



STELLA MARIS

Annual Review 2024



➤ Standing with seafarers and fishers.
No matter what.

A full-page photograph of two men in work attire laughing heartily on a construction site. The man on the left wears a green hard hat, a white respirator mask, and a blue high-visibility jacket with a circular logo on the chest. The man on the right wears a white hard hat and an orange high-visibility jacket with reflective silver stripes. In the background, there are construction materials and other workers in orange gear.

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

Matthew 25.35

**“To the people
of Stella Maris,
thank you from the
bottom
of our hearts.
Without you,
our stay would be
far from bearable.”**

**Chief Officer Paulo Jose
Del Rosario**

Right now, as you hold this Annual Review in your hands, seafarers and fishers are working at sea. It never stops for them. And, for that reason, Stella Maris will never stop being there.

Stella Maris is the largest ship visiting network in the world. We have more than 1,000 chaplains and volunteers in more than 350 ports in more than 50 countries who are there for seafarers and fishers, *no matter what*. In the UK, we have 21 chaplains and 80 volunteers working in nearly 100 ports.

We're there in a crisis, when someone needs urgent help. We're there on the dockside all year round, to be a friend in port. And we're there for the long-term, speaking up for people of the sea to secure justice and rights for them.



It's all made possible because of your support. The kindness of friends like you means chaplains can go the extra mile, every day, to care for seafarers and fishers and sustain their faith during long months at sea.

This Annual Review shows the impact of your generosity during 2024. On every page, you'll see how Stella Maris has been making a difference, thanks to your support. I'm proud to share it with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Thank you so much.

Tim Hill MBE
Chief Executive Officer
Stella Maris UK

➤ Making a difference. Every day



Across the UK in 2024...



21 chaplains and
80 ship-visiting volunteers



139,040* seafarers and
fishers reached with support



6,320
ship visits



2,571 ship visits
where we provided gifts



1,035 ship visits where
we provided phone cards



290 ship visits where
we provided free Wifi



169 ship visits where
we provided newspapers/
reading materials

*estimated

In addition to our daily work of meeting and helping seafarers and fishers with everyday care, we always also have a caseload of more serious issues where more help and support is required. In 2024 that caseload was spread across the following issues in the following proportions:



> The friend when one was needed

In 2024, our UK Chaplains and volunteers visited ships every day.
Your support made it all possible...



Spiritual comfort

When our Chaplain Deacon John Fogarty arrived at Sheerness port one day, a seafarer had been airlifted to hospital following an explosion on board the vessel Cemisle. John contacted

the hospital chaplain, who administered the Sacraments to the seafarer. Sadly, the man died. While the hospital chaplain supported the bereaved family, John stayed with the crew, breaking the news of their colleague's death, holding a prayer service and blessing all on board.



Mass on board

In November 2024, our Port Chaplain in Milford Haven, Fr Paul Osunyikanmi, celebrated Mass on board the oil tanker Seabliss. Both the out-going and the in-coming Captains, the

Chief Officer and other crew members participated. After Mass, Fr Paul gave Christmas presents to the crew, because they were to be at sea over the Christmas period. Fr Paul also drove the Captain and a few of his crew members to the shops during their shore leave.



Care in crisis

Seafarer Jurek, who works on a cement carrying barge in Tilbury port, was severely injured when a heavy metal sheet fell onto him. Our Chaplain Wojciech Holub, learned what had happened

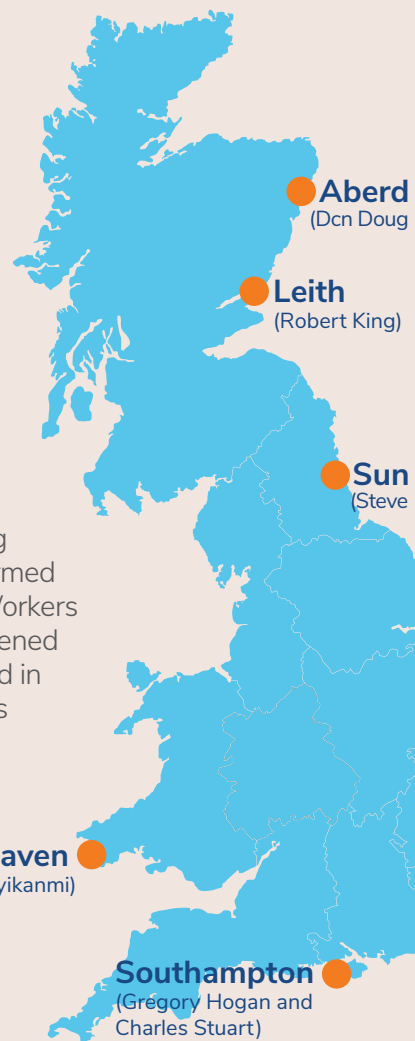
and initiated support within hours. As Wojciech said, "He was lucky to get away alive." Jurek was in hospital for a fortnight, during which time Wojciech visited him almost daily and also took the crew to visit their injured colleague.



