



From The Chaplain

Christmas 2017

As I was preparing my Christmas message a letter dropped on the doormat from Médecins Sans Frontières thanking the Survey Ships Association for the donation of £586.00 we had sent them following this year's Reunion Weekend; the proceeds of the Raffle and the Collection at our Sunday morning service.

The letter was from Carl who had just returned from Nigeria. He wrote of a little boy around three years old who was very ill because his immune system had been compromised. Carl wrote, "I remember one day I was walking in the ward and I saw him and he was unrecognisable – he was chubby and smiling and just really happy".

Médecins sans Frontières, which translates Doctors without Borders, operates world-wide providing medical aid where it is most needed. It is an independent charitable organisation; neutral and impartial. These are vital and important values in a world that is so often riven and constrained by political ideologies and vested interests.

We live in a broken world where countless innocent people - women, men and children live in fear, in need, with little to give them hope of a better tomorrow.

That is why organisations like Médecins sans Frontières and other international relief bodies deserve our support.

At this Christmas time when we recall and celebrate the birth of Christ, I am moved to pray that our sympathies may be generous and that in acknowledging the many blessings we enjoy we may be moved to work tirelessly for the common good; for a real and lasting hope born of God's promises made real in his coming amongst us.

I wish all members of our Association and their families a Very Happy Christmas and every blessing and happiness in the New Year.

Greetings and blessings,

Richard

