

MAKING *A* DIFFERENCE



2021



Serving the Naval Family since 1876

Impact Report 2020



Dame Agnes Weston's Royal
Charity for the Naval Service

Company No. 11114651
Charity No. 1176596

Patrons
Her Majesty the Queen
Ministry of Defence

Chairman of Trustees
Cdre Bob Fancy RN (Retired)

Chief Executive Officer
Chris New, OBE, FCIPD

 @aggiewestons
 @Aggie_Westons

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Our Year in figures



Locations
18



Pastoral Workers
34



Volunteers
20



Pastoral Worker hours per week
745



Pastoral Telephone Calls Made
18,000



On-line Events
415



Children accessing on-line stories and Book Clubs
2,280



Activity Packs for Families distributed
1,760



Storybook Waves Recordings
369



Annual number of Pastoral Worker hours gifted to naval community in the year
34,270

Message from the Chair of Trustees, Commodore Bob Fancy

For an organisation which delivers impact by being available for face-to-face engagement and listening, this has been a year of unprecedented challenge for the staff of Aggie Weston's. We have repeatedly transformed how we work in order to operate within the restraints of COVID-19, moving onto the street, social media, on-line activities and the telephone in order to be available to engage serving personnel and their families. Aggie's has completed our first year supporting members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families, have placed a Family Support Coordinator into the Gordon Messenger Centre at Lympstone, increased family support in the Portsmouth area and provided daily pastoral calls to hundreds of serving personnel in quarantine and isolation facilities in a number of locations. Close to my own heart is our renewed presence at HMS RALEIGH where we have reconnected Aggie's to the very heart of Dame Agnes's original work in the 19th Century with her beloved 'Blue Jackets'.

I expect this to be my last message as Chair of the Trustees and would like to thank the many donors and grant giving organisations without whom Aggie's simply could not continue. The charity has gone through a strategic change over the last few years which follows Dame Agnes' original intent but delivers it in a way appropriate to the needs of modern sailors, marines and their families. I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Trustees who have been both dedicated and brave, making some tough decisions and fundamental changes. Finally I would like to thank the Executive and Pastoral Teams for their incredible work and support, all provided unconditionally through Christian love. Dame Agnes would be proud of you and I hope she rests easy knowing that her legacy continues to deliver vital support to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

It has been a great privilege to play a small part in this amazing charity and an honour to work alongside such a wonderful team.



Acts of Kindness
55,723



Pastoral Conversations
4,028



Hidden Books provided
500

What have we been doing?

Whether it is telephone calls to service people in isolation on base or providing activities to children locked down at home, Aggie's Pastoral Workers (PW's) have sought to find innovative ways of reaching out to those we seek to serve.

Adjusting to the Government restrictions that are in place our PW's have continued to interact with people and offer support by whatever means possible. On-line crafts, quizzes, competitions and story-time have all featured, as well as book trails, craft pack delivery and limited social "get-togethers". On bases, where possible, our PW's have continued to provide support to the Naval Chaplains, manning the chaplaincy building to maintain a "Ministry of Presence", providing "cheer-up" packs to people, co-ordinating restricted social events in order to provide some variety and, of course, to be available to simply talk – albeit remotely.

A key part of this work has been to support Navy Command in maintaining the morale of service people in the quarantine and isolation facilities at a number of bases; as well as those showing COVID symptoms a large number of personnel have had to be placed into quarantine for up to two weeks prior to joining a ship overseas. Pastoral Workers have been engaged in making regular calls to these people (up to 170 on some days) to see how they are doing and provide the opportunity to simply chat. Sometimes the calls are very short however in some cases they provide the Pastoral Worker with the opportunity to do what they do best; to simply listen and provide encouragement.

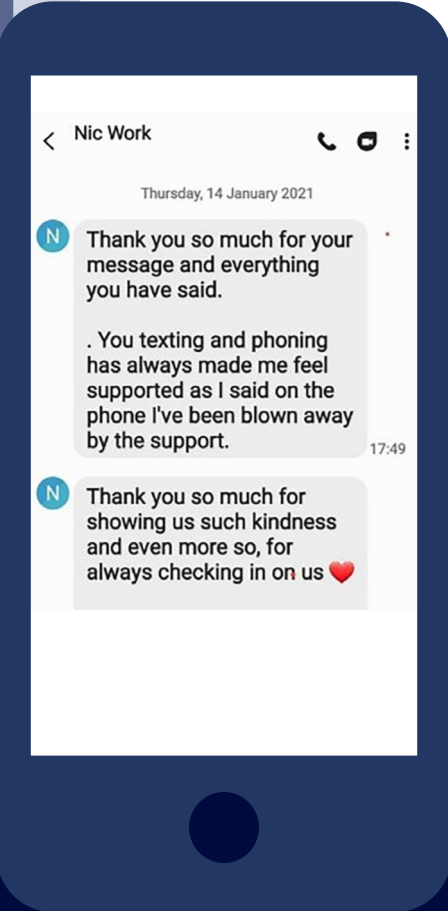
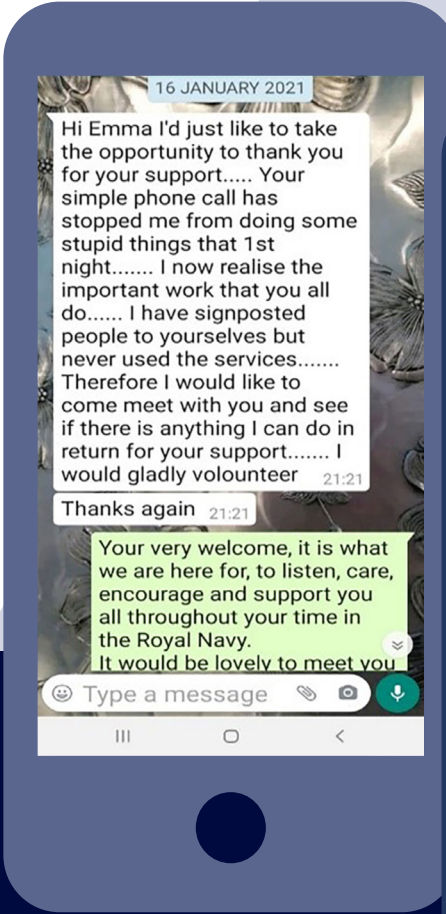
Acts of Kindness **55,723** 

