

# ASHORE & AFLOAT



Autumn 2023



Faithfully Alongside the Naval Family



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## HMS PRINCE OF WALES FIRST RAS FOR WESTLANT 23 DEPLOYMENT

On 6th September 2023, HMS Prince of Wales Replenish At Sea (RAS) with RFA Tideforce, its first RAS on their Westlant 23 deployment. The ship transferred diesel and aviation category fuel essential for the ships transit across the Atlantic Ocean to the United States of America.

HMS Prince of Wales sailed from Portsmouth on the 1st September 2023, heading to the United State of America to shape the future of naval aviation. Her longest deployment, pushing the limits of aircraft carrier operations with Unmanned Aircraft Systems, fifth-generation stealth fighter jets, tilt-rotors and helicopters.

### **Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Charity for the Naval Service**

*Generally known as Aggie's*

Company No. 11114651 • Charity No. 1176596

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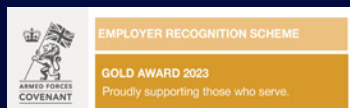
Chris New, OBE, FCIPD

### **Editor**

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### **Cover Photo**

Aggie's Pastoral Worker, Angela Harper leads the Active Aviators group at the Fleet Air Arm Museum in Yeovil.



Aggie's is the proud recipient of the Armed forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award. To find out more visit Defence Employer Recognition Scheme – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme>

# Introduction from Aggie's

## Words from Chris New, Aggie's CEO

In 1878 Aggie rushed back to Portsmouth following the sinking of HMS EURYDICE in Sandown Bay with the loss of all but two of her 320 crew. Aggie stayed in Portsmouth to provide emotional and financial support to families and, while in the city, she was asked to open a Portsmouth Sailors Rest.

For a while she rented an old music hall, but this was inadequate for the role. She then learned of a site in Queen Street which the buyer was willing to sell for £1000. A local man, Anthony Denny, invited Aggie to present her vision for a Portsmouth sailors rest in the great drawing room of Connaught Place.

As Aggie shared her vision, Anthony Denny quietly moved around the room talking to those who were listening. When she had finished, the sum raised was exactly £1000, to which Anthony added £50. Aggie knew that she had not achieved this on her own, she commented

**"My heart almost stopped beating. Our loving Father had given this money as a foundation stone for Portsmouth."**

But Anthony Denney also played a crucial role in this collaboration.

We can all achieve so much more when we collaborate. The principal partner for Aggie's is the Naval Chaplaincy Service. Most Pastoral Workers come under the functional line management of the local Chaplaincy Team Leader and the relationship between the Chaplaincy Service and Aggie's is being strengthened all the time. We are also seeking to be more collaborative both within the establishments through pop up chaplaincy, activities, and events, and outside in the community through the Community Partnership Working Group which Aggie's co-Chairs. It is our partnership with a loving God that provides Aggie's workers with so much of their motivation, energy, and activity.

And our partnerships with donors, grant givers, prayer supporters, serving naval personnel and families are equally critical to making all this possible. As you read this edition of Ashore and Afloat, I hope you will agree that relationships are the foundation of everything we do, and this is common to collaboration, partnership, and pastoral work.

**Thank you for the part you play.**



# Welcome on board



## **Sarah Farrington, Family Pastoral Worker** **Aggie's Community Waves Plymouth**

Sarah joins Aggie's after a long career in NHS and with a wealth of experience of military life.

Sarah's husband has deployed many times including deployments to three active war zones.

As a forces family Sarah and her children have moved around the country being based with the Army, Navy and RAF, which gives Sarah a deep understanding of the impact of deployment on families.

During all of her moves Sarah has joined the local church, serving on teams and in missions, helping the mission of the church wherever she and her family have been based.

With a degree in design, Sarah has already delivered a number of craft events for the community waves team and is loves running Wavy Navy and visiting schools.



## **Iain Whitehead, Pastoral Worker** **HMS Sultan**

Iain Whitehead joined Aggie's in September 2023 as a Pastoral Worker at HMS Sultan. Iain has been married to Rosalyn for 38 years and they have two sons.

Having served in the Royal Air Force for 22 years as an aircraft technician, Iain and his family are used to life in the Armed Forces and he has many years of experience to bring to his new role at HMS Sultan.

