



Portsmouth Lifeboat

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL
LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION ON
THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ITS FOUNDATION**

St James' Church, Milton Road, Portsmouth
Sunday 29 September 2024 at 3pm

We are joined by the local choir *AChaired Taste*,
with sea shanties sung by the *Shantymen*

Archdeacon Canon Kathryn Percival, Archdeacon of the Meon
(representing the Bishop of Portsmouth) will preside
and preach at the Service

She will be welcomed by
Revd Darren A'Court, Vicar of St James' Church

Organist: Mr Hugh Darnley-Smith

ORDER OF SERVICE

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

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| 1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King! | 3. Father, like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows! |
| 2. Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness! | 4. Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace! |

The congregation sits for the

Welcome - by Revd Darren A'Court, Vicar of St James Milton

*Archdeacon Canon Kathryn Percival responds to
the welcome with the following bidding:*

Let us Pray - We gather this afternoon in the presence of the God of earth, sky and sea. We meet in remembrance and thanksgiving, committed to the tasks of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in faith, in hope and, above all, in love. We rejoice in the life-saving work of the Institution over 200 proud and distinguished years. We honour the vision of Sir William Hillary, who founded the charity, and pay tribute to the thousands of volunteers and staff who have given so much, so often, so selflessly, particularly in our own city here in Portsmouth. We give thanks for the generosity that has sustained this work. We rededicate ourselves to the work of compassion and courage that reaches out over the rough seas to embrace the stranger and rescue those in despair. **Amen.**

Please remain seated as

Achoired Taste sing **Eternal Father, Strong to Save**
- words by W Whiting, music by Craig McLeish

Please remain seated for

Psalm 107:23-31 read by Alex Lochrane,
Launch Authority, Portsmouth RNLI

Please remain seated as

Fr John Strain, RNLI Chaplain, reads episodes over 200 years
of RNLI History, with brief prayers by members of the
RNLI Portsmouth Team

- **The founding of the RNLI in 1824** - response by Emily Bibby, Trainee Crew, Portsmouth RNLI
- **The invention of the first self-righting lifeboat in 1831** - response by Dave Spencer, Launch Authority, Portsmouth RNLI
- **The rescue of survivors of SS Forfarshire by Grace Darling, first recipients of RNLI medal in 1838** - response by Rob Gargaro, Helm, Portsmouth RNLI
- **The loss of the Penlee Lifeboat in 1981** - response by David Mercer, Boathouse Manager, Portsmouth RNLI
- **The generosity of time and effort in the story of the Portsmouth Lifeboat crewman, Dennis Faro** - response by Neil Maxwell, Helm, Portsmouth RNLI

Please remain seated as

Achoired Taste sing You Raise Me Up

- words and music by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland,
arranged by Roger Emerson

Please remain seated for

a reading from the gospel according to **St Matthew 14:22-33**
read by Neil Maxwell, Helm, Portsmouth RNLI

Please remain seated for

an address by **Archdeacon Canon Kathryn Percival**

Please remain seated for

PRAYERS

Revd Darren A'Court, Vicar of St James Church Milton

Let us give thanks to God for the work of the RNLI; for its founding vision, and for those who have maintained its mission over 200 years; and for every life saved. Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Roy Marsh, Lifeboat Operations Manager, Portsmouth RNLI

Let us give thanks to God for all who contribute to all our lifeboat stations and especially our local volunteer crews; for their resilience, skill, and courage in the face of danger; for all who risk themselves to save the lives of others. Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Zoe Forse, RNLI Portsmouth Fundraising Team

Let us give thanks to God for all who support the frontline work; for every donation, and for all who maintain the lifeboats, lifeguard equipment, and stations; for their generosity and commitment. Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Fr John Strain, RNLI Portsmouth Chaplain

Let us pray for those who have perished in our waters; for crew-members who have died whilst saving others; for their families and colleagues; and for those in trouble who couldn't be saved. Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**