On-line Events **415** 

Pastoral Telephone Calls Made **18,000** 

Activity Packs for Families distributed **1,760** 

Hidden Books provided **500** 

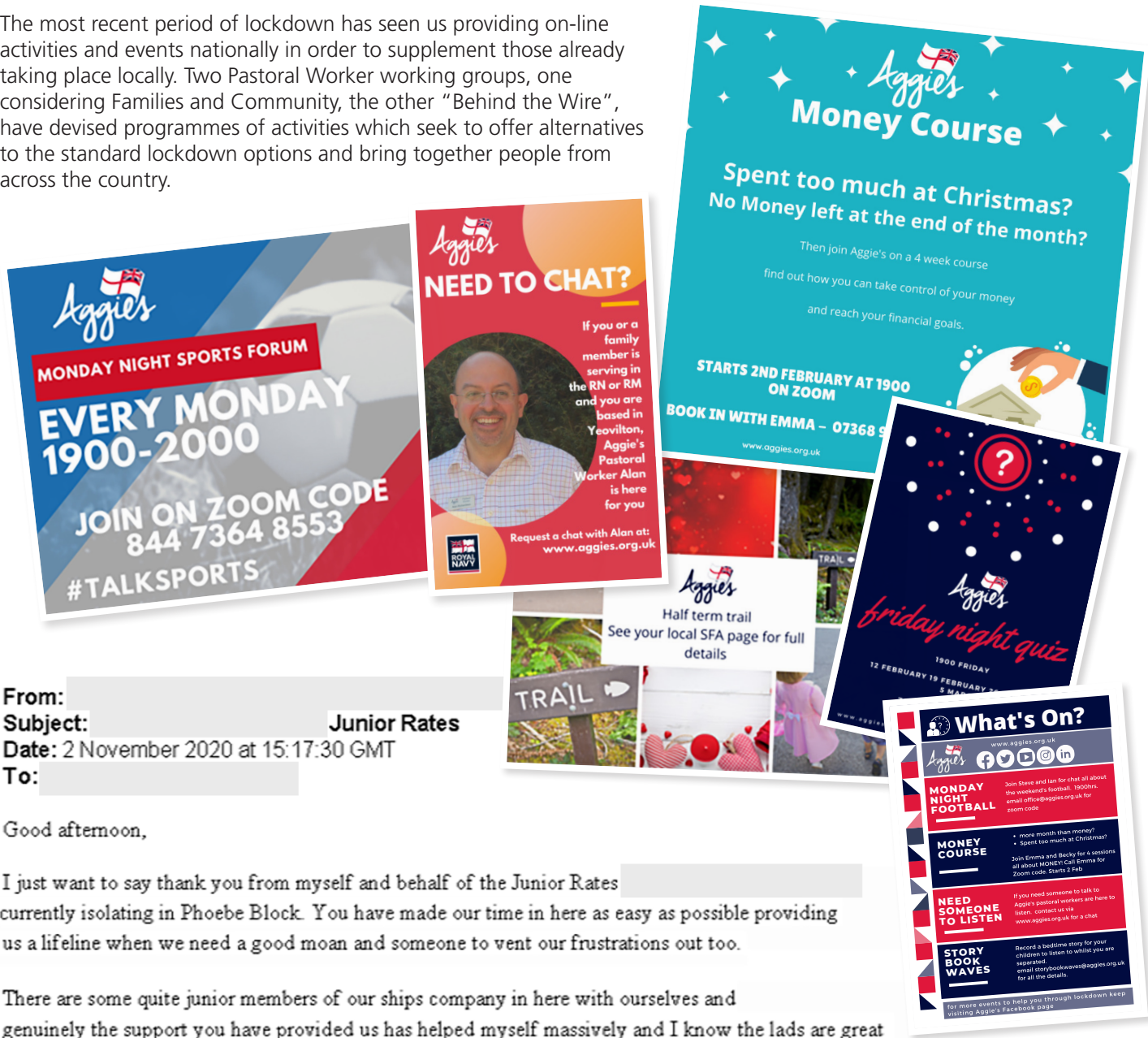


“Rev J and I went and dropped off morale packs to 22 lads in isolation; they knew we were coming and were waiting for us. We left the packs out by the door and stood a good 3½ meters back; they were all so delighted and there were 22 broad grins. One phase two said “ thank you so much this is awesome it has really made our day” When asked how morale has been they said “it’s much improved now”.

