


‘And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people ’ (Revelation 14:6, King James Bible )

# THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

*WORLD*  *WIDE*  
**THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.**

## The Missions to Seamen

Ministers to “those who go down to the sea in ships.”

The “Flying Angel” flag is known to all members of the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine, and flies in principal ports throughout the world.

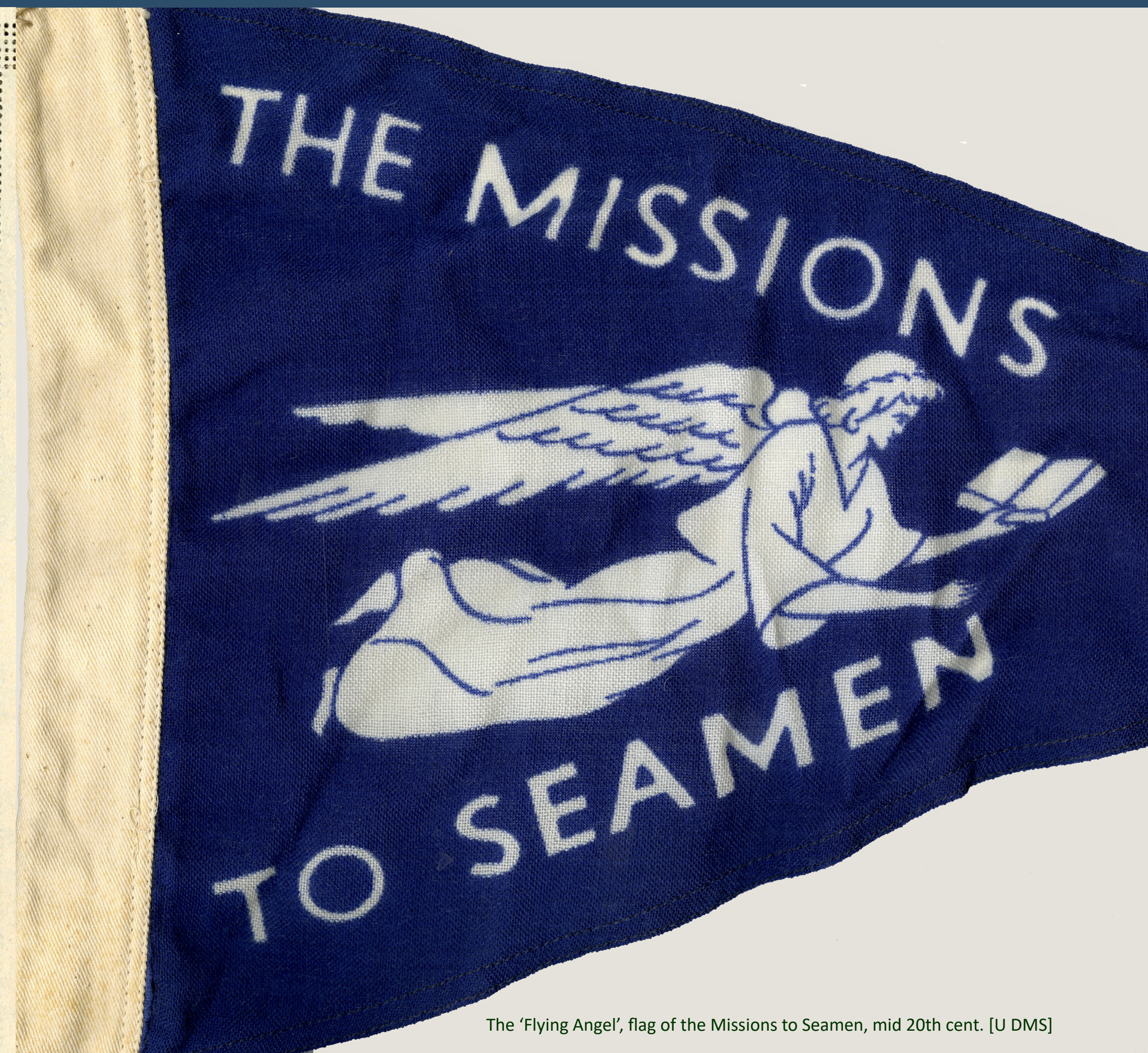
“The Sea Power if mobilised for the Gospel, would be the mightiest force the modern world has known.”