Prompt, practical help

A Filipino seafarer had reported physical abuse at sea by an officer to Stella Maris. He was helped by our Southampton Port Chaplains Gregory Hogan and Charles Stuart. They provided funding to cover his travel home, informed the International Transport Workers Federation of what had happened and ensured he would be paid in full. Even today, our Chaplains continue to keep in touch with him to ensure his future employment is not affected.

Milford Haven
(Fr Paul Osunyikanmi)





Birthday celebrations

Paulo, a Filipino cook on board the vessel Acta Orion, was unexpectedly hospitalised in Sunderland.

The vessel's Captain

contacted our local Chaplain Steve Willows before leaving port. Regular visits from Steve and our volunteer Sr Scholastica brightened Paulo's three-week hospital stay considerably. They also gave him a mobile phone SIM card so he could call home. Steve and the nurses helped Paulo celebrate his 41st birthday in hospital with cards, decorations and a special gift.



Unexpected shore leave

A vessel bound for the USA had an unexpected stay in Aberdeen port following a fire in their cargo. Although

never in danger, the Filipino crew had hoped to go home from the USA and were stressed and disappointed by the traumatic experience and delay. Our Port Chaplain Deacon Doug Duncan organised Mass on board in their language (Tagalog), visits to church and to local sights. Before flying home, the crew expressed their thanks by giving one of our volunteers a model of their vessel with their names on it.



Nourishing faith

Our Regional Port Chaplain for Glasgow and Edinburgh, Robert King, met the Captain of a laid-up ship, the Boka Polaris, in Leith port. It had a large

Filipino crew whose faith was important to them. Robert put the Captain in touch with Fr Ray Warren, the local parish priest and Mass was arranged on board for the crew. Fr Ray also listened to confessions and blessed the ship. Afterwards Robert gave out prayer cards, Rosaries, Holy Water and woolly hats to the crew members. Arrangements were made for the crew of the sister ship, the Boka Topaz, berthed alongside, to also attend the Mass.



Preventing eviction

A young commercial fisherman in Eastbourne sustained an injury that meant he was unable to work for 12 weeks. His wage was the only source

of income to support him, his wife and young children. Without it, their savings soon dried up which put the family behind with rent payments and at risk of eviction. Our Senior Area Port Chaplain Deacon Nick O'Neill secured a grant from our Centenary Emergency Fund to pay for the rent arrears. This restored the family to a stable position until the fisherman was able to return to work.

een
Duncan)

derland
Willows)

(Wojciech Holub)

Tilbury

Sheerness

(Dcn John Fogarty)

Eastbourne

(Dcn Nick O'Neill)

> A day in the life of a Stella Maris Chaplain

Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain Ann Donnelly has served seafarers in Plymouth and Teignmouth ports since 2003. A former nurse, Ann takes us through a busy day in her life as a Chaplain...



8.30am: I drive the 10-minute journey to Teignmouth port. Agents have sent me details of the vessels coming in beforehand, so I know what to expect.



8.45am: Teignmouth has four berths and is visited mainly by 'coasters'. These vessels go around the UK and over to mainland Europe, delivering china clay, grain and animal feed. Most crews I meet are Filipino, Turkish, Russian or Ukrainian. I head to our Stella Maris room for seafarers – which they fondly refer to as their 'living room by the sea' – and get ready for the day.



9am: My high visibility vest is on, my bag is filled with woolly hats, magazines, Bibles and chocolate – so it's time to visit ships! I try to get round all the vessels to see how everyone is, chat with seafarers about their families, and explain where the Stella Maris seafarers' room is.



11.40am: Drive to Plymouth port. Arrive 45 minutes later. There are four ports here – Victoria Wharf, Cattewater (for oil tankers), a cement terminal and a fishing harbour. We share an office with a shipping agent and have a great working relationship with them.



12.45pm: I touch base with Laura and Paul, our wonderful volunteers. Paul has been serving with Stella Maris as long as me, and there's nothing he doesn't know about ships.



“This is a gentle ministry of everyday kindnesses, and it means more than we can imagine”.



1pm: We make our way around the vessels. After more than 20 years, nothing surprises me. I always know we'll be able to help somehow. Ukrainian seafarers often want to talk privately about what's happening in their country, and many seafarers ask for phone cards. If I'm not at the port, I'll be visiting a seafarer in hospital.