HMS Sultan Pastoral Worker



The most recent period of lockdown has seen us providing on-line activities and events nationally in order to supplement those already taking place locally. Two Pastoral Worker working groups, one considering Families and Community, the other “Behind the Wire”, have devised programmes of activities which seek to offer alternatives to the standard lockdown options and bring together people from across the country.



From: [redacted]
Subject: Junior Rates
Date: 2 November 2020 at 15:17:30 GMT
To: [redacted]

Good afternoon,

I just want to say thank you from myself and behalf of the Junior Rates [redacted] currently isolating in Phoebe Block. You have made our time in here as easy as possible providing us a lifeline when we need a good moan and someone to vent our frustrations out too.

There are some quite junior members of our ships company in here with ourselves and genuinely the support you have provided us has helped myself massively and I know the lads are great full for what you and you're team are doing.

Thank you very much for looking after us lot for the past 2 weeks and I hope we haven't moaned to much.

Financing Aggie's

As a charity Aggie's seeks to be as efficient and effective with the money that we are gifted for our work. Finance Director, **Nicki Torrance** outlines how the charity manages its financial affairs.

Our income and expenditure explained:

Every penny that we receive from donors and grants goes to fund our charitable activities. We use our investment income for overhead costs as well as contributing to charitable activities.

Currently our annual income is not sufficient to meet all of our costs. We were fortunate in 2019/20 to receive capital receipts which were sufficient to eliminate the budgeted deficit for the year.

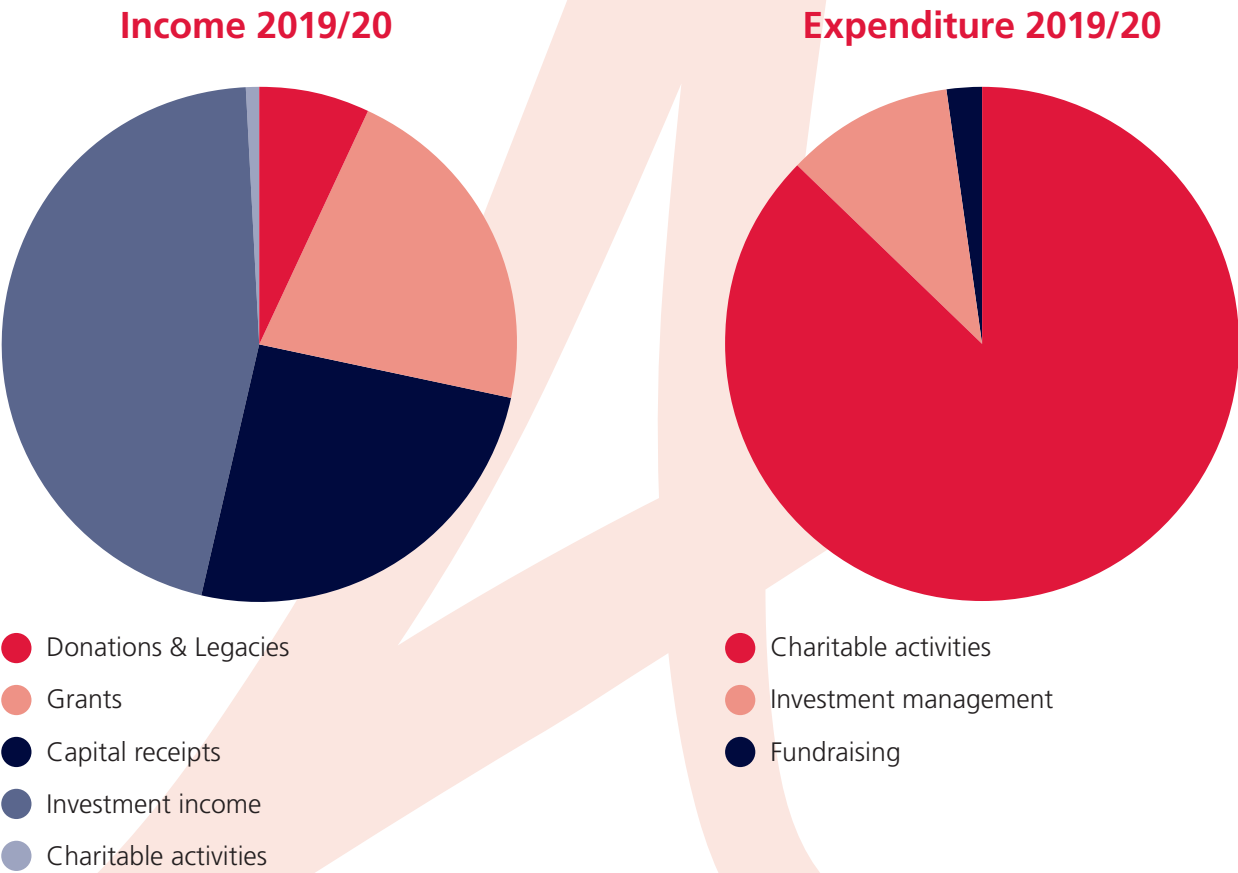
Pastoral Workers **34**



Pastoral Worker hours per week **745**



Annual number of Pastoral Worker hours gifted to naval community in the year **34,270**



Where our money comes from:

Donations & Legacies: we are so very grateful to our individual donors who so generously give to support the valuable work that Aggie’s do. A massive thank you to all of you.

If you would like to consider leaving something however big or small as a legacy to Aggie’s, there is information on our website under ‘Get involved’ or you can call us on 02392 650505.”

