

*‘Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea, pray for the wanderer, pray for me’
(Catholic hymn, Father John Lingard)*

THE APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

Logo of the Apostleship of the Sea, early 20th cent. [U DAPS/12/4]



Logo of the St Vincent de Paul Society

Fact: A Catholic mission for seafarers first appeared in the Hull trade directories in 1929

Established in Glasgow in 1899, the Apostleship of the Sea is a Catholic missionary society whose aim is to minister to seafarers.

The organisation grew out of earlier work already being undertaken by local branches of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Trade directories show that there was a Catholic Mission Church between 16 and 18 Lee Smith Street in Hull from 1929.

The Lee Smith Street building was destroyed during air raids in 1941 and in 1942 rooms for a temporary Seamen’s Club were found at St Charles Church on Jarrett Street.

When we reached the outskirts of Hull by road on Saturday afternoon, we were met by Father **HULL** Hardy in his car and royally conducted through the busy streets of Britain's third port. Accommodation was most kindly provided at Endsleigh College for the week-end.

There are at present two establishments in Hull, both of which I visited. One occupies a building in Charles Street, and includes a hall, canteen, library and lounges: this replaced a Club which was destroyed by enemy action during the war. The second Club is in Anlaby Road and provides an excellent ballroom, stage, canteen and ample cloak-room accommodation: the existing building can easily be extended—upwards as well as outwards—and the site offers great scope for developments which are being planned.

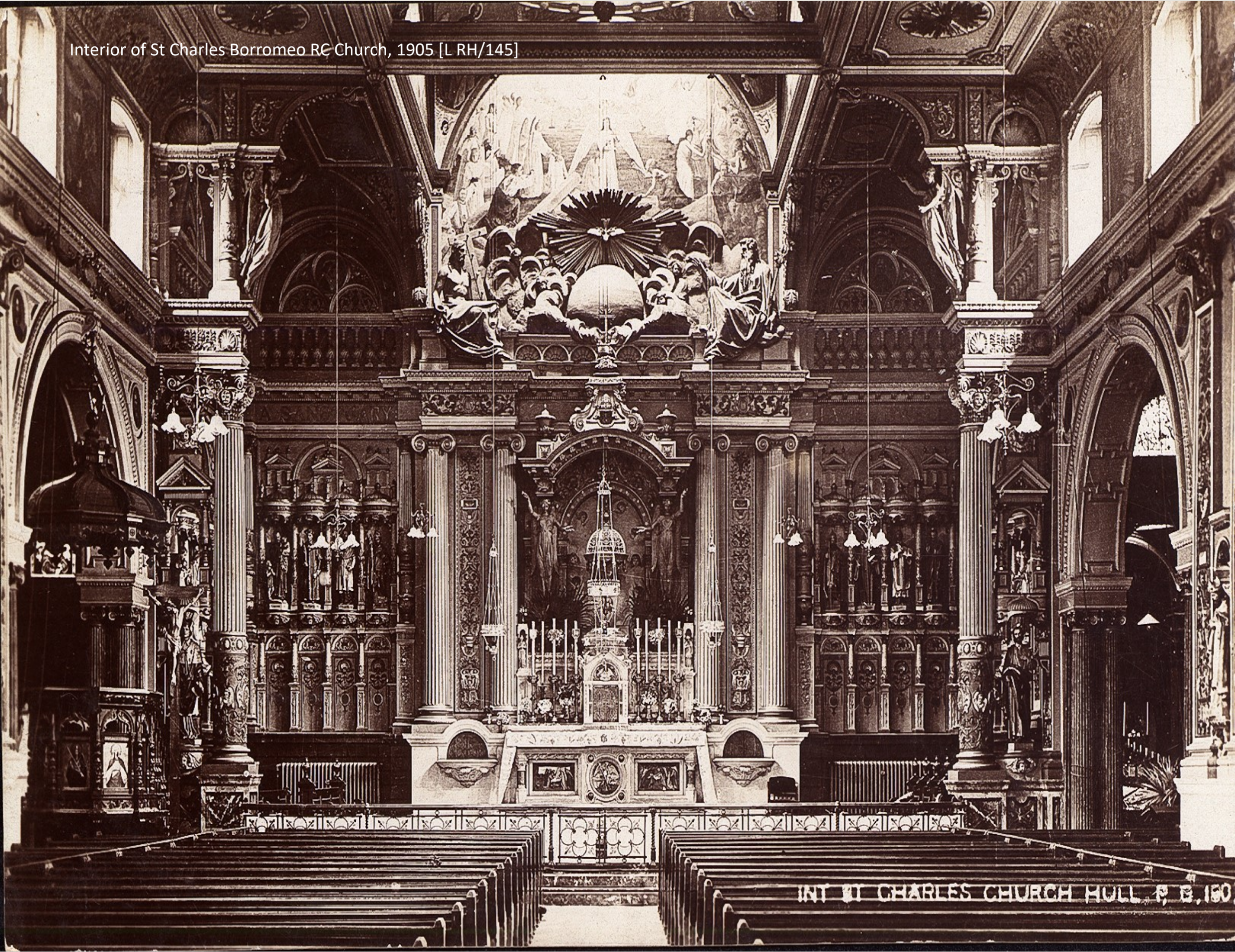
Early on Sunday afternoon, we started by car on a comprehensive tour of the Docks and saw a great variety of vessels. We took one of the lay ship-visitors part of the way and left him—complete with a supply

