco

Whitby Seafoods have long been supporting the work of the Fishermen's Mission. Edward even joined our friends at The Quayside fish and chip restaurant in Whitby for their Boxing Day dip!

"We at Whitby Seafoods are forever indebted to the fishermen who risk their lives to bring scampi to our factory. We understand the risks and often scant rewards this entails and are aware of the immense need for help and support during times of tragedy and distress.

The Fishermen's Mission provides this support and we at Whitby are proud to be associated with them."

#### **Edward Whittle**

Operations Director, Whitby Seafoods



Frankie's Fish and Chips, located in Brae, Shetland, are great friends to the Fishermen's Mission and they say

'We support the Fishermen's Mission because the work their staff do in a close-knit fishing community, such as ours, is absolutely vital. Around

one third of the Shetland economy is accounted for by fishing and aquaculture, and there have been fishermen in the islands as long as there have been people. The Fishermen's Mission, through people like Superintendent Aubrey Jamieson, supports those who work in the industry through difficult times.'

(You can read more about Aubrey's work on page 14)



Each year Frankie's hold their cycling sportive and in 2014 they raised £10,000.



# The Rippling Effect of **Sudden Loss**

Imagine kissing your loved one goodbye, not knowing you would never see them again. I don't need to imagine this scene. I have seen and experienced the rippling effect of sudden loss of life at sea and its effect upon people's lives.



**Tracey Stephens**Superintendent based in Hull

This has been the experience of so many here in Hull. There are many who have lost a son, husband, partner, brother, uncle, cousin, shipmate or friend. Loss of life is never easy, but sudden death leaves no opportunity for goodbye. Often there is no body to grieve over. It's a very painful process, leaving many wondering - are they really dead or is my loved one still out there somewhere?

My work with the Fishermen's Mission, these past four years, has been a privilege; my own experience of

sudden loss has helped me to travel the journey with others through their grief. This is Chris' story I would like to share with you, with her permission.

Chris heard the news of her husband's death on the night of 9th April 2011. A member of staff visited her from the fishing company her husband worked for. She was told the news that her husband had died whilst

on his way to fishing grounds in the North Atlantic. This is what she said to me.

'When I saw them in the doorway, I panicked and ran upstairs. I guessed something bad had happened', says Chris. 'I stayed up there for a while and when I came down, I knew deep down he was gone, but I couldn't accept it'.

'My beloved Paul couldn't leave me. He had so much to live for. Then you Tracey arrived from the Fishermen's Mission. I can't remember what you said. I just know you were there with me and my sister. Paul was brought home. It seemed like forever before

he was returned, but he was in Canada so I knew it couldn't happen overnight.'

'Throughout these past three years I have been supported by the Fishermen's Mission. You who have listened to me when I am in pain and you have helped me through financial hardship'.

Chris and Paul have a son, Paul Junior, a strapping lad and also a fisherman. Paul's death has left a void in both their lives, but he will never be forgotten, memories will continue to live on with them.

Grief for some ripples on even longer. Just before Christmas 2014, news broke concerning the remains of bodies found in Russia. Families of the Fishing Vessel Gaul, which sank on 8th February 1974, had been informed of the possibility that the remains could be some of the crew. We were able to contact those families we knew to offer our support whenever they might need

it. We know how difficult this must be for families and our support and prayers will remain with them in the months ahead as the investigation continues.

We continue to support families over many years, time is irrelevant to us. Our time is dedicated to helping others and as the years ripple on we will continue to be there, when the storms engulf people's lives.



We continue to

support families

over many

years, time is

irrelevant to us.



# A day in the life of a Superintendent

Meet Aubrey Jamieson, Grandson of a Shetland fisherman and our Fishermen's Mission Superintendent in Lerwick.

"Leaving the search for the sick man's brother until the next morning when it was light and the storm had abated was never an option."

Fetlar

Walsey

Born and raised on Shetland, Aubrey has been serving the fishermen of these Islands for over five years. Highly respected and instantly recognisable, Aubrey can be found in the Islands harbours, engaging with fishermen from near and far.

On call 24/7, Aubrey deals with around 25 emergency incidents every year. From fishermen who have been injured at sea needing hospital care to shipwrecked fishermen in shock needing food, clothes and somewhere to spend the night, the phone at the Lerwick Mission is rarely quiet.

And so it was at 3.30am, in the teeth of a south easterly storm this winter, Aubrey found himself hunting for a fisherman. This man's brother, himself a fisherman, had been taken seriously ill and while being transferred by air ambulance to the Scottish mainland his condition rapidly deteriorated. Aubrey knew he was on one of three large visiting Pelagic vessels but which one? Battling the fierce wind and teeming rain Aubrey boarded multiple boats, startling a few sleeping fishermen in his quest to find the man. Eventually



located, Aubrey stayed with him the rest of that long night before driving him to the airport, hoping he might get to his brother's bedside before he passed away which sadly occurred around midday.

Aubrey's attention moved to caring for the grieving fisherman and his shocked crew mates. A short memorial service and prayers were held on the boat giving some comfort, and as they left Shetland, Aubrey sent them on their way with some freshly baked scones. All part of the practical, emotional and spiritual care the Fishermen's Mission provides when life is suddenly at its darkest.

Aubrey explained that leaving the search for the sick man's brother until the next morning when it was light and the storm had abated was never an option.

'This is what I do' Aubrey said.
The Shetland fishing crews and those that visit the Islands know they can rely on Aubrey and the Fishermen's Mission to go the extra mile for them in any and every emergency situation.

Your continued support means that the Fishermen's Mission can operate around our coastline in remote locations where our UK fishermen are based.





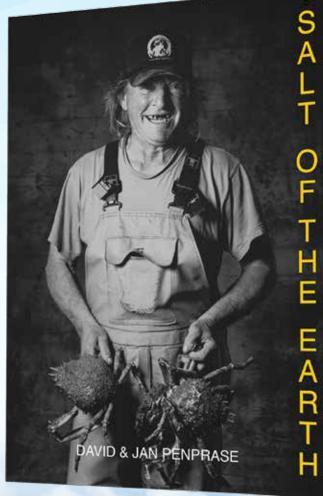
## Salt of the Earth

by David & Jan Penprase

Meet the fishermen and the fishing community of Newlyn, Cornwall

£20 per copy (100% proceeds to the Fishermen's Mission)

Reprinted due to huge demand, £28,000 raised from sales to date.



Available to buy now from our Ebay shop or call 01489 566910 to order your copy



#### How you can help us

#### Make a donation



We receive no government funding or lottery support so every single donation makes a real difference to us. You can make a donation by calling **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or donate online at **www.justgiving.com/rnmdsf** or post a cheque to our address at the bottom of the page. 88p of every £1 generated is spent on providing our services.

#### Become a volunteer



We are always grateful for the help given to us by our dedicated volunteers. If you can spare a few hours each month do get in touch

FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020

or email enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk

#### Remember us in your will



Everyone wants to ensure that friends and family are well provided for if you are writing or updating your will. However, just a small gift to the Fishermen's Mission can make all the difference to our work and ensure that your help continues.

If you would like a legacy leaflet call **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or email **legacy@fishermensmission.org.uk** 

#### Contact us:

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Fishermen's Mission or you would like to speak to one of our team about how you can help you can:

Telephone: FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020 or 01489 566910

Email: enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk
Website: www.fishermensmission.org.uk

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