

‘[For] the religious instruction of the seamen... that a place of public worship be provided’ (Rules of the Mariners’ Church Society, 28 Jan 1828)

HULL MARINERS’ CHURCH AND SAILORS’ REST SOCIETY



Illustration of the Mariners' Church of Prince's Dock Street, by F.S. Smith [Hull] Museums Service, 1929.259(1)]

Fact: The
Mariners’
Church Society
was formed on
20 November
1827 and
opened a
church on
Dagger Lane
the following
February

MARINERS’ CHURCH AND SCHOOL.—On Wednesday, a Meeting of Ship-Owners and others, was held in the Mansion House, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of opening an Episcopal Chapel at this port, for the accommodation of seamen, and connecting with it a school for sailor boys.

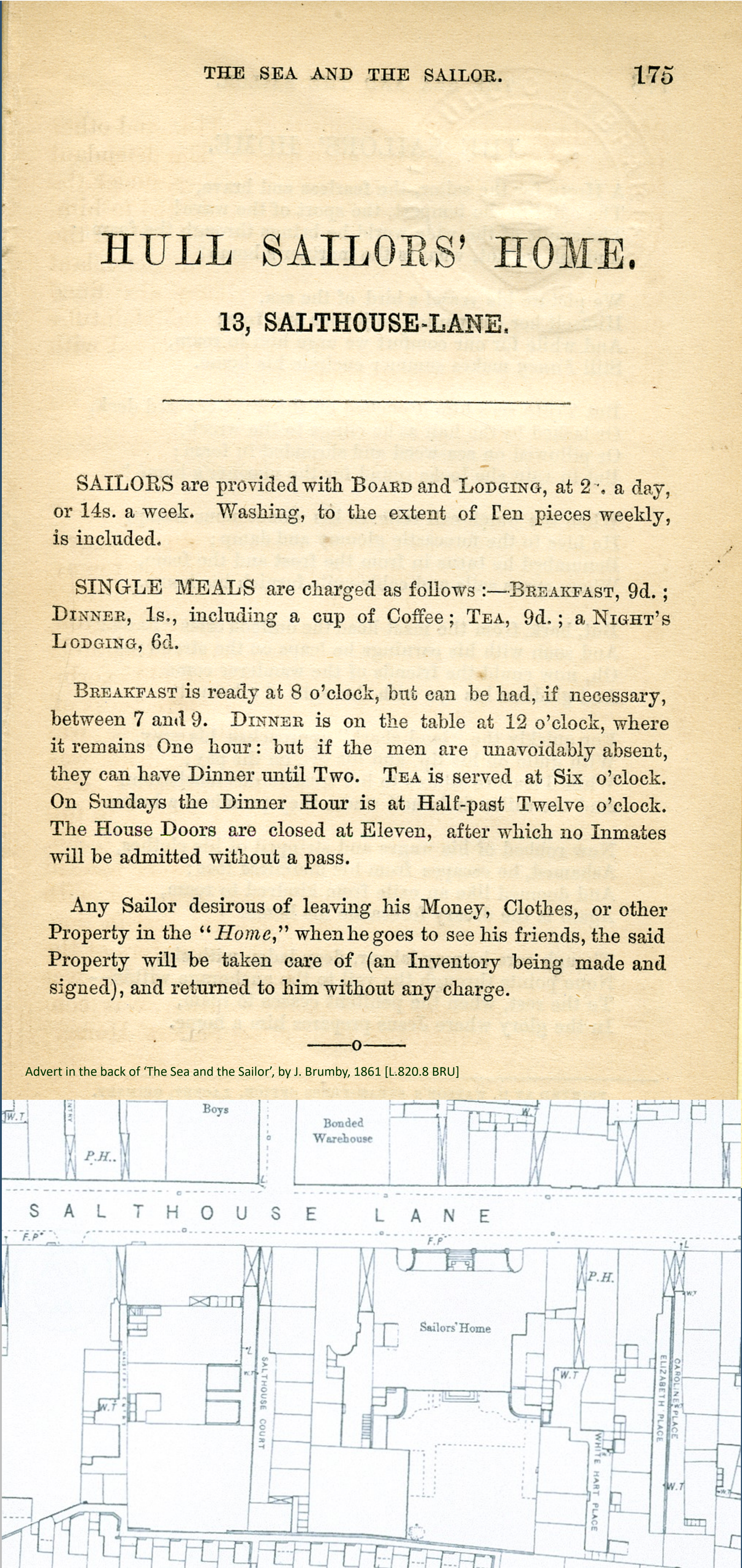
The Rev. J. H. Bromby, Vicar, being called to the Chair, explained the object of the meeting, and in a very appropriate address, adverted to the anxiety manifested by the Archbishop of York, and his son Capt. Vernon, for the establishment of a floating chapel, in Hull, and enumerated the measures which were taken, two years ago, for the accomplishment of that object. The Corporation, the Trinity House, and the Ship-Owners’ Society, countenanced the design, but particular reasons led to the abandonment. It was now again in contemplation; and, in addition to providing a place for divine worship, it was intended to add a school for the instruction of sailor boys on week-day and Sunday evenings. The public-bodies, to which he alluded, continued to approve of the plan, and the Corporation had liberally offered to subscribe £20 a year. The idea of a Floating Chapel had been relinquished, as Government was not disposed to give any more ships for that purpose, and the Dock Company would not permit any lights to be used on board in the evening. Under these circumstances, it was intended to take a Chapel on shore; and he left them to determine whether such an institution would be useful or not.—The Rev. T. Dikes spoke in support of the measure, disavowing any feelings of opposition to the Floating Chapel,—showing that it was the duty of the members of the Establishment to exert themselves,—and pointing out the advantages of having a settled minister, who could, in a pastoral way, visit and attend to the seamen and their families.—A long conversation ensued, in which Mr. Alderman Bolton, C. Lutwidge, Esq. Mr. Alderman C. Bolton, Mr. Watson, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Priest, and other gentlemen took a part. It appeared that Capt. Vernon had promised to procure a grant of £200 from a Society in London; and that Mr. Woolf had offered a very suitable Chapel—that formerly occupied by Mr. Lane—on most reasonable terms. At length it was determined, that a Society should be formed, a subscription opened, and that Mr. Woolf’s offer should be accepted. A Committee was appointed to make the preliminary arrangements, and the matter will shortly be submitted, in a regular form, to a general meeting of the inhabitants.