On leaving the RAF Iain continued working in the aviation industry and joined Martin Baker Aircraft Company working on ejection seat design.

Iain became a Christian in 1984 and has sought to live life since then as a servant of Christ. Iain's love of military aviation continues as he is a volunteer with the engineering team at the annual Royal International Air Tattoo held at RAF Fairford.

Iain is very excited about his new role at HMS Sultan and is already getting 'stuck in' with the daily opportunities that arise to make a positive difference in the lives of this Naval community.



## **Mark Jones, Family Pastoral Worker** **Aggie's Community Waves Plymouth**

Mark is a former Youth and Children's Pastor who uses his experience to engage with both children and adult family members as part of the Community Waves Pastoral team. Mark started in September 2023 and works alongside his wife, Letty, also an Aggies pastoral worker, and they have one cat – Ricky Martin.

While Mark does not have a military background, unless you count growing up in the Boys Brigade, he has lived abroad for a significant amount of his life and has been involved in supporting international and British students as they experience times of upheaval and transition, phases of life not too dissimilar to what military families often go through.

# Around & About



## HMS Drake – Plymouth

In the Spring, the Chaplaincy at HMS Drake was the proud recipient of a generous £15K grant from RNRMC. The grant was awarded for the refurbishment of Haven 1 (Relaxation Area), and Haven 2 (Multi-Function Meeting Room which is available for booking).

The last refurbishment was over twenty years ago, so this grant was used to buy new reclining sofas, armchairs, a dining table with chairs, new 80-inch Smart TV, Bluetooth speakers, DVD players, rugs, blankets, cushions, bean bags, lighting, bookshelves, coffee tables, cooking equipment (both for Aggie's led events and Service Personnel hire) and cutlery. The Havens also received a grant from the Naval Base Command which went towards the purchase of picnic tables for outside the Haven/Chaplaincy building.

This refurbishment, combined with a growing number of different events, has allowed the Aggie's team at HMS Drake to befriend serving personnel and their families. This has led to a huge rise in attendance in the Haven. Serving personnel are often seen morning, lunch, and evenings in the Haven, using it as a space to take a break from their work or accommodation area; this means that pastoral workers can build more relationships with more people so that, when they need help, Aggie's is available to support them.

Another popular feature of the Haven is our 'Local Attractions' tourist corner. This provides those Serving Personnel from out of the area with the knowledge to get off base and explore the huge variety of attractions and events in and around the Plymouth area.

The Aggie's team have hosted many events over the last few months. In addition to the Chaplaincy Stand-Easy and Pop-Up events, Kate Thorn has hosted Ladies' Night with truffle making, escape rooms, Mocktails and Karaoke. The team have supported the maternity 'Bumps and Babies' group and have hosted 'pop-ups' at the Saltram Estate which included Aggie's Butties, doughnuts, and relaxation craft sessions. The team continue with Alpha and Christianity Explored as well as providing activities outside of 'normal working hours' for those personnel working shifts.

A brand-new event to the Haven in Drake is Come Cook Your Scran Night. Every Monday evening from 1900, Aggie's Pastoral Workers Kate and Simon teach serving personnel how to cook easy, healthy, and affordable meals from scratch on basic cooking equipment. This ensures that they are then able to do this for themselves on the equipment they have in their accommodation whilst not breaking the bank on takeaways. The team use the equipment bought with the RNRMC grant to teach the serving personnel and have a signing out system so that serving personnel can use this kit by themselves in the Haven if they like.

Across the Summer the team were out and about at the many events in Plymouth from Armed Forces Day on the Plymouth Hoe and a Coronation Event for the Drake Naval Base, to the Ships Families' Days. All this great work supporting personnel from across Plymouth was recognised in early August when the team were awarded a Naval Base Commander's Commendation for services provided to service personnel. As soon as the team are in one place together for long enough, they will receive their commendation and photos will be taken!





## RFA – Debbie Sutton Pastoral Worker to the RFA

Making the best of long days, visiting ships and training bases has been the focus of the last few months for Aggie's Pastoral Worker Debbie Sutton who supports serving personnel in the RFA and their families.