of literature—to get on with the good work. Here, as in other ports, much use is made of direction cards (printed in various languages) giving particulars about Clubs and churches, with a map on the reverse side.

Mr. S. J. Watson (Chairman of the A.O.S. in Hull) and his wife entertained us at their own house. Later we proceeded to Anlaby Road, where we found a large number of Seafarers and hostesses dancing to an energetic band: I was informed that the attendance of men was rather disappointing on that night, which only indicates the popularity of this new *Apostleship of the Sea* Club.

After leaving Hull, I had certain

Extract from 'The Anchor', a newsletter produced by the Apostleship of the Sea, 1951 [U DAPS/6/1/1]



Fact: Activities were relocated to St Charles Borromeo Church in 1942 after the Lee Smith building was destroyed



LEE SMITH STREET

449 Hedon road to Haller street
5 & 7 Robson, Jsp., shopkpr.
13 Brooks Miss Gladys, hairdrrsr.
STANLEY TERRACE
15 Hayes, Mrs. Margt., greengro.
23 Brock, Mrs. Alice Eliz., fish fryer
25 Andrew, Geo. Wm., shopkpr.
29 Brennand, Mrs. Alice
The Humber Ship Riggers & Boiler Scalers
.....here is East Dock terrace.....
39 Harvey, Chas., coal trimmer
41 Barlow, John Thomas
Adult School and Mission Hall
.....here is Alexandra avenue.....
65 Donnelly, Miss Mary, shopkpr.
71 Jensen, Mrs. Lena, wardrobe dr.
.....here is Susannah's terrace.....
81 Haysom, Ernest Edwd., shopkpr.
..... here is Boxwood avenue
(return)

88 Dean, Mrs. Lillie May
78 Shakesby, William Alfred, police constable
64 Crossland, Wm. Thos., fish fryer
62 Procter, Ernest, carter (j)
..... here is Ebenezer terrace
..... here are Pattie's villas
48 Littlewood, Joseph, shopkeeper
46 Donnelly, Michael James, greengrocer
42 Dixon, Harry, labourer
..... here is Sister's terrace
34 Holmes, Mrs. Charlotte, grocer
.....here is Hilda's grove.....
28 Coggin, Wm., shopkpr.
24 Forman, Jas. Bates, tailor (j)
18 & 20 Caley, Thos., draper
Catholic Mission Church
16 Downie, Mrs. Alison, draper
4 Greaves, Arth., shopkpr.

HULL. The Club in Hull was the only one which was completely destroyed by enemy action.



Extract from 'The Anchor', a newsletter produced by the Apostleship of the Sea, 1947 [U DAPS/6/1/1]

The work of the Apostleship of the Sea was carried out by a port chaplain, whose activities included correspondence with seafarers at sea, visits to ships whilst in port, saying masses on board ships, and correspondence with seafarers’ wives and families.

The port chaplain also undertook special pastoral work on behalf of Trinity House’s nautical college and the Hull Nautical School.

In 1945 a site on Anlaby Road was donated by the Sisters of Mercy for use as a permanent Seamen's Club.

A new chaplain was appointed in 1947, Father Moss Hardy, and under his ministry the existing building was renovated and renamed Anchor House.