**The Local Church & Institute are in POSTERNGATE, HULL.**

*The Port Chaplain will be pleased to receive visitors at any time.*

Gifts of Books, Magazines and Clothing urgently needed.

Advert for the Missions to Seamen in Hull, 1930s [L.362.73]



The 'Flying Angel', flag of the Missions to Seamen, mid 20th cent. [U DMS]

Notes relating to the history of the Missions to Seamen in Hull, 1936 [U DMS]

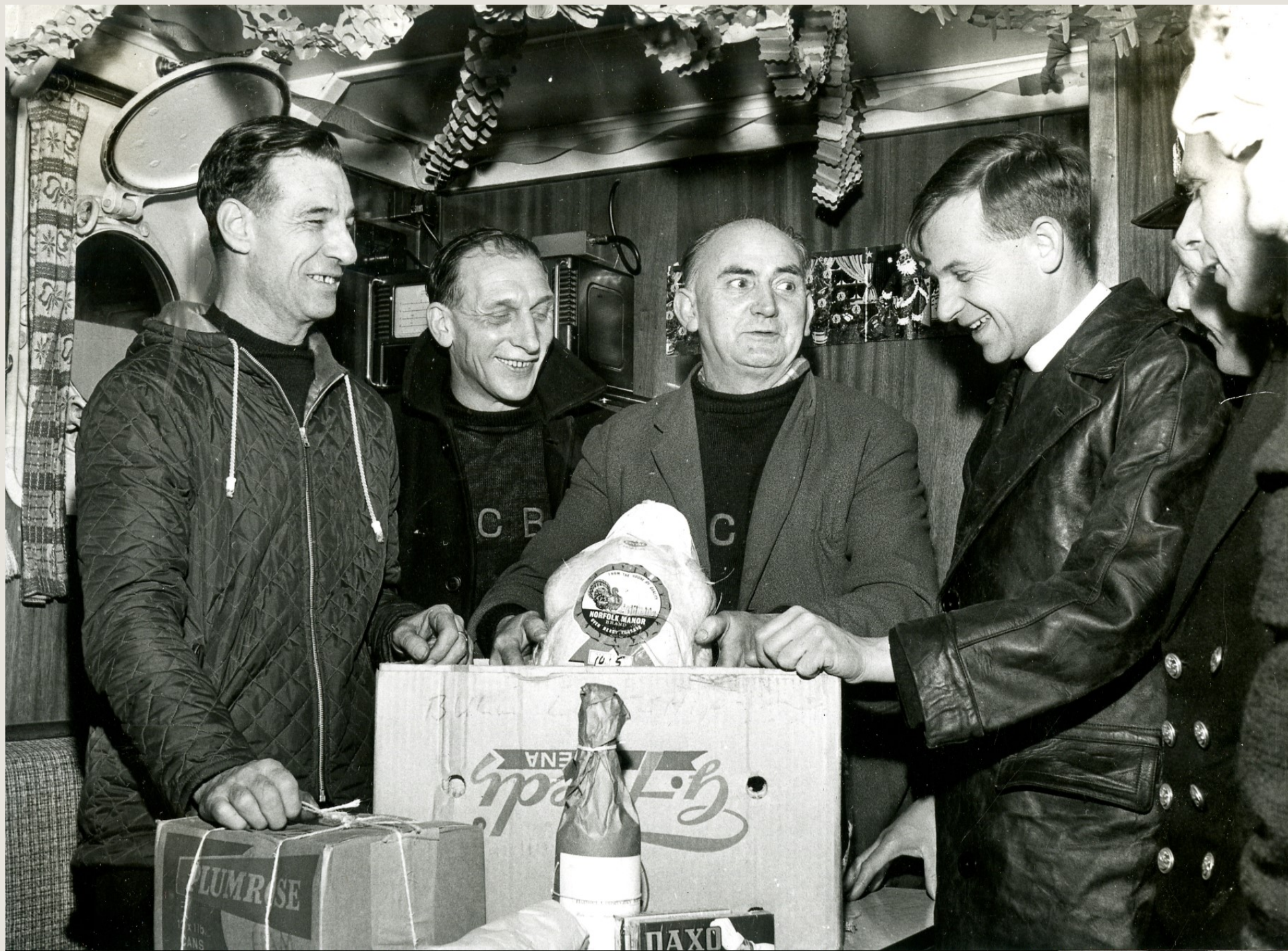
Nov. 1899 . A letter was received by Commander Dawson from one of the Readers at Hull on paper headed " The Mariner's Church and Sailors' Rest Society, in connection with The Missions to Seamen". This was the first intimation that the Secretary or Committee had that any such Society was in existence. The heading of the paper stated that the Rev.R.H.A.Currey was the Chaplain of this Society of which The Missions to Seamen, who were paying his full salary, had no knowledge.

