

'No matter how many people you rescue, you always remember the one you couldn't reach'

Antony Binns - Volunteer Helm, Withernsea Lifeboat Station

Dear friend,

Christmas is a time to get together with family and friends. And to reflect on the year gone by.

I'm an RNLI lifeboat volunteer, on call to rescue anyone who gets into danger at sea or by the water. And at this time of year I often think of the people I've helped rescue. I'm so happy to know that they're able to spend Christmas with their families, thanks to my lifesaving crew and the kind people like you who support us.

But the truth is that sometimes, despite our very best efforts, people do still drown. The vast majority of our call outs end happily, with warm blankets, hugs and smiles. But on rare occasions the sea gets the better of people. It's those that tend to stick in your head, and in your heart.

We're determined to save as many people as we possibly can. To do that, we need to invest in ongoing training and lifesaving equipment. Can you help?

### **WILL YOU GIVE £30 AND HELP US SAVE EVERY ONE** WHO NEEDS US?

On a hot summer's day, my crew saved a woman and her little girl, who were being swept out to sea on a lilo. The woman was pregnant. And they were half a mile out to sea when we got to them – a very scary situation, as I'm sure you can imagine. We got them onto the lifeboat and back to shore. The little girl held on tight to my finger and wouldn't let go - until she saw her dad a little way up the beach and felt safe again.

As we were getting ready to go home, we were called on to give first aid to another person on the beach. It felt good to help three people in one day - four if you include the unborn baby.

It's always brilliant to bring people home safe, especially when children are involved. And it was even more special that day. Because our previous call out, just 2 weeks before, had a very different outcome.

I'd known Pete, a local fisherman, for years. He was always laughing and joking, and had a young family. When I heard he was missing after going overboard, we launched straight away. Knowing what a good swimmer Pete was, I thought we'd find him quickly, but there was no sign. Neighbouring lifeboat crews, local fishing boats and the Coastguard searched too – a community coming together for Pete.

We searched for 5 hours. When we spotted a lifering, I honestly thought we'd found him. I thought he'd pop up and say: 'Where've you been?' But he just wasn't there.

As night fell, we knew we were running out of time. When the search was called off, I walked up the slipway and the first person I met was Pete's dad. I didn't know what to say. When someone's lost out there, on their own, you just want to get them back to their families. Further searches in the following days were also fruitless. Pete was gone.

## **WE'LL NEVER FORGET PETE. AND, WITH YOU BY OUR** SIDE, WE WILL NEVER STOP TRYING TO SAVE THE NEXT PERSON, AND THE ONE AFTER THAT ...

Pete wasn't wearing a lifejacket when he went overboard. Now his dad is campaigning for all fishermen to wear lifejackets. He says he doesn't want any other parent to go through what he has.

So many lives could be saved by stopping people getting into danger in the first place. Safety campaigns like this are just one way your donation could make a huge difference.

### RNLI VOLUNTEERS HELPED 10,734 PEOPLE LAST YEAR. THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING. AND, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, I BELIEVE WE CAN DO EVEN BETTER

Even one life lost to drowning is one too many. All my friends on the crew here at Withernsea give our time and face rough seas not just to save most people. We're in it to save every one. From training to water safety education, we know that there are things we can do to give brave and skilled crews like mine the very best chance of saving a life, every single time.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ

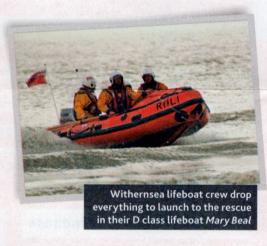
Tel: 0300 300 0104 (quoting 'Christmas Kindness') info@rnli.org.uk

Patron: His Majesty The King President: HRH The Duke of Kent KG Chair: Janet Legrand OBE KC (Hon) Chief Executive: Peter Sparkes

RNLI.org/ChristmasKindness

November 2024

Lifeboat volunteers near you are on call to save lives this Christmas





Pete's family miss him every day. Now, his dad is campaigning for fishermen to wear lifejackets



Every life is precious. And when the call for help comes in, we're determined to save every one.