Grants: As shown on pages 18 and 19 we acknowledge with grateful thanks all the organisations that have granted funds to Aggie’s this year and continue to support us.

Investment income: Just under half of the charity’s income was derived from returns on investments. This represents a 3.2% return on the investment value at 31st March 2020.

Capital receipts: the charity is one of the beneficiaries of the Dashwood Trust, which holds a portfolio of properties that are generally disposed of on becoming vacant. Proceeds of the sale are distributed to the Trust’s beneficiaries. Amounts distributed can vary considerably and the timing cannot be predicted. Once all of the properties are disposed of, obviously this source of income will cease.

Balance sheet 31.3.20	£’000	Reserves 31.3.20	£’000
Investments	10,092	Endowment funds	10,387
Current assets	559	Restricted funds	44
Current liabilities	(56)	Unrestricted funds	164
	10,595		10,595

Our reserves explained:

We know that it looks like we have a reasonable amount of ‘money’ looking at our Endowment funds. However, all is not what it may seem! We have invested these endowed funds in order to generate an annual income for the charity. This investment income is the main source of funds for Aggie’s, contributing almost half of our annual income in 2019/20. Should the investment funds be used to meet costs, it would reduce the amount of income we are able to generate and increase the amount of endowed funds required to be expended in the future. A vicious circle!

The value of our investments needs to be maintained in order to generate income each year, contributing to the long term ability of the charity to deliver its objectives.

Use of grant funding during Coronavirus and the furlough scheme:

Where grants have been made to support the staff costs of Pastoral Workers who have needed to be furloughed, these funds have been held as restricted funds and carried forward for future use once the PW’s have been able to resume activities.

During the pandemic, Aggie’s have committed to paying all furloughed staff 100% of their salaries in order to prevent financial hardship, despite only being able to claim a maximum of 80% under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Over 20% of our annual income comes from grants that are graciously provided by charities and organisations within the military and maritime sectors.



Storybook Waves Recordings **369**

Hidden Books provided **500**

Children accessing on-line stories and Book Clubs **2,280**

The Storybook Waves project is an important part of Aggie’s work and it continues to be hugely appreciated by the families who use it. Deploying or deployed parents are able to record a story which is then edited, and enhanced with sound effects, by a team of volunteers and the recording provided to families in various formats, along with a copy of the book and a medal. The recordings provide an important link and huge comfort for children separated from their mum or dad.

With many Pastoral Workers unable to meet face to face to record parents reading stories in the last year the project has been adapted to allow individuals to record the story reading on their SMART phone.

In addition to our normal provision this year we have been very pleased to be able to support a service family in their adoption of a child. Storybook Waves recordings made by both parents were provided to the child during the transition from a foster family to their new home.



"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for Willow's special story from her Daddy whilst he is deployed. This has worked absolute wonders not only for her but for me as well, she listens to it every day not just at night before bed but on her journey to nursery and back home again. The Aggies pin that was in the pack she hasn't wanted to take off as she said Daddy sent her a medal for being a big girl. Again thank you so much, we as a family appreciate the support."

Naval wife



Just wanted to say thank you so much for our children's cd's and books. Their Daddy recorded them from HMS Diamond and sent them to them. It has made their day to receive them in the post. Listening to Daddy's voice has bought smiles and a few happy tears!

What an amazing service for our service families, thank you ❤️



A message from Commodore Dean Bassett

United Kingdom Military Component Commander, Bahrain



As I approach the end of my time nearly two-years as UKMCC, I would like to thank the 'Aggies' team on behalf of those under my command who have benefitted from Story Book Waves recordings while deployed.

Our sailors and marines tirelessly fulfil their roles in this ever-demanding region, and the pandemic has added to the personal challenge as their hearts and minds naturally casting back to loved ones at home. It is difficult to leave our youngsters behind when we deploy, and this has been particularly hard during the past year and the global COVID-19 pandemic has taken hold. I sense that not since World War Two have our people found themselves in the difficult position of continuing to fulfil operations whilst loved ones have been in such a dangerous and uncertain position back home. To be able to do something meaningful for them, as we seek to express our love in more than just a phone call, is not an easy thing to do. This is why 'Aggies' Story Book Waves, which has been always a most welcome resource, has been so important this past 12 months.

The Story Book Waves recordings are professionally and lovingly made and sent out, with their mini medals and books to the children of our Naval family. Stories that then get played before bed, in the car and almost anywhere by children who can that bit closer to their absent parent, and be with them as they read the 'Gruffalo' or whatever favourite story has been recorded for them.

Added to this the way that many of these recordings have been turned around for my people in just days or even just hours before Christmas, when your dedication was such that waiting children got their stories at such a difficult and important time. This has been truly amazing and so appreciated by those at home and those given the opportunity to express their love and better keep their bond with loved ones back home.

So as my time as UKMCC draws to a close, I write to thank you and the 'Aggies' team both personally and on behalf of those many people who have benefitted from your tireless work and dedication. In such a difficult year it has, and continues to make such a great difference.

Thanks for all you do.

Commodore Dean Bassett Royal Navy

Where are we?