2pm: The fishing harbour is a mixture of local people and migrant workers from Ghana and India. Overseas fishers are close to my heart. They work hard and give back to their families, but some are exploited. One time, we rescued 12 fishermen enslaved on a trawler. On another occasion, we supported a crew who had saved 31 migrants (including children) from the English Channel. I always make sure I visit the harbour as there's usually someone in need of warm clothing or a woolly hat.



4.30pm: I drive back to Teignmouth and sort out supplies. We're supported by amazing local people who donate clothing and toiletries – and there's an army of knitters who provide us with hats. I stock up and check the seafarers' room has plenty of toiletries and snacks.



6pm: Drive to Exeter. This evening I'm giving a talk to the local branch of the Catenians about my work in the ports. Sometimes I give talks about my work in local churches or at events organised by Caritas Plymouth. These groups are very supportive.



9pm: Drive home. Another day done. I get so much joy and satisfaction from connecting with seafarers and fishers and making them feel welcome. This is a gentle ministry of everyday kindnesses, and it means more than we can imagine.



➤ Never giving up: ongoing support across successive ports

When a damaged ship with potentially explosive cargo arrived from Russia and anchored off the UK coast, rumours spread. But Stella Maris was there, no matter what, for the MV Ruby crew.



A human touch, food and water in Kent...



It was in October 2024 that the MV Ruby, a Maltese-flagged container ship, ran into trouble and sought refuge in UK waters. But when people realised the vessel was travelling from Russia with a cargo of potentially explosive fertiliser, fear set in...

“Floating Megabomb Heaves to Near the English Coast” – was one news story headline.

But while drama ensued around the vessel and its location, our team focussed on the crew. Deacon John Fogarty, our Kent Regional Port Chaplain, tried to get supplies of food and water to the mainly Syrian seafarers. Throughout this traumatic period for the crew, John liaised with the Captain on an almost daily basis with prayer and support. When supplies arrived to the vessel, its grateful Captain sent us this message:



Goodies and woolly hats in Great Yarmouth...

“In a state of serious stress, I had forgotten the importance of the human touch. I will never forget Stella Maris. We had a little celebration when we received our provisions, to lift the mood on board. A thousand ‘thank you’s from me and from all my crew.”

But our support for the crew wasn't just one-off. At the end of October, the vessel finally went alongside Great Yarmouth to discharge her cargo of fertiliser there. The relieved seafarers welcomed onboard our East Anglian Port Chaplain, Julian Wong, who provided a listening ear and delivered a crate full of goodies and woolly hats to them. Julian also did some shopping (food and toiletries) for them in town and prayed with the Captain and Officers on the ship.

Christmas presents and WiFi unit in Newcastle...

From there, the MV Ruby travelled to Newcastle for repair, where it was visited by our local Port Chaplain Steve Willows and volunteer ship visitors Hugh and Mary Ward. Their visit provided a great opportunity to check in on the crew and to drop off Christmas presents kindly donated by our corporate partner NorthStandard.

We also provided a mobile WiFi unit so the crew could connect with their families and friends back home in Syria, even more vital given recent events in that country.

Tim Hill, Stella Maris CEO, said, ***“This is just one example of the great continuity of welfare support that Stella Maris provides both nationally and internationally. And none of it would be possible without support from our many friends and industry partners.”***

Thank you so much!

Together, you donated **£48,874** to our **Lent appeal** to support survivors of modern slavery in the fishing sector.



When Emmanuel* was taken off a fishing vessel in the UK over seven years ago, he thought it marked the start of justice. He and several other fishers had faced illegal recruitment practices and suffered months of mistreatment on board – including verbal abuse, withheld wages and physical violence. They were recognised as victims of modern slavery through the National Referral Mechanism and granted temporary leave to remain while helping police with their investigation.

But 2024 brought a crushing setback. Despite no court hearing ever taking place, Emmanuel's right to remain in the UK was suddenly revoked. He was no longer allowed to work, was at risk of becoming homeless, and the legal process he had waited years for was still unresolved.

Stella Maris has been supporting several of these fishermen since they arrived and we swiftly stepped in. We helped Emmanuel with his rent and food while he was unable to work, arranged legal advice, and made sure he had the support he needed.

Emmanuel is now preparing for a judicial review. His journey isn't over, but he knows he's not facing it alone.

In 2024, more fishers arrived in the UK with similar experiences of abuse and exploitation. Thanks to your generosity during our Lent appeal, they too were met with the same unwavering support, practical help, access to legal guidance, and friendship that lasts.