Over the last few months Debbie has established a fairly settled pattern of arranging to meet RFA Apprentices as well as those undertaking promotion courses at HMS Collingwood, HMS Sultan, Phoenix damage control school and Worthy Down. Debbie has found it encouraging to meet people who remember meeting her elsewhere! It demonstrates that awareness of their Aggie's Pastoral Worker is steadily rising amongst RFA personnel and their families.

A new port of call for Debbie was Birkenhead and the Cammel Laird shipyard. The RFA have acquired two new ships this year and Proteus was undergoing conversion to fulfil her new role as guardian of underwater infrastructure. Being much smaller than the usual RFA tankers and solid support, it has a very different feel with shared mess space and no bar!!! It therefore has some similarities to an Aggie's haven!

## RNAS CULDROSE

Over the summer months Georgie House, our Pastoral Worker at RNAS Culdrose, has continued to offer Aggie's butties each week outside the Haven and around squadrons. At the Culdrose Families Day Georgie set up the Aggie's stand and offered families transfer tattoos which were a great success and enabled the team to chat to the families and serving personnel about the work of Aggie's.

The weather has been kind this summer in Cornwall which has given Aggie's the opportunity to host beach days, cycling and sea swims. The sea swims have been fantastic! Open to adults only, they have proven very popular, not only for the amazing mental and physical benefits that cold water swimming has, but also for the opportunity to chat to Georgie without the children around!

Personnel at Culdrose have been very supportive of Georgie and her work. A group of four personnel decided to undertake a 24-hour golf challenge, playing 72 holes to raise money for Aggie's and to spread the word on the work the charity does to support serving personnel and their families. Thank you to the team for all your support and the money they raised.

The summer was wrapped up with coffee mornings in different venues across the area – giving families the opportunity to explore more of the county and revealing places to visit with loved ones when they return from deployment.





## CTCRM

The recruits at CTCRM are keeping Maria, Alison, Sarah, and Jane very busy! Maria continues to attend the Recruits' lectures as well as the King's Squad passing out (ensuring Aggie's is visible to RM personnel right from their first moments of service) and she recently had the great privilege of being a sponsor at the baptism of one of the CTCRM Recruits!

During the King's Coronation weekend those recruits still on camp were treated to an Aggie's hosted Devon Cream tea. The event was much appreciated, and everyone got the cream and jam the right way round!

Over recent months the team at CTCRM have been working in collaboration with the Community Champion at Tesco Exmouth. Tesco have been providing Aggie's with treats such as ice-cream and fruit, giving the Aggie's team the opportunity to spread love and boost morale across the camp with banana boats and ice-cream! The team ensured that the treats were delivered all over camp, so it was not only those in the Rock Café that benefited. The Duty Nurse in the med bay commented "the recruits look so happy. I might be discharging them all in the morning – thank you!" As well as banana boats setting sail around the camp, thanks to Tesco the team were able to serve up waffles and fruit during the Rugby World Cup!

Over the road at the Gordon Messenger Centre, Family Pastoral Worker Vicky continues to support families with a very full and varied timetable of events that includes special events for high days and holidays we well as regular

events such as Cake at the Castle, Baby Group, and the Monthly Storybook Waves book club. There is always something going on for families and the other members of the CTCRM team can often be found 'outside the wire' helping out and making a difference to the families.

Most recently the GMC had a visit from two supporters, Ann and Graham. Ann's father was in the forces, and she popped into the GMC for coffee and cake. Ann and Graham were delighted to be shown round and to see how their support affects the lives of our serving personnel and their families. If other supporters wish to visit the GMC, or any other Aggie's facility, please do get in touch with your local Pastoral Worker who will be delighted to show you their work.

## Commendation for Aggie's Pastoral Worker, Vicky Plastow

It was with great pleasure that Chris New visited CTCRM to see Vicky Plastow awarded with a commendation for her work with families at CTCRM by Col Chris Haw MC, Commandant of CTCRM. The citation noted Vicky's pioneering work in establishing family support activities in the GMC, her skill, passion and commitment.

## RNAS Yeovilton

Aggie's Pastoral worker Angela Harper looks after Personnel and their families at RNAS Yeovilton.