Aggie's Pastoral Workers are based in Naval establishments and Royal Marine camps around the country in order to support the entire naval community, including members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families. Working alongside the Naval Chaplaincy Service, our Pastoral Workers are situated within the Chaplaincy building and seek to offer practical support to serving personnel and their families by being available to listen, encourage, comfort and support whenever there is an opportunity to do so. Manning the chaplaincy coffee bar, organising "pop-up" events around the establishment or supporting the local community through activities are all ways that the Aggie's team is able to meet with the people we seek to serve and practically demonstrate the love of Jesus.



Naval Children's Charity

Volunteers 20



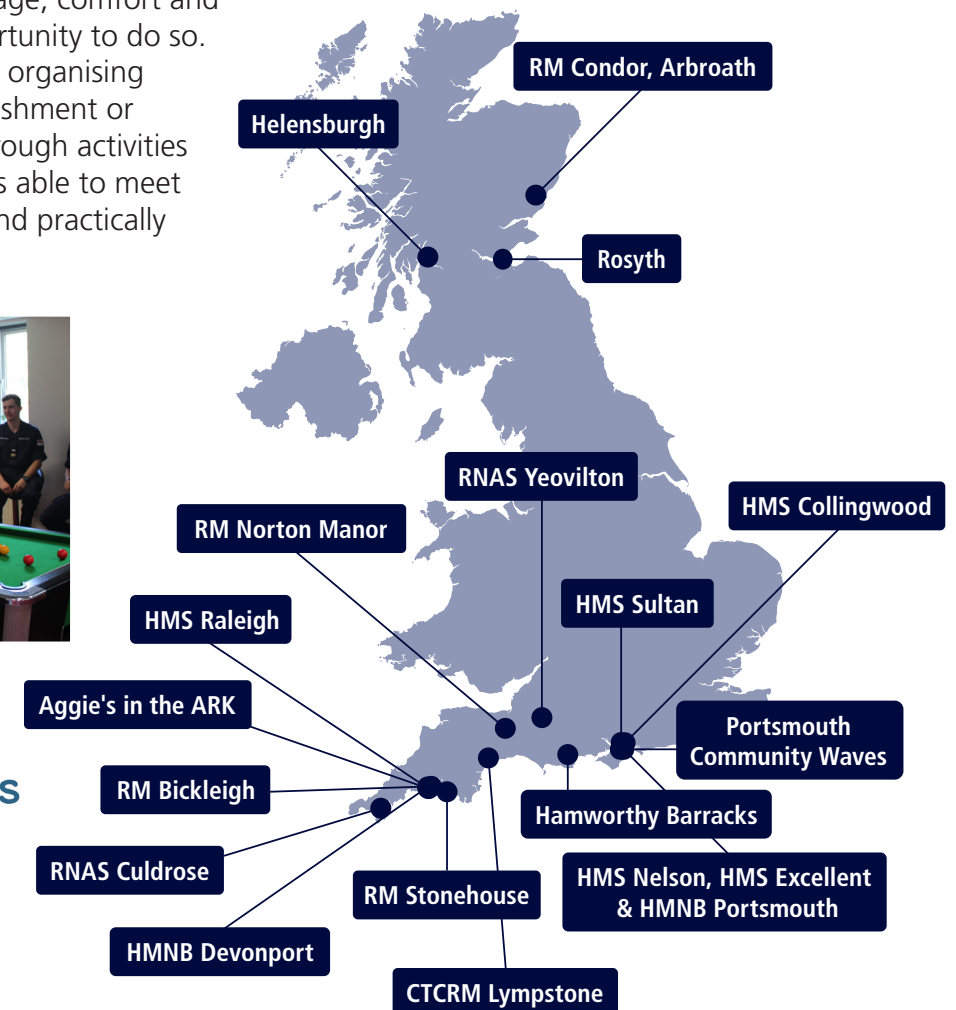
Pastoral Workers 34



Pastoral Worker hours per week 745



Annual number of Pastoral Worker hours gifted to naval community in the year 34,270



Aggie's in the Community

Supporting service families in the community is an important part of the work of Aggies. The last 12 months have certainly shown the value of what we do as we have adjusted to the needs of our community. All our Pastoral Workers have some interaction with families however there are three particular sites where the primary focus is that of the community as our Pastoral Workers explain.

Aggie's in the ARK, Plymouth

The ARK independent charity formally merged with Aggies in April 2020 to become Aggie's in the ARK. Pastoral Workers Jenn Collings and Zoe Lavers talk about the journey since then!

Well, what 9 months it's been! Boy we never could have envisaged Aggie's in the 'Ark' setting sail into such a terrific year! Yes, it has been terrific, it was especially nice to link up regularly with the other Pastoral Workers throughout the U.K. and cement our friendships. We've learnt so much and updated our training, ready to literally think outside the box, during this COVID-19 pandemic, to engage with as many service families as we could.

We have "Zoomed" all around the globe – farthest so far is Hawaii! Conversed with dozens of families and had a jolly fun time of it. Activities online included a full May half term activity week. Seeing Jenn dressed up in her wetsuit in a pop-up tent on one of the hottest days of the year was a highlight! We also made sure the summer holidays were full of daily activities with our 'Summer Selection Box'. Other regular and weekly sessions included craft classes in baking, gardening, flower arranging, painting, sewing as well as virtual toddler groups and countless story telling. Before Christmas we hosted our own online ARK Bake Off and ran a programme that enabled children to make Christmas cards for local Care Homes. In addition to the on-line contact, when circumstances permitted, Zoe has been out and about on her 'Wednesday Wander' around the SFA patches of Plymouth.