On 20 November 1827, a group of Church of England members split from the Port of Hull Society to form the Mariners’ Church Society. Their objective was to open a mariners’ church and a school for sailors and apprentices in accordance with Church of England teachings.

On 19 February 1828, the Mariners’ Church opened on Dagger Lane. It was reputed to have been the first mariners’ church in England.

The church ran evening and Sunday schools for apprentices and seamen. Subjects taught at the evening school included reading, writing, arithmetic and basic navigation, whilst the Sunday school provided religious instruction.

Fact: In 1856, the Sailors’ Rest Society was formed to establish a hostel for sailors, which opened on Salthouse Lane in May 1860



A new church was constructed on the site and the entrance was altered to Prince’s Dock Street. The new building opened on 15 June 1834, and a port chaplain worked out of the building to provide ministry to seamen.

Independently of the Mariners’ Church Society, a Sailors’ Rest Society had been founded in Hull.

In 1856, a committee was formed by the society for purposes of establishing a hostel for sailors to provide cheap and alternative accommodation to private lodging houses. Local ship-owners, Trinity House, and other interested parties donated money. Premises were purchased in Salthouse Lane in June 1859, and in May 1860 the Sailors’ Rest Home was opened. In 1904, the entrance to the building was altered from Salthouse Lane to Alfred Gelder Street.

The hostel was in operation for 83 years. During that time, 9135 shipwrecked seamen were accommodated, 532,984 single night stays were provided for, and 48,477 weekly stays were made.

In 1897, the Sailors’ Rest Society formed a committee to refit a building on Posterngate as a Sailors’ Institute.

The Mariners’ Church Society became involved and in 1899 the two societies amalgamated.

The Missions to Seamen became officially associated with the newly amalgamated society at this time.

Together they became known as ‘Hull Mariners’ Church and Sailors’ Rest Society, in Connection with the Missions to Seamen’.

In this configuration, the society continued to aid seafarers for another 45 years.

DSM 1/2/1

Hull Sailors' Rest and Mariners' Church Society.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1902.

Special Appeal for Funds to carry on the work amongst the Seamen of the Third Port.

The Committee of the above earnestly solicit increased Subscriptions and Donations, as the Balance Sheet for 1902 shows a deficit of more than £700.

The social and spiritual work is now carried on by the Port Chaplain alone, as the Missions to Seamen have been unable, for financial reasons, to continue the salary of a Reader. The Sailors' Rest is in charge of two Institute Keepers, paid locally, the senior of whom, Mr. H. Woodhouse, also renders valuable services both on the docks and as the collector. To begin with the Royal Naval Reserve, whose members may be described as the picked men of the Merchant Service, the Drill-ship, H.M.S. "Nimble," in the Queen's Dock, has been visited whenever possible by the Chaplain, and prayers read at 9 a.m. 1679 visits have been paid to vessels lying in the docks, a number which would have been largely increased but for a severe accident to the Chaplain in the early part of the year. 2127 large parcels of reading matter, including the best magazines obtainable, have been placed on board for the use of the men, and the hearty thanks of the Committee are due to those of the Hull public who have so generously supported this important branch of the work. 189 visits have been paid to the men in their own homes, and 39 to the Infirmary. A total of 183,750 attendances have been made by *Seamen*, at the Rest, and 11,652 have been present at the winter concerts most kindly provided for their benefit, the Hall being generally full, while standing room was not obtainable at the entertainment given by Mrs. Arthur Wilson and her friends. Seamen have written 3,040 letters at the Rest, on stationery supplied them gratuitously, and 778 letters have been received there for them. A most successful feature of the work has been the Saturday Social Evenings, when small prizes have been offered to the winners in the bagatelle, draughts, and domino tournaments, and coffee and buns supplied free through the generosity of an anonymous well-wisher of sailors.