Angela keeps herself busy visiting squadrons throughout the base, running events around the local area for families and offering pastoral care and signposting for those visiting Chaplaincy for help. Angela's most recent venture is 'Active Aviators' which runs monthly at the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Museum for families with under 5-year-olds. Angela loves to network with the families and enjoys the music & movement with puppets and craft session that takes place during Active Aviators. In the Summer months, Angela runs outdoor family activities where friends can come together for a picnic with crafts, helicopters, and fire engines!

This summer Angela received the Base Commanders commendation from the XO, Commander Colin Kiernan.

"For going above and beyond in all she does in supporting families at Yeovilton."

Angela is always keen to support and attend other events running at Yeovilton where she can meet with serving personnel and their families. She recently helped at Yeovil Teenies nursery on base with a sponsored obstacle course, meeting with military families and presenting them with a medal at the end of their obstacle course challenge. The nursery has approx. 40 serving children attending full-time and they are trying to raise funds to improve their outdoor soft play area and install some sun protection sails in the garden. Angela hopes to help them with fundraising in the future, recognising the importance of good childcare in enabling our serving personnel to do their jobs with peace of mind.

Angela works in partnership with the Naval Chaplains visiting all the squadrons for pop-up doughnuts and to encourage them to book a Storybook Waves recording slot before being deployed. This is a good opportunity to come alongside personnel where they are and listen to their concerns, offer support and signpost to other organisations should they or their families need it.

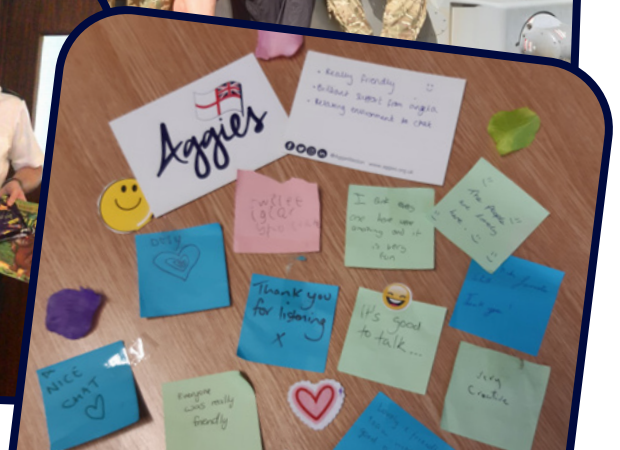
RNAS Yeovilton families day was a great success and Chaplaincy had a stand with the theme of 'Emotions'. This gave children an opportunity to express how they were feeling and for them to either stay and play or to participate in the activity stations. Activities included a "blessing ribbon tree" which proved very popular and now stands in St Augustine's Church on base for all to see.

The team had a 'Gruffalo Goodie Pack' which was raffled off, raising £200 towards the outreach fund.

Aggie's Butties events take place on Tuesday mornings, being held outdoors if the weather is fine, and this brings together an all-ranks cross-section of the RNAS Yeovilton community for a chance to chat and chill.

Many still come to Chaplaincy to relax and enjoy the facilities which are open till 10 pm. The Aggie's team recently purchased a Play Station 5 console and some board games, enabling Angela to host the first games evening with hot dogs and popcorn. The plan is to host a regular evening event for those living onboard, especially the Engineering Training School trainees who are far from home with many of them not driving, so they end up stuck on base. Plans are underway for the Chaplaincy to move to larger premises on the base, enabling them to work in closer partnership with other departments and to offer better facilities for the serving personnel at RNAS Yeovilton.

Angela also encourages others to join her at HMS Heron's Sports Centre on a Tuesday evening to enjoy a Les Mills 50 minute Spin class which has nurtured many friendships as well as helping with individuals' mental health & fitness. "Walking and Listening" on a Tuesday afternoon gives people an opportunity to meet with her for informal conversation, also a breakfast drop-in on Wednesday mornings at the Royal Navy Tall Trees Community Centre in Ilchester.







# ERS Gold Award

## Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award

Many people know that Aggie was involved in the building of the Royal Sailors Rests. Some are aware that she was a high-profile speaker in the Temperance movement at the time, but how many realise that Aggie was a key driving force behind many welfare related policies, some of which live on to this day and remain hugely appreciated by many Serving Personnel?