Online events and social media have allowed us to meet so many families in the area that we wouldn't normally have met. We are really looking forward to later this year when we hope to be able to meet up again and will be able to welcome these families in person to the exciting programme we are already planning, whilst maintaining our links around the U.K. and the globe with the lovely people we have met online.



Portsmouth Community Waves

Pastoral Conversations 4,028



On-line Events 415



Children accessing on-line stories and Book Clubs 2,280



The Portsmouth Community Waves Pastoral team now has 4 Families Pastoral Workers supporting services families. Co-Ordinator Alex Watts explains their work.

Despite the shock of COVID restrictions just as the project funding started, we have been able to adapt and overcome, and are now reaching out to 9 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) estates in Portsmouth, Fareham and Gosport. Work has ranged from 1:1 support and signposting families to other charities, up to (when allowed) small face to face meetings. Locations vary from playgrounds, to walking groups, to the sea shore. We have held conversations in the rain, in tropical sunshine, and as of February, in snow!

We have an ever-growing community online through our Aggies Community Waves Facebook page and online coffee

chats for small groups, additionally we have been able to provide a monthly delivery of craft activities, news and support information to families as well as inputting to the Aggies national programme of community events which has been fun, reaching digitally across the country and sharing activities. Successes include a Christmas delivery to over 150 families of books and crafts locally (as well as many more nationally) and a very popular project with the Kings Theatre, Portsmouth, for free pantomime tickets which were enjoyed before lockdown was re-imposed.

Our city-wide outreach projects for both Remembrance and Christmas were hugely successful



THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST

Naval Families
FEDERATION

Aggie's in Faslane

Activity Packs for Families distributed **1,760**



Hidden Books provided **500**



Faslane is the home of the Royal Navy Submarine fleet with over 4,000 service people operating from the base. Aggie's Pastoral Workers Sam Davies and Jenny Rowe are based in one of the Service Family Accommodation areas in Helensburgh and from there reach out into the thriving naval community.

Helensburgh, where we live and work is on the beautiful, rugged west coast of Scotland, and 8 miles from HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane). We are based in the newly refurbished St Margaret's Church, which alongside the Drumfork Community Centre, lies at the heart of one of the Helensburgh married patches. Together with the Naval Chaplaincy, shops, post office, nursery and a fantastic, recently refurbished playpark (designed by a local community group and funded by the RNRMC) which are all close by the complex creates a welcoming environment and forms an important hub for the community.

Traditionally, from our traditional premises at the 'Cosy Café' (now the new Chaplaincy Hub) we ran a coffee shop where families and serving personnel could drop in and have a chat over a coffee, a tray-bake, or a toastie in a warm and welcoming environment. Folks could come and meet friends or have space for a quiet chat. We were able to utilise other community facilities to offer Story Book Waves Book clubs and this proved to be a great way for us to link with new families, provide fun activities based around gorgeous books for the children and gave opportunity for conversations with parents. It has been a great way for families to connect across all the patches.

We offered Story Book Waves Recordings in Cosy outside cafe hours, or on the base with the chaplains where that was more convenient for groups.

Prior to COVID we have also had the joy of supporting the chaplains with 'pop up Chaplaincy' providing a stand with bacon butties coffee and doughnuts in their workspace and an opportunity for conversation. We've been able to support a number of different events including Pancake Day on shrove Tuesdays, the annual carol service and a Remembrance services organised by the RNFPS and Chaplaincy. We are blessed with good relationships with all the forces charities working in the area. RNFPS, SSAFA and NFF with inclusion in each other's events, signposting from one to another and championing each other's work in the community.

As COVID forced working from home, we adapted to a new way of juggling domestic and work life where boundary lines were often blurred. Zoom became the norm for coffee mornings and book clubs, with personal messaging a useful approach too. If you bumped into someone you knew in the street, even better! Sunflower seeds delivered to homes provided a positive focus in summer with lots of opportunities for conversation. As restrictions eased, we were able to offer takeaway drinks complying with Government guidelines as well as appointments for individuals wishing to have a lengthier, private chat. Christmas celebrations proved to be a huge blessing. We hosted 6 Christingle services with 5 families at each, suitably spaced. A zoom service was also recorded for those families who couldn't travel across tiers or live down South from deployed boat families. With the full support



of the Chaplains it was precious to be able to get together and have this time with the families - even if it was in masks! It is hoped that these events could be a springboard for things like Messy Church as people did feel a sense of connection with the building as their church

Throughout this challenging time we have grown much closer to the other members of the Chaplaincy team. Being able to meet regularly via zoom and spend time together in prayer and reflection has strengthened our team and helped us to focus on how we support our Community.

It is exciting to think of the future once COVID is under control; we will need to discern the needs of the community as we emerge from this testing time. With newly refurbished buildings available to use and a supportive Chaplaincy presence at hand, it feels like there is a blank canvas waiting for God to paint on as we seek Him. It will be an organic process, where those Aggies core values of listening, encouraging, comforting and supporting will be as crucial as ever.



Aggie Weston's Five Year Plan 2020–2024

Any charity will, and should, be assessed on the impact that it is making. Logically it follows that the greatest impact can be made where there is the greatest need and so, over the course of the last six months, we have been reviewing where we should be focussing our effort, settling on six beneficiary groups.

In conducting this review we have consulted with our closest partners including the Naval Chaplaincy Service, Royal Navy Family and People Support, other naval charities, our own Trustees, the Head Quarters of the Royal Navy and some of our supporters.