Commander Dawson called upon Mr Currey for an explanation as to the formation and standing of this Local Mission and received the following explanation.

In 1897 Mr Currey obtained help to refit Sailor's Institute , Posterngate, the property of Mr Charles Wilson, M.P. and a strong Local Committee was formed to

**Fact:** A port chaplain, who worked in conjunction with other local societies, was appointed to Hull by the Missions to Seamen in 1856





Photographs showing the Hull Chaplain of the Missions to Seamen at work, 1960s [U DMS]



Photograph showing a Missions to Seamen service on board ship at Hull, 1960s [U DMS]



Photograph showing the Hull Chaplain of the Missions to Seamen during a lightship visit, c.1930s [U DMS]

Established in 1856, the Missions to Seamen is a Church of England society whose aim is to minister to seafarers according to the rites of the Church of England.

A Missions to Seamen port chaplain seems to have been active in Hull from 1856. However, unlike other port towns, no official local committee existed in Hull until 1944.

Successive port chaplains co-operated with the local Hull Mariners' Church and Sailors' Rest Society. They worked out of two buildings operated by the society: a Seamen's Institute on Posterngate and a residential Sailors' Home on Salthouse Lane. They also appear to have independently rented rooms on Alexandra Dock in 1888.

The port chaplain's work included dispensing relief to seafarers, holding services and prayers, and undertaking visits to ships in port. Visits were also made to local lightships, including the Spurn, Bull, Upper Whitton, Middle Whitton, and Lower Whitton.

**Fact:** It wasn't until 1944 that a local branch of the Missions to Seamen was finally formed, and two years later a Hull Flying Angel Club was opened on Salthouse Lane in the old Sailors' Rest Home building



The Hull Mariners' Church and Sailors' Rest Society was incorporated into the Missions to Seamen in 1944, and its committee members became the local committee for the Missions to Seamen. The Posterngate building was revamped at this time and the Salthouse Lane building was fully renovated, reopening in 1946 as the Hull 'Flying Angel Club'.

In 1948, a Ladies' Harbour Lights Guild was set up. The guild membership consisted of women from local churches who volunteered to help with spiritual and social work. Activities included hospital visiting, acting as hostesses at the 'Flying Angel Club' on an evening, attending services at the Mariners' Church, organising entertainments, and providing knitted items of clothing.

During the 1940s, football matches and boxing tournaments were arranged for visiting seafarers. Dances were held on Monday and Friday evenings, cinema shows on Thursday evenings, and a variety of entertainments were held after Sunday services including beetle drives, party games, competitions, community singing, gramophone recitals, cards, table tennis, billiards, snooker and darts.



Photograph showing the Flying Angel Club on Salthouse Lane, 1968 [C DMS/3/6/4]



Photograph showing the Indian Seamen's hut on Hedon Road, 1940s [U DMS]



The 'Flying Angel' club on Hedon Road, 1969 [U DMS]

**Fact:** In the 1960s, the Missions to Seamen relocated to new purpose built premises in Hedon Road

Hull was a busy stop for many Indian crews during the mid-20th century. To provide for these seafarers, an Indian Seamen's Hut was opened on Hedon Road in February 1943. It contained pool tables and a cinema, and was very well used, so much so that it was rebuilt and extended in 1966.

At this time, the Council announced the compulsory purchase of the 'Flying Angel Club' building on Salthouse Lane to make way for the redevelopment of public space. The Missions to Seamen took the decision to sell the Posterngate Institute and to build a new 'Flying Angel Club' and church on Hedon Road. The new building opened in 1969 and proved very popular with its modern equipment and continued social provisions.

The 21st Century saw closer co-operation between the Missions to Seamen and the Apostleship of the Sea, through a joint venture at United House on King George Dock.