Aggie understood that sailors were paid in cash onboard ship, this meant there was no way of getting money to the families while the ships were deployed. She persuaded the Royal Navy to introduce a scheme where they could allot part of a sailors pay to a bank account which she oversaw so that wives could draw down on it while their husbands were away. This scheme remains today, now called the allotment scheme. Aggie was a prime influence over the growth in the number of sailors having savings accounts – this meant that they had money in the bank to pay for travel home, unforeseen eventualities, and to support their family. She introduced “sick committees”, now known as “carers forums”. She introduced groups for pregnant women and mothers with new-born babies – still around today. She was at the forefront of introducing these new policies, often in the face of opposition from the Admiralty, which had the effect of improving the life experience for serving personnel and their families.

It was therefore only natural that Aggie’s would whole heartedly embrace the Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS). Introduced in 2014, the scheme was originally intended to ensure that Reserve members of the Armed Forces were treated fairly by their civilian employers, principally by putting policies in place which supported their Reserve

Service. An example is the guarantee of 2 weeks additional Reserve Service leave per year so that Reservists can do their annual training without using up their annual leave allowance. Today the principles of the scheme have been widened to ensure that the right policies are in place to support Reservists, Sea Cadet Adult Volunteers and Service partners, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged in their civilian employment by their Service responsibilities.

So, what is in this for the employer? Staff who serve in the Reserves or the Sea Cadet Adult Volunteer role learn new skills and gain experience which can be usefully used in their day job working for their employer. Furthermore, by investing in their people and supporting them, employers are more likely to find their staff being motivated, loyal, and committed.

The scheme offers three levels of award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Aggie’s has held the Silver Award for four years, indicating that we have the right processes in place for our people. On 4th Oct we were presented with a Gold Award, indicating that we show leadership in championing good policies and advocating the benefits of the ERS Scheme. Aggie showed leadership in improving the policies in place to support naval personnel, she would have approved of this Gold Award.



## Nelson

Pastoral work continued at a pace in Portsmouth during the spring and into the summer terms. Emma and Paul are based in the Chaplaincy Centre in HMS Nelson and have contributed to several Families' Days for ships alongside as well as supporting the Royal Marine Band School's Passing Out Parade. In preparation for its deployment, Paul and Emma went onboard HMS Queen Elizabeth and conducted several days of Storybook Waves recordings. As the Summer started, a traditionally quieter time in the Naval Base with many beneficiaries on leave, Paul volunteered to help with the Community Waves team summer BBQs which also allowed him to better understand the work of the Community Wave Teams. Tracey is continuing with her work supporting the People Support Group (PSG). She listens to, signposts and encourages personnel who are medically downgraded or on hold-over between assignments, often being the first person to identify and turn around a deteriorating situation in someone's mental health. The personnel on the books of PSG are not, however, her only beneficiaries – it is a challenging work environment for the Divisional Officers who look after those people assigned to the PSG and Tracey frequently finds herself listening to and supporting them. With the days becoming cooler the team is turning its attention to planning homecoming events and a celebration day at sea for friends and families of the ships they look forward to welcoming back alongside.

## Faslane

The Helensburgh team have been busy over the past months serving the Naval community. Book clubs for youngsters are always popular events and a one-off pizza decorating and eating session was enjoyable for some young budding chefs. It wouldn't be Aggie's without bacon butties, so they have been enjoyed in St Margaret's coffee house every Friday morning. In August Sam and Seonid visited each other's Community Fun Days in Arbroath and Helensburgh respectively, lending a helping hand, learning from each other and exploring these different parts of Scotland.

The Aggie's team now has access to the Naval Base. This is enabling them to reach serving personnel through Aggie's Butty Stand Easy events, and through Storybook Waves recording sessions on submarines and small ships.

## Arbroath

It was full steam ahead at Arbroath over the summer and start of the new school year! With people leaving the base and new families moving in, Seonid has been kept very busy, from Families Day on camp to the weekly events in the Families Centre, Aggie's is kept very busy in Arbroath. Seonid recently introduced a weekly 'Waggies with Aggie's' which has got Seonid, and her Westie called Aggie, out on dog walks with some of the families in the area. The Storybook Waves Book Club continues to be very popular with families in the area and Seonid now hosts one of these every month, enabling her to connect with the younger families on camp.