Service has been conducted on the second Sunday in each month on board the Humber Training Ship, "Southampton," and 460 services have been held in the Rest and Mariners' Church, with an attendance of 12,342 men. Those at the Rest take the form of a short address and prayers, and never exceed five minutes in length.

An excellent boat, kindly presented by Messrs. Thos. Wilson, Sons & Co., has enabled the work of ship visiting to be more thoroughly and expeditiously carried out. The Rest has recently been painted and decorated throughout, has been provided with additional stage fittings, a new reading table, 100 bent-wood chairs, and has been fitted with the incandescent light.

As regards the relief of destitute seamen, a problem which becomes increasingly pressing at a time of low freights and laid-up ships, it can safely be said that, while no favour has been shown to the professional cadger, every really deserving man has been helped on his way as far as means allowed. 175 such cases have been assisted in the year 1902, with food and shelter, for many of whom work has been afterwards obtained. 397 woollens and warm articles of clothing have also been distributed, through the kindness of the Yorkshire Needlework Guild, and many private donors. No effort has been spared to safeguard the interests of seamen strangers in Hull, and to keep them from falling into the hands of the harpies who swarm in the sea-port towns. The Rest has striven to deserve its name in every sense of the word, and the stream of seamen constantly passing through its doors is witness to the appreciation shown by those for whose benefit it exists.

Between £80 and £90, part wages of seamen paid off in Hull, has been safeguarded for them, while, through the generosity of two anonymous friends, 1000 buns and 2000 cups of coffee have been supplied gratuitously during the past twelve months. That the seafaring classes are not unmindful of these services is shown by the following extracts from letters recently received by the staff:—"I am more than grateful to you for all the kind care you have taken of F.W." "I arrived in Liverpool safe and sound, and I am also very thankful to you for seeing me away. It is a very good thing to let the helper see them away safely. I read that book you gave me—"The Sailor among Land Sharks,"—and I am determined to take advice from it.—G. H., Able Seaman."

The Committee desire, in conclusion, to offer their most grateful thanks to all those who have so kindly assisted the work by providing the Monday evening concerts throughout the winter, and by sending parcels of books and magazines for use on board ship; to Messrs. Thos. Wilson, Sons & Co., for a boat and fittings, and a regular supply of firewood; to Messrs. R. Wade & Son, for sawdust; to Sir H. Seymour King, for the "Shipping Gazette"; to the Yorkshire Needlework Guild, and many other donors, for warm clothing; and to all those who have generously forwarded the cause of seamen by pecuniary and personal aid.

Annual report of the Mariners’ Church and Sailors’ Rest Society, 1902 [C DSMS/1/2/2]


STATISTICS FOR 1904.

57 visits were paid to H.M. Ships; 342 to vessels lying in the river, and 2464 to vessels lying in the docks. 55 visits were paid to sailors in their own homes or in boarding-houses, and 16 to sailors in hospital. 11 religious services were conducted afloat, 458 at the Sailors' Rest, and 58 at the Royal Naval Reserve Ship "Nimble." 2540 seamen and sailor boys were present at the services afloat, 8126 seamen at the services in the Rest, and 2036 at the services on board H.M.S. "Nimble." The Holy Communion was administered 28 times, and 63 men were present.

3824 letters were written by seamen at the Rest on stationery supplied them gratuitously, and 971 were received there for them. 3278 large parcels of the best magazines and other literature obtainable were placed on board vessels in the port of Hull for the use of the crews.

Annual report of the Mariners Church and Sailors’ Rest Society, 1904 [C DSMS/1/2/2]

Photograph showing the Mariners’ Church institute building on Posterngate, early 20th cent. [U DMS]



SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS.