*name changed to protect identity

How we advocated for seafarers and fishers in 2024

Your support enabled three types of advocacy work:

- 1) **Direct action.** Thanks to your support, abandoned seafarers or exploited fishers were helped by us for as long as it took.
- 2) **Calling for change.** In January 2024 we established a cross-sector steering group among the UK port community to help tackle modern slavery in the fishing sector. More than 20 people from ferry operators, port authorities, charities, Border Force and the police came together six times during the year to catalyse positive change within the sector. We also sent a joint letter to the Home Secretary, calling for proper visa protections, fair wages, robust enforcement of labour market protections, and a cross-departmental advisory group to address the risks of exploitation faced by migrant fishers.
- 3) **Raising awareness.** Our CEO Tim Hill took part in an UN panel discussion in Geneva on the risks to upholding seafarers' human rights and safety, and advocated for fishers' welfare at the Responsible Seafood Summit in St Andrews, Scotland. The media coverage supporting our Lent appeal also highlighted the exploitation that fishers can face.

During 2024:



39 ship visits
where we arranged
Masses or other
religious services
on board



2,475 ship visits
where we gave out
our faith magazine



2,247 ship visits
where we distributed
Bibles, Rosaries or
prayer cards

Your support helps sustain and nourish the faith of seafarers and fishers.

As the maritime agency of the Catholic Church, Stella Maris has a unique responsibility to provide for the spiritual and sacramental needs of the people of the sea. Thanks to your support, we distribute faith materials such as Bibles, Rosaries, Holy Water, prayer cards and the faith magazine that we produce specially for seafarers and fishers. We arrange for Masses and Sacraments to be performed on board as required.

Because Christmas and Easter are important celebrations in the Church's year, with your backing, we also arrange for Chaplains to be available on cruise ships during these times to minister to crews and passengers. Over Easter and Christmas 2024, we placed chaplains on seven and nine cruise ships respectively. One of these gives an account of his experience on the opposite page.



Stella Maris Chaplain Fr Ritchie Salinas spent Christmas 2024 aboard cruise ship AIDAsol to minister to its 2,194 passengers and 611 crew members alike. This is an extract of his diary...



9 December

On the island of Papeete, French Polynesia, at last. The AIDA staff presented me with a garland – a simple yet beautiful gesture that filled me with joy.

11 December

Crew interactions in the mess were lively. Their curiosity about my role sparked conversations about faith, life at sea, and shared hopes for my ministry on the ship.

12 December

First full day at sea. I succumbed to seasickness and needed medication. A reminder that this is part of seafarers' lives: a rhythm they daily endure.

13 December

I spent the evening in conversation with a seafarer on his first contract. Listening felt like my true calling. Prayers can offer solace, but lending a compassionate ear is equally powerful.

14/15 December

We crossed the international date line, losing a day! At sea, time feels fluid and fragile. For seafarers, days blur together. Mass was well-attended and deeply solemn.



16 December

I heard two confessions and spent time with a seafarer whose mother is hospitalised. Balancing work and personal life is a monumental challenge for seafarers.

18 December

High waves, and Mass amid the turbulence. More people know me now, calling me 'Pastor' or 'Father'.



20 December

At the Pool Bar, talking with guests and crew. I'm reminded that ministry isn't always about words or actions. Sometimes just being there, sharing people's joys and sorrows, is enough.

23 December

My birthday. I spent the morning in quiet gratitude, visiting a church on land to thank God for the gift of life.



25 December

I led an early morning prayer service. Then at 10pm I celebrated Christmas Mass for the seafarers. The warmth and participation of the crew made it unforgettable.

3 January

I couldn't help feel a sense of sadness as I left the ship and seafarers who have become part of my life. The journey has deepened my own faith and sense of purpose.

➤ Around the world

 Areas of operation



Philippines



Through grant funding secured by Stella Maris UK from Porticus, our Global Chaplains Training Programme was delivered in the Philippines in December 2024.

36 Stella Maris chaplains

and volunteers from the Philippines, and other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America participated in this three-day training course.

Tanzania



With guidance from Stella Maris UK, a new Stella Maris branch was established in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, supporting seafarers and fishing communities there. Led by Fr Patrick

Musumbu, the team provide practical, pastoral, and spiritual care at the port and along the Tanzanian coast, including Zanzibar. With more vessels diverting from the dangerous Red Sea (due to the risks of piracy, attacks and hijackings there), seafarers face longer voyages around Africa and greater isolation.