## Aggie's Community Waves Portsmouth

What an amazing summer it has been for the Portsmouth Community Waves team. With Katie White still steering the ship, we took Portsmouth and the surrounding areas by storm! The summer was strewn with Families Days, crabbing competitions and delicious BBQs where we were joined by the lovely Paul Jackson from the Nelson Chaplaincy Team. There were some fantastic bean-bag throwing champions with lucky dips at the Stansted Summer Festival and our biggest Summer Spectacular ever with bouncy castles, lucky dips, hook a duck and the amazing Crazee Hazeer Circus show. A set of stocks was available for those who misbehaved, and those ensnared included the Team Coordinator Katie White and local MP Stephen Morgan, both of whom endured wet sponges until they promised to behave.

There has been one sad moment for the team. Our lovely Pastoral Worker Nikki Burge embarked on a new adventure with Aurora Dawn Charity, working within the Royal Navy community to help Domestic Abuse victims. We wish her the best and know she will continue to have a huge impact in this new role.

The team have now launched their wonderful new autumn programme across the Portsmouth, Fareham and Gosport region. This includes: Rhyme Time at three different locations; a 'Get Active with Aggie's' at HMS Excellent with the lovely PTI's who run a weekly Clubz' Choice; Come and Cook with Aggie's, a great opportunity to get pre-schoolers learning basic cooking skills; Sensory Play; a weekly Afterschool Brick Builders club and the continuing 'Get Out With Toddlers', an outdoor craft and activities group where we let nature nurture little ones (until October half term). We continue to support the Sultan Aggie's team with an After School Club every week at Crossley and a monthly Book Club. Elaine continues to support the Sultan Aggie's team with their Aggie's Butties on Tuesdays.

The fun doesn't stop there, as there is yet more to come. Follow our socials for information on our Half term Autumn Crafts, the return of the Lantern Remembrance Walk and we feel it's not too early to mention our evening Christmas Cracker Making Workshops and our Family Christmas Party.

**Come and join in with the fun; we would LOVE to see you all there.**





## HMS Collingwood

Pastoral workers Pete and Emma have been busy over the last few months under the leadership of a new Chaplaincy Team Leader, Mark Noakes. They continue to deliver Aggie's Butties every Tuesday stand easy in the coffee bar boosting morale, encouraging them to get a break from their desk and mix with other personnel on site but, most importantly, creating an environment for Collingwood's chaplains and pastoral workers to engage with their beneficiaries in an informal setting.

The team enjoyed hosting a stand at HMS Collingwood Open Day where they saw many personnel with their families. Over 2000 people came through the gates on a hot sunny day to enjoy what Collingwood had to offer with the main event being the "Field Gun" competition. While the Field gun teams were training, Aggie's staff went around the team tents with "Aggie's Butties" and had conversations with the crews.

Ice cream proved to be a very popular tool for engaging personnel during the summer heatwave. Beneficiaries included those in the holdover division called "Matapan", and the hard-working Royal Marine Band while they were rehearsing on the parade ground for their trip to Canada.

Emma, along with other charities, attended a "Mental Health Wellbeing" event at the Collingwood sports centre to talk about the support available from Aggie's and how to access it. She has delivered budgeting workshops to some of the Phase 2 trainees, educating them on financial products and budgeting techniques, and helping them to develop the skills and knowledge needed for long-term financial planning. The feedback from the activities has been very positive.

Fellowship lunch continues every Wednesday, providing personnel with a place to connect with their faith during the week. It's an opportunity to read and discuss a short passage from the Bible and provide an opportunity for prayer as required. This is a supportive small group open to anyone that feels it is suitable for them.

Pete has restarted opening the Coffee bar in the evenings for games nights. War Hammer is a popular event on a Thursday with a regular group attending. More activities are planned as the dark winter evenings close in.

The Aggie's team feel very privileged to work in Collingwood, walking alongside RN, RM and RFA personnel who need support, having pastoral conversations with those who need to be listened to, and signposting people to other charities as required.