Allen, T. W. & Son	£ 1 1 0	King, Sir H. Seymour	£ 1 1 0
Allen, Mrs.	0 5 0	Kinton, C. R.	0 5 0
Amos & Smith	2 2 0	Kuhling, Mrs.	0 10 6
Atkinson, Joseph	1 1 0	Lambert, Mrs.	2 0 0
Bailey, T.	1 0 0	Lambert, H. C.	1 1 0
Ballan, A. E.	0 10 6	Lambert, J. O.	1 1 0
Barnard, B. J.	0 10 6	Lambert, S. & Co.	1 1 0
Bradley, W. C.	0 10 0	Linsley, J., & Co., Ld.	0 10 6
Briggs, John	1 1 0	Malet, Capt.	0 10 6
British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd.	0 10 6	Marris, Willows & Smith	0 10 6
Brodrick, Major	1 1 0	Massey, W. A., & Co.	0 10 6
Brodrick, W. S.	0 5 0	Maw, Till, Kirke & Co., Ld.	0 10 6
Brown, W., Atkinson & Co	2 2 0	Medforth & Son	0 7 6
Bruce, R. T.	0 10 6	Metcalfe, C. L., & Son	0 5 0
Cade, Mrs.	1 1 0	Middleton, T., & Son	0 10 6
Castle & Co.	1 1 0	Morton, W. F.	0 5 0
Cattley, H. R.	0 10 6	Newbald, C. J.	1 1 0
Clark, G., & Sons	0 10 0	Newton Bros. & Holiday	0 10 6
Cockerline, W. H., & Co.	3 3 0	Ouston, R. G., & Son	0 10 6
Colbeck, H.	1 1 0	Palmer, Mrs.	0 5 0
Collinson, Miss K.	0 5 0	Penn, S.	0 5 0
Dibb, Colonel	0 10 6	Pepper, Capt. G.	1 1 0
Dessor, Capt.	1 1 0	Postill, J. T. (2 yrs)	0 5 0
Dumoulin, V.	1 1 0	Rawson & Robinson	0 10 0
Dykes, E. O.	1 1 0	Raynor & Crook	0 5 0
Dyson, W., & Son	0 5 0	Reckitt, Sir Jas.	5 5 0
Earle, Hudson	2 2 0	Reckitt, Lady	0 0 0
Friend	0 2 6	Rippon, W.	0 10 6
Gilvott, W., & Co.	0 10 6	Roberts, Miss K.	0 2 6
Good, J., & Sons	0 5 0	Ross, F. & T.	0 10 6
Graham, C. C.	2 2 0	Sammam, H., & Co.	0 10 6
Grotrian, F. B.	1 1 0	Sanderson, O.	5 5 0
Hakes, W.	0 5 0	Sanderson, G. R., & Co.	3 3 0
Hallier, G. R., & Co.	0 10 0	Scott, F. A.	0 10 6
Hamilton, J. M., & Co.	0 5 0	Smith, Mrs. Alex.	0 10 0
Harrison-Broadley, H.	5 0 0	Tarn, W. J.	0 5 0
Hearfield, T. W.	2 2 0	Thirkell, J.	0 10 6
Helmings & Son	0 10 6	Towler, J. T.	0 2 6
Hodgson, Harris & Co.	2 2 0	Tulley, W., & Co.	1 1 0
Hewitt, R. J.	1 1 0	Wade, R., Sons & Co., Ld.	5 0 0
Hindle, J., & Co.	0 5 0	Wade, Mrs. E.	0 10 0
Holmes, J., Dalton	0 5 0	West, Wm., & Sons	1 1 0
Holt, Harrison	2 2 0	Wheatley, Wm., & Sons	0 10 6
Hopper, Mrs. W. M.	2 2 0	Wilson, C. H. Wellesley	5 5 0
Hull & Netherlands S. S. Co., Ld.	1 1 0	Wilson, Clive	3 3 0
Hull Central Dry Dock Co., Ld.	3 3 0	Wilson, H., & Sons, Ld.	0 10 6
Hull Ice Co., Ld.	2 2 0	Wilson, Kenneth	5 5 0
Hull Steam Fishing & Ice Co., Ld.	2 2 0	Wilson, T., Sons & Co., Ld.	50 0 0
Hume, Capt.	0 5 0	Winn, Geo.	1 1 0
Ingleby, E. W.	1 1 0	Wood, C. H.	0 5 0
Jackson, Miss	0 5 0	Woodall & Co.	0 10 6
Judge, C.	0 10 0		
Keighley, Maxsted & Co.	1 1 0		
King & Co., Ld.	0 10 6		

Fact: In 1899, the Mariners’ Church Society and the Sailors’ Rest Society amalgamated, and began working out of a joint institute building in Posterngate

The Posterngate institute provided recreational facilities for seafarers whilst in port, and the society’s missionaries worked out of the building.

Financial relief, granted by the national Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners’ Royal Benevolent Society, was also dispensed to those in need at the institute.

In 1944, the Hull Mariners’ Church and Sailors’ Rest Society was incorporated with the Missions to Seamen. The joint committees of the former society now became the Hull local committee of the Missions to Seamen.