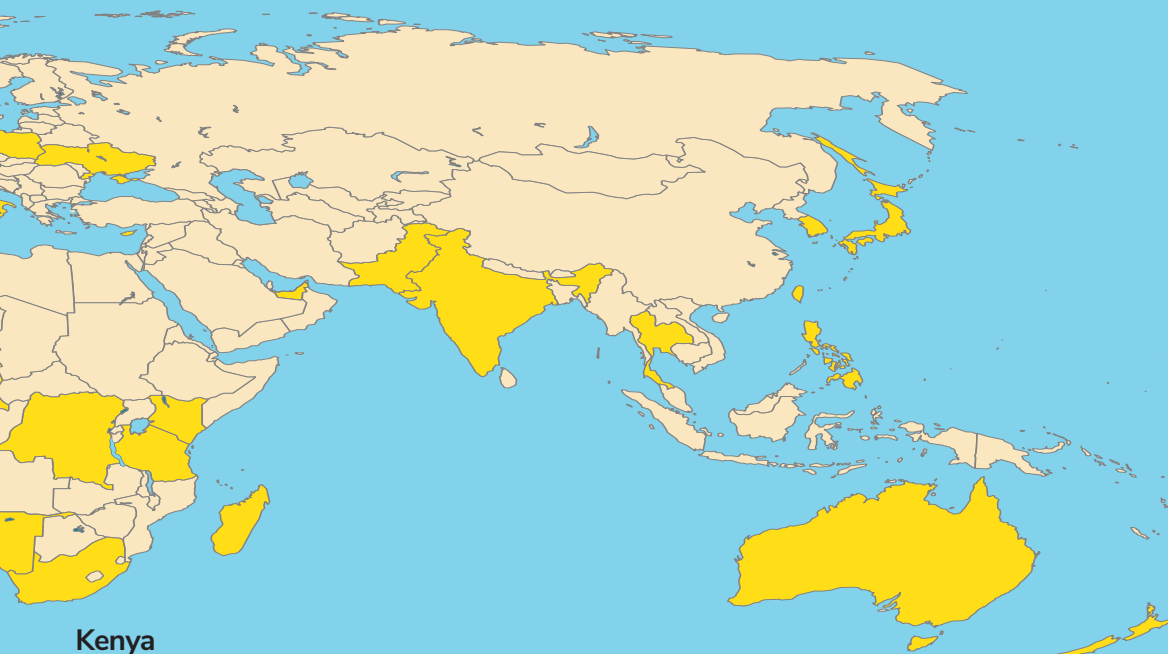
By establishing a presence in this key area, Stella Maris Tanzania can support them. The team is also working with local fishing communities to improve safety at sea. Stella Maris UK also provided a grant to Stella Maris Tanzania to purchase personal protective equipment for its chaplains and volunteers.

Thailand



Stella Maris UK secured a grant from the International Fund for Fishing Safety to launch a health and safety training programme for migrant fishers in East Thailand. Unlike their counterparts in the

West of the country, fishers there work from smaller boats and do not receive funding from large seafood industry organisations to help develop safety training programmes. The absence of training has contributed to tragic accidents, with some crews receiving no survival instruction or access to life jackets. As the main maritime charity in the region, Stella Maris Thailand supports fishers and their families after such incidents. Through this grant, Stella Maris Thailand will deliver vital safety training to hundreds of migrant fishers, equipping them with essential survival skills and reducing risks at sea.



Kenya

Through grants secured by Stella Maris UK from The Seafarers' Charity, the International Fund for Fishing Safety and The Clarkson Foundation, Stella Maris Kenya:

- ran its overall operations in 2024 helping seafarers and fishers on a daily basis all year. The team provided spiritual, pastoral and practical support to seafarers in the ports of Lamu, Malindi and Mombasa and to fishing communities in seven dioceses from Lake Victoria to the Kenyan coast.



- began a large-scale safety training programme for over 32,000 fishers across the Great Lakes and coastal regions. Fishing remains a dangerous livelihood in Kenya, with around 1% of

fishers losing their lives annually. Working with the Kenyan Maritime Authority and local Beach Management Units, the training is addressing risks such as drowning, exposure, substance misuse, and hippo attacks. The programme will help to save lives and improve fisher safety.

- ordered a new van*.

This vehicle will help the local team to transport seafarers from their ships to church and other facilities near ports and to access fishers in more remote areas of the country including the inland lakes. Each year, around 9,500 seafarers and fishers will benefit from improved access to welfare services, medical facilities, and local amenities. The van will also play a crucial role in responding to emergencies, ensuring that help reaches those in need quickly. **van ordered in 2024; delivered in early 2025*



Taiwan



Through a grant, Stella Maris UK supported the Taiwan International Fishers' Welfare Conference in May 2024. 130 delegates from many parts of the world participated in this

important forum. Over 30 speakers, representing various stakeholder groups within the fishing industry, including our CEO Tim Hill, gave presentations during the three-day conference.

Thank you!

Together, you donated **£34,545** to our Harvest appeal, to support seafarers in danger zones including the Black Sea. And more than **90** of you started giving monthly or increased your monthly gifts – thank you for making that long term commitment to support our work.