## Defence School of Logistics and Administration Worthy Down

Aggie's Pastoral Worker Chloe Lefore has had a very busy term at DSLA Worthy Down, in addition to getting married. Whilst planning her wedding and Honeymoon Chloe ran separate monthly Pamper Nights for the male and female students, giving them the opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy some much-needed self-care. Chloe has developed strong relationships with many trainees, but particularly those from Commonwealth countries who make up a significant proportion of Logistics Branch courses. The new Church Café, introduced by Chloe and Pastor Stephen, continues to be very popular with the students; the group is a weekly opportunity for them to talk about their beliefs, read the Bible and pray together. The Church Café has introduced students to the Alpha course and this term 9 male students completed Alpha with Chloe, they all celebrated with a pizza graduation party.

DSLA Worthy Down was the venue for a collaboration between Aggie's, RNRMC, the Naval Families Federation (NFF) and other naval charities. The aim of the event was to highlight how the support available to all RN personnel is both applicable and available to Commonwealth members of the RN and their families. The event focused particularly on the Immigration Advice service provided by NFF and the pastoral support provided by Aggies at Worthy Down. During the event Chloe spoke about the challenges Foreign and Commonwealth personnel face when serving in the Royal Navy, from getting up in the middle of the night to be able to call their family in different time zones, to sending money back to their homes to support their families. Chloe gave re-assurance that she was available to listen, chat, encourage, and support any serving people on site, or their families, when they needed it.



## Sultan

Following the retirement of Steve Howlett before summer leave, Iain Whitehead has now joined the Sultan team, working alongside Becky Baird.

Iain got stuck in straight away with Aggie's butties, joining Becky in welcoming, cooking for and talking with over 300 hungry sailors. The team now have regular 'speaking' guests at Aggie's Butties events; organisations such as Andy's Man Club and the NFF have been along to chat to the sailors about how they can help them and their families throughout their time in the RN. The list of organisations coming along to share their information, have conversations and make contacts is growing and will ensure that Becky and Iain are providing a high level of signposting support.

The team continue to deliver an exciting timetable of events, both inside and outside the wire. As well as the famous Aggie's Butties, the team have been out and about across the Training School with pop-up chaplaincy activities during stand easy. For families outside the wire Becky and Iain have been joined by Elaine at the local community centre to deliver a weekly After School Club and on the first Thursday of the month the families can enjoy a Storybook Waves book club. For the older children the team are part of the Tri-service Youth Club that takes place at the Gosport Community Hub every 3 weeks. Becky holds regular Storybook Waves recording sessions which are proving popular with personnel geographically separated from their children. These sessions have led to many fruitful pastoral conversations.

# Christmas Cards that assist our ministry

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards produced by Gospel Cards, etc.

5% of their Christmas card sales will be given to 16 Christian missions including Aggie's.

To date, we and other societies have received a total of nearly £400,000 in this way.

The cards are produced to a very high standard and are perfect for sending to Christian and non-Christian family and friends.

Full details are on their website [www.GospelCardsEtc.com](http://www.GospelCardsEtc.com)

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## Words of Wisdom Sarah Taylor



**“From now on, we will speak the language of your future!”**

These words – from the film ‘Woman in Gold’ – were spoken by the father of a young Jewish woman who is planning to escape Austria at the start of the Second World War. Though German is their mother tongue, the conversation continues in English: the language of her future.

These words might inspire us today. As we share life together, how might it look (or sound) if we were to start speaking the language of the future? Instead of reciting one of the meaningless ‘truisms’ which seem to be part of everyday chat, maybe we can learn a new, life-giving language. Oddly enough, I’ve turned to some ancient wisdom for guidance.

Some examples:

- ‘It is what it is!’ could become ‘This situation looks tough, but I believe that God can make a way through if we ask!’ (Lamentations 3:21-24 - The language of the future is hope-filled, never fatalistic).
- ‘Make your own luck!’ could be ‘How can we help you succeed here?’ (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - The language of the future is collaborative, never independent).
- ‘Thoughts and prayers!’ (Ouch – we’ve all done it!) becomes ‘How would you like me to pray for you/with you?’ or write a prayer to share. (Ephesians 3:14-21 – The language of the future brings the Kingdom ever closer).