But why have a Five Year Plan? Two key issues drove its development:

- Aggie's Pastoral Workers function as fully integrated members of local chaplaincy teams. All chaplaincy team leaders have Five Year Plans which enable them to undertake long term planning, it therefore seemed appropriate that we were able to do likewise in a similar form which allowed activities to flow from our plan into theirs.
- Much has changed since the arrival of COVID. Our long term planning assumptions were no longer valid and we needed to re-assess our long term direction of travel.

One of the issues we encountered early on is that the majority of Pastoral Workers are tasked and line managed by Chaplaincy Team Leaders (CTLs) – and not by Aggie's directly. Our plan therefore had to be developed as a resource of ideas which would promote discussion between chaplains and Pastoral Workers on how best to meet the needs of their beneficiary groups with selected activities being incorporated into the relevant chaplaincy Five Year Plan.

Of the six population groups we selected, we are already active amongst three. The other three areas, however, are ones on which we have not previously focussed. The three areas of existing focus are:

1. Deploying personnel leaving young children at home. Deployment in this circumstance can prove challenging for the deploying parent, the parent left at home, and the child/children. Children are unable to maintain regular contact with the deployed parent, and anecdotal evidence indicates that they sometimes sleep less well (with implications for the parent at home) and can find it harder to reconnect when the deployed parent returns. This need is met through Storybook Waves.
2. Families. Data from Armed Forces and Families Continuous Attitude Surveys indicate that many Service Personnel leave the Naval Service due to the impact of service life on their families. Improving the support given to families will improve their experience of service life and reduce the outflow of service personnel. This need is met through a range of activities including 1:1 support, social events, children's activities, on-line activity, pastoral work amongst service children in schools, holiday clubs and financial management courses.
3. Personnel on holdover in training schools. Personnel may find themselves on holdover in training schools for a number of reasons: Medical downgrade and recovery; back-classing; awaiting the start of the next course; or delays due to bottlenecks or failures within the training pipeline. Without meaningful and challenging employment and evening activities such periods of holdover can be demotivating and demoralising, increasing the risk of alcohol, drugs or gambling addictions.

To these we have added three new areas of focus:

4. Non-British personnel and their families. For many non-British members of the Royal Navy their wider family, and sometimes their immediate family, live thousands of miles away. Life in the UK can be challenging for reasons not experienced or properly understood by personnel born in the UK, particularly through the early training phase of their career. This need is met through the personal engagement of our Pastoral Workers, and through our collaboration with the Royal Navy Commonwealth network.



5. Personnel in maternity and medical margins. At any one time approximately 1% of the Naval Service is non-deployable due to pregnancy or maternity, and a significantly larger number is not fully deployable due to being medically downgraded. In the case of personnel on maternity or those downgraded for mental health reasons, their return to work can be influenced by the support they receive from agencies including Aggie Weston's. We plan to meet this need principally through evening activities in our Havens which will create opportunities for pastoral interaction.
6. Ship's Company of ships in upkeep. The ship's company of a ship in upkeep will include many young and impressionable personnel who expected their assignment to the ship to be spent at sea, delivering effect, travelling around the world, gaining operating experience, and progressing in their training. For some the reality of living in barracks with nothing to do in the evening while the ship is undergoing major maintenance is unwelcome and results in gambling, alcohol and drug abuse, and a range of other unhealthy interests. We plan to meet this need principally through evening activities in our Havens which will create opportunities for pastoral interaction.

The full Aggie's plan was issued at the end of November 2020 and chaplaincy teams are busy implementing it. So, what comes next? Through our dialogue with other charities and the Royal Navy, and the generation of this plan, a number of areas for potential growth have emerged:

- We are exploring the possibility of deploying a Pastoral Worker in one of our new Aircraft Carriers.
- We are investigating the option of creating a Pastoral Worker post in the Commando Logistics Regiment at Chivenor, one of the largest Royal Marine units in 3 Commando Brigade, and the only one to have no Aggie's support.
- We have been asked to assess the feasibility of creating a Pastoral Worker post in Gibraltar to support those in the Service Family Accommodation.
- We are investigating the possibility of an Aggie's presence in Worthy Down, the tri-Service joint logistics school. Since Commonwealth personnel are disproportionately represented amongst the logistics community, there is a considerable and unique need for pastoral support.

There is a saying amongst military commanders that the best laid plans rarely survive first contact with the enemy. This plan will evolve, and it will face obstacles. Your prayer support will therefore be much appreciated as we implement and refresh this plan.

Thank you

As well as the numerous individual supporters who faithfully donate to us regularly Aggie’s is very grateful to the grant giving organisations who support our work. Here as some of the organisations we work with and how we use their gifts.



Greenwich Hospital – Pastoral Workers HMS Raleigh & RM Bickleigh

Through the funding provided by Greenwich Hospital in support of the Pastoral Workers at these locations, they have been able to gain the trust and respect of the trainees and as a consequence, when faced with difficulties, trainees have sought out the PW’s to provide confidential guidance and support through Pastoral Conversations.

The pastoral support programme has had a significant impact with the Pastoral Workers providing another source of support and confidence that helps the trainees to get through a challenging training regime.



RNRMC – Pastoral Workers: training establishments and Community

Life in the Navy can be stressful at times on both serving members and their families. With the support of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity subsidising Pastoral Workers on training establishments and within the community, we are able to place trained people at the heart of the beneficiary community where they can be a ‘confidante’ or ‘listening ear’ in times of stress.