Supporting seafarers and their families in Ukraine

Financial training, pastoral care and the first Mass on board a ship since war broke out... Seafarers in Ukraine have received vital help, thanks to your support.

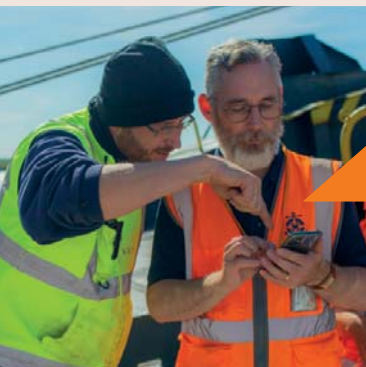
A stop-over at the Ukrainian port of Odesa, on the Black Sea, can be a terrifying experience these days.

“When you look up and see a drone just a few hundred metres from the ship, or witness an explosion close by, it’s little wonder seafarers experience stress and anxiety,” says Stella Maris port Chaplain there, Fr Alex Smerechynskyy.

With the potential to financially empower 150,000 Ukrainian people, the programme is part-funded by Stella Maris UK, and is covering the basics of future planning, managing income, expenses and savings.

Stella Maris UK also helped Stella Maris Ukraine to get winter supplies e.g. winter clothing, winter tyres, autonomous lamps, generators and batteries.

Fr Alex said: *“We face many challenges, including de-mining the sea. But with your support, we are laying the foundation for Ukraine’s future as a strong maritime nation.”*



“We’ve met seafarers deeply distressed because they haven’t heard from their wives in 24 hours. They worry all night, then have to work in an exhausting role.”

Gregory Hogan, Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain in Southampton (left)

“One of the most important things we do is to listen, to show Ukrainian seafarers they are not forgotten and that we are here for them.” Stella Maris Odesa Port Chaplain Fr Alex (right)



But, with your support, seafarers in Ukraine are getting the help they need. Throughout last year, you enabled the ongoing provision of both spiritual and practical support. Through our Centenary Emergency Fund, many grants were provided to Ukrainian seafarers and their families. And the first on-board Mass was celebrated since war broke out, on the bulk carrier Stefanos T.

We also launched a financial resilience training programme for Ukrainian seafarers and their families.

Tim Hill, Stella Maris UK CEO, added, *“We are providing active support and sending a clear message of solidarity that the maritime sector has not forgotten Ukraine, nor the issues seafarers are facing.”*

Our work in Ukraine is also kindly supported by corporate partners: the Baltic Exchange Charitable Foundation, Risk Intelligence and UK P&I Club.

> 2024 month by month

“Stella Maris organisation are a selfless group that offer support, regardless of race, religion or belief, to all seafarers and fishers. Their mission is simple: to offer care, comfort and a sense of community to those who often go unseen”.

Captain Philippa Bowden, V. Group



January	February	March	April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Stella Maris dedicated Chaplain appointed in Northern Ireland • Modern slavery steering group established by Stella Maris • Online auction of Norwegian Cruise donated by Fred Olsen Cruise Lines; proceeds supported Stella Maris' work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Mass on board a vessel in Odesa, Ukraine, since war broke out • Stella Maris Mass held in Lancaster Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick • Bishop Paul McAleenan joined Stella Maris on ship visits in Tilbury port 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris' Lent appeal and its supporting media coverage focused on the exploitation of fishers • During Easter, Stella Maris Chaplains brought palm crosses and Easter eggs to seafarers and fishers • On International Women's Day, the women working and volunteering for Stella Maris and the wider maritime industry were celebrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris Mass held in Birmingham Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley • Supporter Donal Keaney of Hill Dickinson ran the London Marathon and raised over £3,000 for Stella Maris • Stella Maris highlighted the dangers facing crews traversing the Red and Black Seas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris letter published in The Economist, raising the plight of fishers, particularly on vessels registered in China or Taiwan • Stella Maris UK supported the Taiwan International Fishers' Welfare Conference • Stella Maris participated in memorial services for lost fishers in fishing ports nationwide on National Fishing Remembrance Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris UK marked the Day of the Seafarer by calling for the international maritime industry to improve further the working conditions of seafarers • Stella Maris expanded into the port city of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania • A Mass was held in the Vatican for Stella Maris supporters and their prayer intentions



"I thank all Stella Maris across the world. God richly bless you. Without you, me and my family would have a bleak future."