**No doubt there are plenty more hope-filled alternatives we can find to share. Let’s seek to become fluent in speaking the language of the future!**

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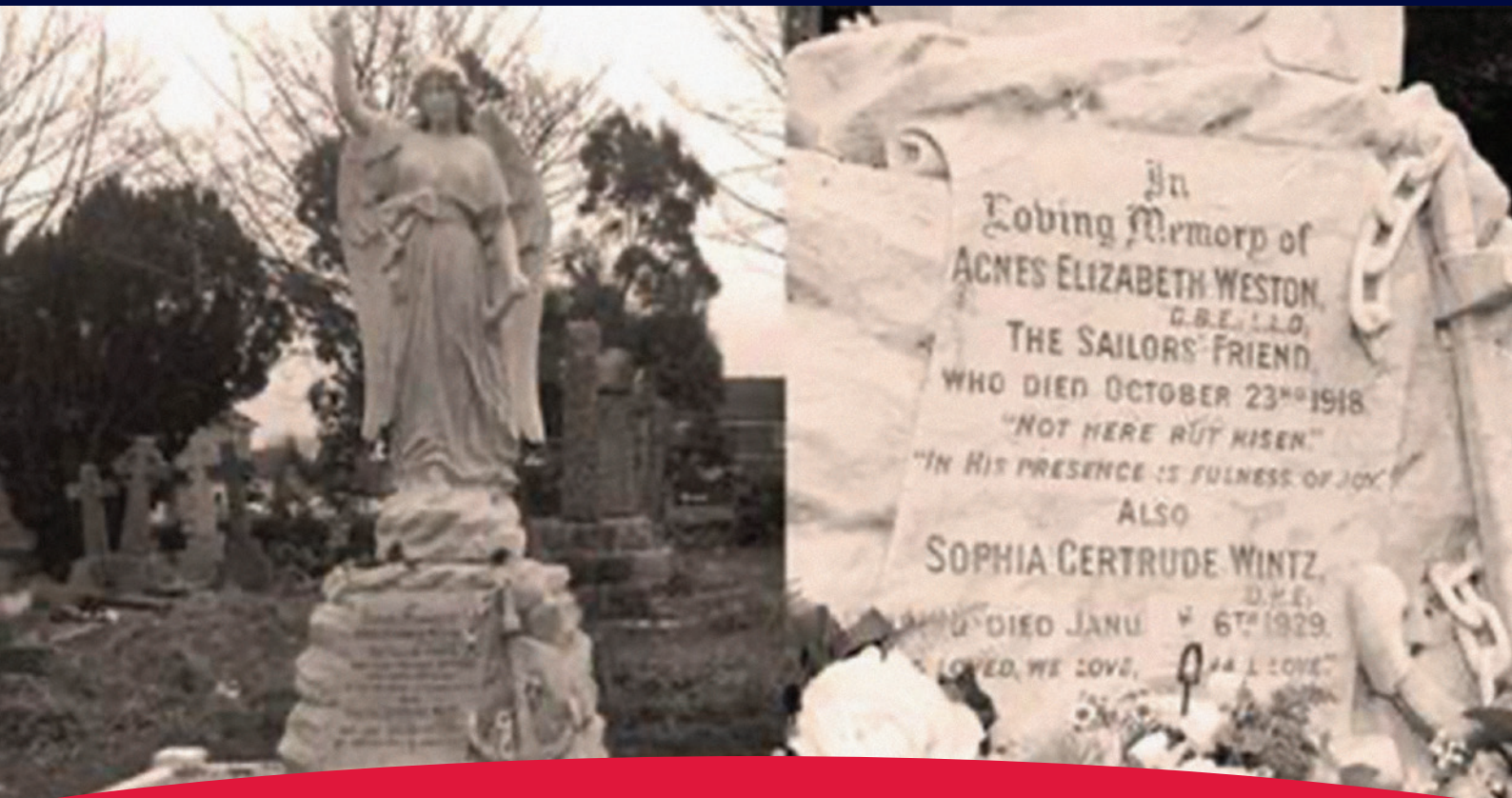
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Aggie's continues to be blessed by the continued financial support of the organisations that provide our grants and the generosity of our donors and supporters who have faithfully given us both money and prayer in support of our work

**Thank you!**



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 the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families by providing help and pastoral support without judgement or prejudice.



*"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](http://aggies.org.uk) or contact our central office on 079 7764 1876.