> Turn over to see how your Christmas gift can help us to save every one

### WE ARE DRIVEN TO BRING PEOPLE HOME SAFE. WILL YOU HELP WITH A LIFESAVING GIFT TODAY?

Every penny you can give this Christmas gets us closer to saving every one. Your kind donation will make a real difference to someone in danger at sea, and to the volunteers like me who are determined to save them.

Whenever the call for help comes in, we will answer. When a storm is rolling in, when we're tucked up in bed, or just popping the turkey in the oven. When the pager sounds, I know someone needs me. I'll do whatever I can to make sure that – this time – it'll be a positive result. This time, we'll bring someone home safe. This time, we'll reunite a family. Nothing feels better, at Christmas and all year round.

If you've already given to the RNLI this Christmas, thank you. We will raise a glass to all our generous donors, who have powered lifeboat volunteers to the rescue for 200 years.

We will also raise a glass to absent friends, like Pete. And to the year ahead, when once again people will go to sea for work, or to the coast for peace and pleasure. Once again, we'll do everything we can to save every one who needs us.

Thank you, and I hope you and yours have a happy and safe Christmas.

**Antony Binns** 

Volunteer Helm, Withernsea Lifeboat Station

**PS:** As a charity independent from government, the RNLI relies on donations from people like you to save lives at sea. I see this first hand every day. There are so many ways your kindness can help save a life this Christmas.

# Your kind gift this Christmas could help:



£10 could help us give safety advice so more people can stay safe.



£30 could go towards training a new crew member to deal with emergencies at sea.



£50 could help fund kit such as protective helmets or first aid equipment.

mages: RNLI/(Harrison Bates, Nick Mailer, Steve Medcalf, Nigel Millard, Will Richardson, Nathan Williams)

# Will you donate this Christmas and continue to be part of our lifesaving mission?

Three easy ways to donate:

🖵 donline:

RNLI.org/ChristmasKindness

OR SCAN THIS OR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET



By phone:

0300 300 0104

CHRISTMAS KINDNESS'

✓ By freepost:

Complete and return the donation form

CHRISTMAS APPEAL to save every one

Your donation will save lives in so many ways. In 2023, for every £1 spent on charitable activities, 56p was on lifeboats, property and equipment; 27p on running the lifeboat service; 12p on lifeguard rescue; 3p on water safety, education and awareness; and 2p on international drowning prevention.

YES!	want to c	lonate an	d help t	today's vo	lunteers
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I WANT TO GIVE: £10 □ | £30 □ | £50 □ | £100 □



Thank you for your kind donation today

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# PLEASE FILL IN YOUR DETAILS (IN CAPITALS)

OR MY CHOICE OF: £

\_\_\_ First name (in full) Address Surname

\_\_\_\_\_ Email . Postcode \_\_ Mobile phone number \_

# **GIVE MORE FOR FREE WITH GIFT AID**

Gift Aid boosts your donation by 25% – helping to save more lives

To Gift Aid your donations, you must tick the Yes box to confirm all the details below apply to you:

YES I want to Gift Aid all donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to the RNLI until I notify you otherwise.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

NO I am unable to Gift Aid this donation.

# 3 PAYMENT METHOD

I enclose a cheque/postal order/charity voucher made payable to: 'RNLI'

OR Please debit the sum above from my debit/credit card/CAF:

CARD NUMBER

# **GIFTS IN WILLS**

- I would like to find out more about leaving a gift in my Will to the RNLI.
- I intend to leave a gift to the RNLI when I write or update my Will.
- I have already included a gift in my Will to the RNLI.

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# 5 LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!

**EXPIRY DATE** 

Your support saves lives. Please fill in your contact details above so we can keep in touch with you by post and phone, sharing our news, activities and appeals. Would you like to receive our emails

and text messages too?

Yes, I'm happy to hear from you by email

Yes, I'm happy to hear from you by text

Even if you have received our communications in the past, we'll make sure we honour the preferences you express here. If you would rather not hear from us, or would like to change how we contact you, please get in touch. Just visit RNLI.org/preferences or call 0300 300 9918.



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