THE LIFEBOAT PRAYER

read by Luke Kiernan, Launch Authority, Portsmouth RNLI

Merciful Father, all things in heaven and earth are held within Your loving care, we give thanks today for the faithful service of Royal National Lifeboat Institution over two hundred years. Protect and bless the crews of all our lifeboats, our lifeguards and all who risk their own safety to bring help to others. Guide all who work for the Institution as volunteers, supporters or staff, that they may be faithful to the vision of its founders, so that it may always be seen as a beacon of hope and light to those who find themselves in peril on the seas. Through the same Jesus Christ, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

MUSIC BY THE SHANTYMEN

The Lifeboat Song, **Home from the Sea**
is sung by all, accompanied by the choir -

1. On a cold winters night
With a storm at its height
The lifeboat answered the call
They pitched and they tossed
Till we thought they were lost
As we watched from the harbour wall
Chorus - And carry us home, home,
home from the sea
Angels of mercy, answer our plea
And carry us home, home, home from
the sea
Carry us safely home from the sea
2. Though the night was pitch black
There was no turning back
For someone was waiting out there
But each volunteer
Had to live with his fear
As they joined in a silent prayer
sway left to right during the chorus
Chorus - And carry them home, home,
home from the sea
Angels of mercy, answer our plea
And carry them home, home, home from
the sea
Carry them safely home from the sea
3. As they battle their way
Past the mouth of the bay
It was blowing like never before
As they gallantly fought
Every one of them thought
Of loved ones back on the shore
4. Then a flicker of light
And they knew they were right
There she was on the crest of a wave
She's an old fishing boat
And she's barely afloat
Please God, there are souls we can save
sway left to right during the chorus
5. And back in the town
In a street that runs down
To the sea and the harbour wall
They had gathered in pairs
At the foot of the stairs
To wait for the radio call
6. And just before dawn
When all hope was gone
Came a hush and a faraway sound
'Twas the coxswain he roared
All survivors on board
Thank God and we're homeward bound
sway left to right during the chorus
Chorus -To carry them home, home,
home from the sea
Angels of mercy, answer our plea
And carry them home, home, home from
the sea
Carry them safely home from the sea

FINAL BLESSING

by Archdeacon Canon Kathryn Percival

All-powerful and loving God, you show mercy always to those who love you and you are never far from those who seek you. Pour your grace upon us all, and especially those who contribute to the life saving work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Shelter them with your protection, afloat and ashore, by day and by night, and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you always. **Amen.**

The congregation stands as the clergy depart and the RNLI Standard is returned. The organ will accompany the congregation in the singing of

Eternal Father, strong to save

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
2. O Savior, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amid the rage did sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
3. O Holy Spirit, who did brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give for wild confusion peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
4. O Lord, entrust their souls' safe keep
As lifeboats plough o'er oceans deep.
Lend them your courage, strength
and grace.
To those in peril, they must race;
Oh hear us Lord, a sailor's plea,
Guide all who save lives out at sea.
5. O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Your children shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Please join us for refreshments in the Church Hall

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The management and crew of Portsmouth Lifeboat Station gratefully acknowledge the help of:

Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council of St James' Milton

Achoired Taste

The Shantymen

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Volunteer Cadet Corps,
Portsmouth Division

Sir William Hillary's vision for a service dedicated to saving lives at sea became a reality on 4 March 1824. Having lived on the Isle of Man, he had witnessed dozens of shipwrecks around the Manx coast. In the early 19th century, there was an average of 1,800 shipwrecks a year around our coasts.

Hillary refused to sit by and watch people drown. He published plans for a lifeboat service crewed by trained volunteers for all of the UK, 'in constant readiness to risk their own lives for the preservation of those whom they have never known or seen, perhaps of another nation, merely because they are fellow creatures in extreme peril.'

The priorities of the institution would be 'first, the preservation of human life from shipwreck ... secondly (provide) assistance to vessels in distress ..., thirdly the preservation of vessels and property ... fourthly the prevention of plunder and depredations in case of shipwreck, fifthly the succour and support of those persons who may be rescued ... sixthly the bestowing of suitable honours for those who rescue the lives of others from shipwreck or who assist vessels in distress.'

Across the RNLI's history, 146,000 lives have been saved by our lifeboat heroes. The names of 800 people who lost their lives at sea while trying to save others are recorded on a monument at our headquarters at Poole.

Photos: Stephen Duncombe, RNLI

JN24989352

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ



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