Anchor House provided a chapel, bathroom, bar, TV lounge, shop, and other necessary facilities, and in 1965 a residential block was completed for the use of 50-60 Catholic seafarers.

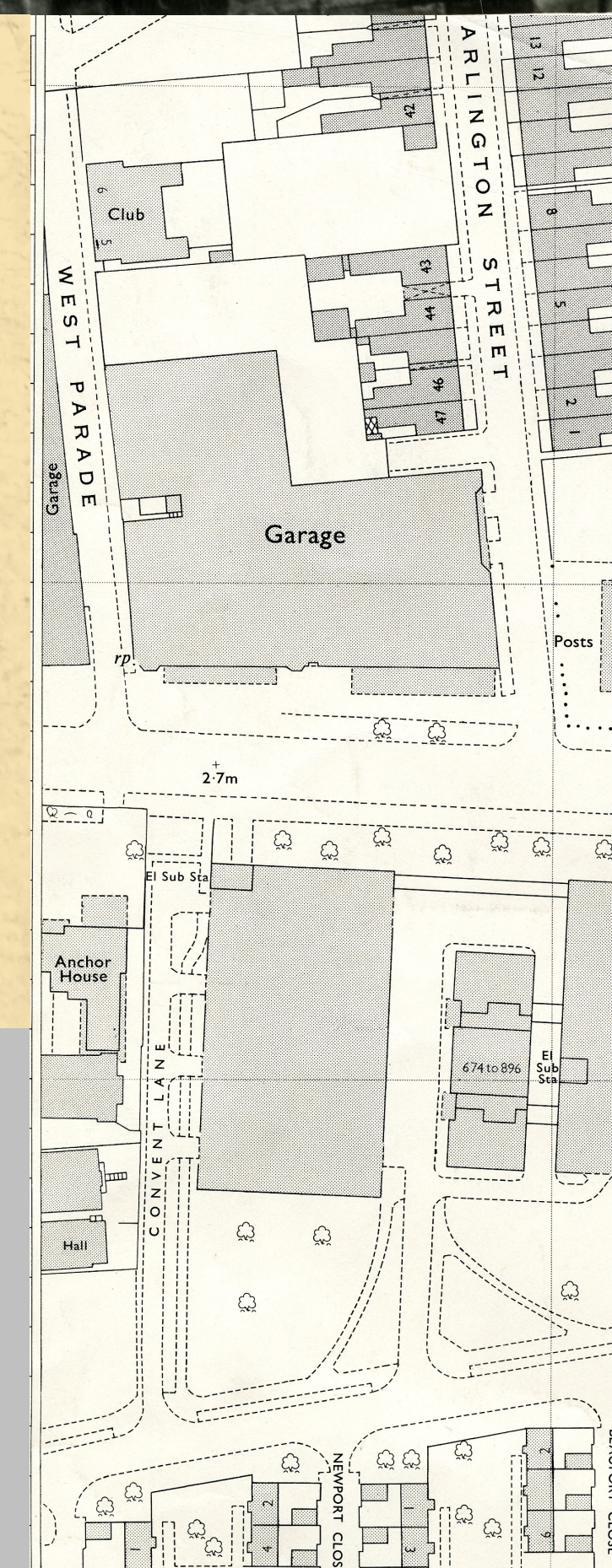
Fact: The Sisters of Mercy donated land on Anlaby Road and a permanent institute building, known as Anchor House, was opened in 1947

Photograph of Anchor House on Anlaby Road, 1960s [U DAPS/7/3]



Premises and a first-class building site have been acquired for a new Club in HULL. Most interesting developments can confidently be expected by Father Hardy, whole-time Chaplain in England's "Third Port".

Extract from 'The Anchor', a newsletter produced by the Apostleship of the Sea, 1949 [U DAPS/6/1/1]



On 27 March 1987, the Hull Apostleship of the Sea vacated Anchor House which had been sold to the Church Housing Association.

The building was no longer as useful as it had been due to shipping activities being relocated to newer docks outside of the city centre. However, the work of supporting the spiritual needs of the seafarer was continued by port chaplains.

Now, in the 21st century, the Apostleship of the Sea work in conjunction with Mission to Seafarers at the Seafarers Centre, United House, King George Dock, in order to provide seafarers with somewhere to rest, contact friends and family, and find out what there is to do in the local area.