James, a Ghanaian fisherman who received support from us to complete safety training so he could continue to work

July	August	September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Sunday was celebrated in churches across the UK, raising more than £400,000 to support Stella Maris' work • Supporter Simon Thornton of Skuld did the SAS 'Fan Dance' challenge in the Brecon Beacons raising £2,000 for Stella Maris • On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Stella Maris raised awareness of this issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris UK committed to long-term support for seafarers at risk in Ukraine • Stella Maris urged the enforcement of prosecutions of abusive fishing employers following a BBC News exposé of alleged cases of modern-day slavery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stella Maris UK marked World Maritime Day with a call to the maritime industry to continue to prioritise seafarer safety and security • Russ Fairman, a Stella Maris volunteer, was a finalist at the Third Sector Awards ceremony for Volunteer of the Year • Stella Maris held a reception for supporters on the Glenlee Tall Ship in Glasgow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch by Stella Maris of financial resilience training for seafarers in Ukraine • Publication of Stella Maris' Life at Sea report on World Mental Health Day, focussing on the role of human connection in supporting seafarers' wellbeing • New Stella Maris Chaplain started work in Liverpool port 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New seafarers centre, set up by Stella Maris, opened in Southampton • Stella Maris co-signed a joint letter to the Home Secretary calling for the risks of exploitation faced by migrant fishers to be addressed • Stella Maris UK organised a special Mass to pray for the crew of the Galaxy Leader, a ship hijacked by Houthis forces one year prior to that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to your generous donations, Christmas gifts and cards were provided to seafarers and fishers throughout the Christmas season by Stella Maris Port Chaplains • Stella Maris Christmas Carol services were held in London and Glasgow, attended by many supporters

> Stella Maris community news



Ring of Prayer

33 parishes around the UK took part in a week of prayer each in a relay chain over several months. Using our Rosary-based prayer resources, parishioners prayed for seafarers, fishers, their families, Stella Maris chaplains and the ocean environment.



Well done Joe!

Deacon Joe O'Donnell, our Senior Area Port Chaplain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, received the Merchant Navy Welfare Board's Team Member of the Year award. The panel commended his dedication to 'go that extra mile above and beyond the call of duty'.



London Christmas Carols

Many supporters gathered for the London Stella Maris Christmas Carol service held in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. Choirs from Farm Street Church and the Ukrainian community led the singing. A reception with delicious Ukrainian food followed in the hall afterwards.

Hamburg Marathon
 Ian Stokes, our Head of Corporate Engagement and Partnerships, ran the Hamburg Marathon in April 2024 along with some supporters from corporate partner Zeaborn. They ran to raise funds for Stella Maris. Ian's impressive time was just under four hours. Well done runners!



Retirements

Two long-serving colleagues retired in 2024: Paul Atkinson, Regional Port Chaplain in Northumberland and Tyne and Salvina Bartholomeusz in our central office. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service.



Walk the subway

A team led by our Scotland Development Officer, Euan McArthur, raised more than £1,000 by walking to every subway stop in the city of Glasgow. The team, including supporters Graeme Wright and Mark Holt, notched up 10 miles in total – well done walkers!



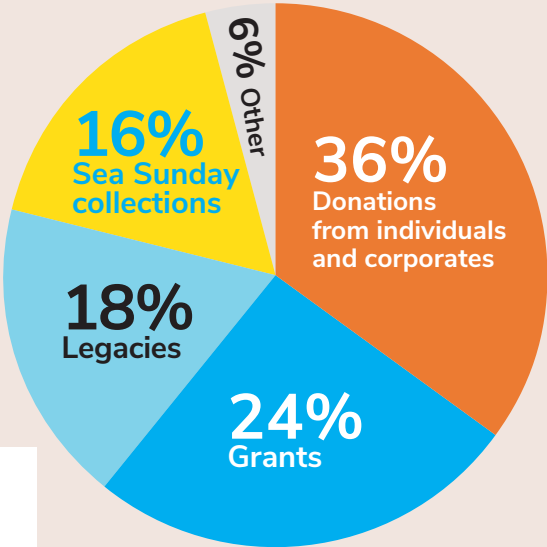
40 Hats in 40 Days!

Susan Crook, a supporter in Lancashire, kindly knitted 40 woolly hats (all different) for seafarers during the 40 days of Lent (one each day). The hats were then distributed by our Senior Area Port Chaplain Anne McLaren. They were gratefully received by a Peruvian crew and a Russian/Ukrainian crew and started travelling the world with them!

> Income and Expenditure

We are so grateful for the faithful generosity of Stella Maris supporters. We received grants from trusts, donations from companies, collections by church congregations, and legacies and donations from individuals like you – thank you all! Your generosity meant our Chaplains could provide important everyday care and crisis support for seafarers and fishers in ports in the UK and around the world.

Our income* Donations, grants, legacy gifts and other income received in 2024 totalled £2,603,587. Thank you for your generosity and support. We remember with prayers and deep gratitude all those who kindly left a donation to Stella Maris in their will.