During the lockdown, the methods of maintaining Aggie’s presence among the beneficiary group have had to be rethought and innovative ways developed to continue providing this support.

Story Book Waves

The Storybook Waves initiative continues to be a key project for Aggie’s and the part-time project manager is funded by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity.

As with every project, in March 2020 SBW had to re-think how they offered the service to serving personnel due to the pandemic. The SBW project manager has set up new processes for promoting, communicating and recording, which was widely publicised and navy personnel have been very grateful that the project has been able to continue.



RMA-TRMC – Pastoral Workers at Norton Manor camp and RM Lympstone

The pastoral support provided to the marines of 40 Commando RM and their families has been so successful that additional hours have been requested going into this second year. RMA-TRMC continue to provide grant funding in support of this valuable work as well as contributing to the 3 Pastoral Workers based at the Royal Marine Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. These PWs continue to support the RM trainees through practical help, encouragement and, where needed, signposting to other organisations for specialist assistance.



Trinity House – RFA

The personnel of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary are working for the MOD in support of the naval service and this pilot project aims to provide an improved level of pastoral support to this niche group of mariners. The project has only been possible through the generosity of Trinity House. Despite COVID restrictions, progress has been made in establishing appropriate contact and support being offered to all who need it.



NCC – (PW’s support)

As our Pastoral Workers support the families of serving personnel around the country, they will signpost to other organisations as appropriate. We are pleased to work in collaboration with the Naval Children’s Charity who make a contribution towards our Pastoral support programme.



BFBS – Gazebo’s

One of the ways we are able to promote the work of Aggie’s and be integrated with the beneficiary group is to have branded mobile facilities at each of our locations. The British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS) have generously contributed to that goal enabling us to order several robust gazebo’s.



AFCFT – Aggie’s Community Waves project

Aggie’s has established a 3 year project to reduce loneliness and isolation for the families of serving personnel in the Portsmouth region with the aid of a generous grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund. During the pandemic we have worked remotely to progress the foundations and planning for this project as well as developing existing initiatives.



New Years’ Honours for Aggie’s Volunteer

Aggie’s Volunteer Pastoral Worker Chris Phillips was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen in the New Year 2021 Honours List with the award of MBE; his citation reads:

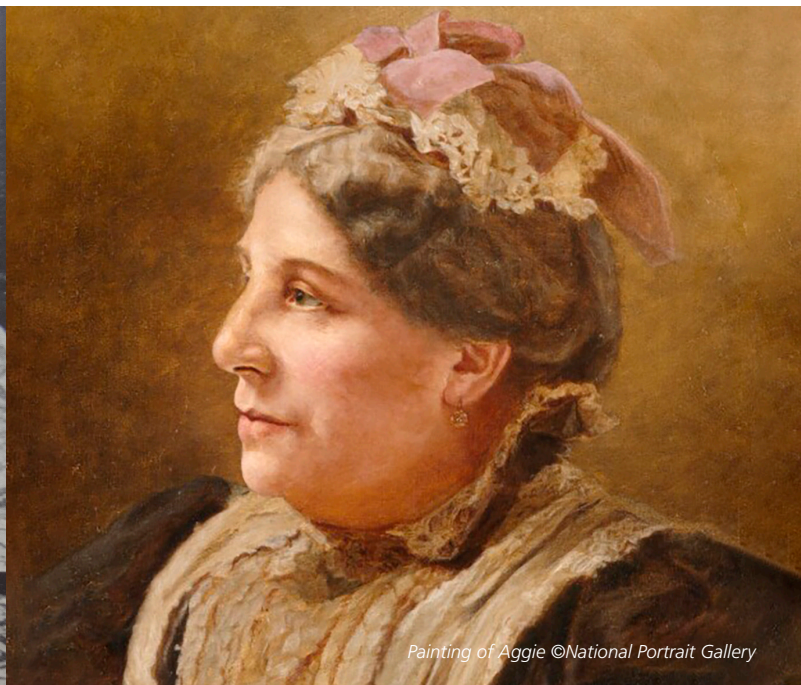
“Voluntary Pastoral Worker, Dame Agnes Weston’s Royal Charity for the Naval Service. For voluntary services to the Royal Navy”

Chris, who is part of the Plymouth Pastoral Worker team, joined Aggie’s in 2008 following a career in the Gwent and British Transport Police. He moved to a voluntary role in 2018 and continues to support activities across establishments in the Plymouth area as well as being a longstanding editor of Storybook Waves recordings. In addition to his work for Aggie’s, through his local church, Chris also supports the Foodbank project and youth work initiatives.

Chris is pictured with his wife of 45 years, Christine.



Aggie's is a Christian charity that has been serving the Royal Navy since 1876. It bears the name of its founder, Dame Agnes Weston, who set up the charity to provide support and comfort to the Royal Navy through the provision of Royal Sailor's Rests in Dockyard areas. Although the Rests have now gone, our Pastoral Workers continue to abide by the principal established by Aggie, namely to demonstrate the Love of God to all members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families by providing help and pastoral support without judgement or prejudice.



Painting of Aggie ©National Portrait Gallery

"For the Glory of God and the Good of the Service"

If you would like to learn more about the work of Aggie Weston's and how you can support us, either by donating, volunteering or remembering us in your will please visit our website at **aggies.org.uk** or contact our central office on **023 9265 0505**.