With thanks to our trusts and foundations supporters:

- Anthony Scholefield Foundation
- Baltic Exchange Charitable Foundation
- Edith Bessie Gibson Trust
- International Fund for Fishing Safety
- Joseph Strong Frazer Trust
- Merchant Navy Welfare Board
- Milford Haven Community Fund
- Porticus
- Sir James Knott Trust
- The Clarkson Foundation
- The Trinity House Maritime Charity
- TK Foundation

Our expenditure* We used our resources wisely and carefully to have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of seafarers and fishers. We supported 21 chaplains covering nearly 100 ports around the UK and some of our international colleagues around the world. Our total expenditure in 2024 was £2,684,982.

* Unaudited figures

With thanks to our corporate supporters:

- A2B-online
- AB Ports
- ABL Group
- Arklow Shipping
- Avenir LNG
- Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement
- Britannia P&I
- Capheaton Consulting
- Carisbrooke Shipping
- Carnival Cruises
- Condor Ferries
- ExxonMobil
- Fred. Olsen Cruises
- Gard P&I
- GEFO
- Hanse Bereederung
- HFW
- IACS
- Ilama
- Inchcape
- Lester Aldridge Marine
- MFB Solicitors
- Northern Marine
- NorthStandard P&I
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Preston Turnbull
- Risk Intelligence
- Seapeak
- Shell
- Skuld P&I
- Svitser
- Taylor Maritime
- Tindall Riley
- UK P&I
- Wilson Eurocarriers
- Zeaborn Shipmanagement

“I give thanks to Almighty God for the witness of faith and countless acts of kindness and charity shown by so many chaplains and volunteers over the past century to those who toil on our seas and waterways.”

Pope Francis

17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025



John Pinhay

Former Stella Maris Regional Port Chaplain in Falmouth and Fowey, John Pinhay, sadly passed away in May 2024. John was a Falmouth man, born and bred. He had been a volunteer ship visitor for Stella Maris before becoming

a Chaplain in 2013. John, 77, had a generous heart, befriended many seafarers he encountered, and made an enormous contribution. Our neighbouring Port Chaplain Ann Donnelly said “Everyone who worked with John spoke of his calm, generous demeanour and described him as a true Cornish gentleman. His dedication to ministering to seafarers was well known and he always went the extra mile for them. John is greatly missed – he was central to many people’s lives.” We pray for the repose of his soul.



Terry Brown

Long-time volunteer ship visitor and supporter of Stella Maris, Terry Brown, sadly died in March 2024. After a long and successful career in the Merchant Navy, Terry lived on the island of Jersey. He was a familiar face to seafarers arriving

in Jersey, particularly those working on board Condor Ferries’ ships, providing them with a warm and friendly welcome, support and assistance. He helped to establish Stella Maris’ ship-visiting operations in Jersey in 2008, and organised an annual fundraising walk for Stella Maris on the island. He was also a long-standing member of the Knights of St Columba. “Terry was a kind, faith filled and generous man. Stella Maris is better for his involvement,” said our Senior Area Port Chaplain Deacon Nick O’Neill. We pray for the repose of his soul.

> Looking to the horizon

What a year it has been. Thank you for everything we have achieved together in 2024, as a Stella Maris family.

Looking ahead, in 2025, we will continue our daily work helping seafarers and fishers in ports all around the UK. We will expand our presence in North West England, building on the recent appointment of a Stella Maris Chaplain serving the port of Liverpool and other ports in that region. We will also launch our modern slavery report.

Additionally, we will arrange some special activities to support the Church's Jubilee Year. This will include a pilgrimage to Holy Island, a video about hope, and involvement in the Jubilee days for communications, deacons, volunteers, workers, families, migrants and justice. We will help to bring the Jubilee Year to seafarers who are away from their home parishes for up to nine months.



On the international front a theme for 2025 is preparedness. Thousands of fishers in Thailand and Kenya will be better prepared to keep safe, as we roll out new safety training there. Our chaplains, too, will be better prepared through the roll out of our Global Chaplains Training Programme. This unique scheme will help ensure that the support provided by Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers worldwide to seafarers and fishers is of a consistently high standard everywhere.

This is a busy, vibrant ministry which changes the lives of seafarers and fishers, day in, day out. None of it would be possible without your generous support. Please keep sailing with us in 2025. Thank you.

Captain Dr Esteban Pacha
Chair of Trustees, Stella Maris UK

> Your gift will support seafarers, fishers and their families in the UK and around the world



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> If you volunteer, give, pray or have remembered Stella Maris in your will **thank you so much** for supporting seafarers and fishers.

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“On behalf of all sailors aboard, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the thoughtful gifts you generously provided. May you continue to bring light and hope to others, as you have done for us.”

Ordinary Seaman, the MV Tango Rey