

DISPATCHES FROM ABERDEEN



Iain Sanders
Port Chaplain, Aberdeen

Introducing SCFS Aberdeen

Hello,
My name is Iain Sanders and, DV, I will shortly be the new Port Chaplain in Aberdeen with Seafarers' Christian Friend Society. We are a friend to the seafarers on board ships and onshore. Our work has three strands: welfare, pastoral and evangelistic.

This is a great responsibility that the Lord has laid at my feet but the verse in Revelation "I have set before you an open door that no man can shut", comes to mind.

I was born to missionary parents in Bolivia, South America, and was saved at a children's camp on the Island of Anglesey, off the coast of Wales. I have been married to Rosie for nearly fifteen years. I graduated from the Irish Baptist College in 2022 and have almost completed a Master's degree in theology.

Sunday 21st April

Order of service for commissioning Iain Sanders to the work of



Mountpottinger Baptist Church

Snapshots from the commissioning service



The task ahead is great:

- To commence a work in Aberdeen Port, north & south, and build a work aboard the cruise ships that come to Aberdeen.
- To build relations with the seafarers aboard the supply and service vessels and with shipping agents.
- To establish working relationships with the harbour authorities, ITF Maritime inspector and the local RNLI station.
- Mid to long aim of establishing teams of volunteers in the smaller ports up and down the coast and build co-existent team working with likeminded organisations.
- To establish relationships with churches and build a network of deputation supporters.



How can you help me?

As we step out on this new venture, we are very aware that we need the prayers of praying people and churches behind us.

Here are a number of practical needs which we would value prayer for:

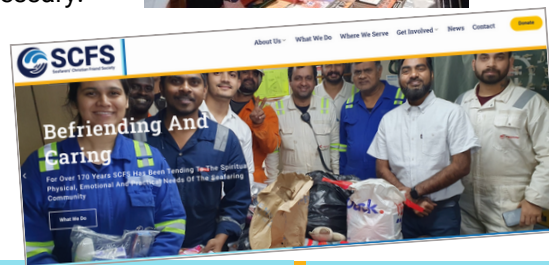
- Financially this is a step of faith. SCFS will fully financially support me for twelve months. During this time I must begin to raise my own support as the SCFS contribution will thereafter reduce year on year. Please pray that Rosie and I would both look to the Lord to supply all our needs and not panic when things go pear shaped. (Hebrews 12:1-2) If you feel led, please pray about it and contact me.
- For all the practicalities involved in purchasing a house and in relocating to a new country.
- For integrating into the local community in which Rosie and I settle.
- Finding a church that Rosie and I can call home.
- For Rosie's sister, Heather. We were her next of kin, and responsibility has been transferred to a brother and his wife.
- Safety in the work. A port is a dangerous area and also for safety in travel.
- That the work will not just be a social concern but will promote the Gospel at all opportunities.
- Finally, keeping up with the administration.



How can you help SCFS Aberdeen?

- Can you introduce me to other churches and fellowships and pastors? This would be fabulous!
- Would you consider inviting me to speak about the work? To share at ladies' groups, fellowship groups, men's groups, youth work and pulpit supply when necessary.

Recently on an oil tanker I was encouraged when I asked to share a Bible reading and the seafarer said, "We always have time for the Word of God".



- At SCFS, we are thankful for the groups who provide practically for the seafarers with toiletries, socks, knitted goods etc. Can you help by supplying gift packs, especially for the ship visitations at Christmas? (We have a contents list.)
- Are there any knitting or crochet groups out there? We distribute woolly hats and scarves and knitted toys to the seafarers on a regular basis. Please contact me if you could help in this way.
- Have you considered volunteering? We always need volunteers and full training and PPE will be supplied. You will firstly be required to undertake the SCFS volunteer application process and then obtain a Merchant Navy Welfare Board visitor pass. Visit: www.mnwfb.org and click on Port Visitor and you will be directed to a series of videos. The multiple choice at the end needs to be completed and you will need an established ship visitor to sponsor you.

Finding Out More About SCFS

You can find out all about SCFS, catch the latest news articles and read seafarer stories on the SCFS website: scfs.org. For additional resources type "linktr.ee/scfs.org" into your browser.

The **SCFS Helmsman** magazine is produced 2-3 times a year and provides updates on the wider work. It is available for free to all our supporters.

- To receive *Helmsman* by email (preferred, to save on postage), sign up to our mailing list on Linktree.
- To receive *Helmsman* by post, contact HQ (details below).
- To receive the *Dispatches from Aberdeen*, contact me (details below).

Blessings,
Iain and Rosie



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Under the Data Protection Act we must update our mailing and email list. If for any reason you no longer wish to receive Dispatches From Aberdeen, please contact us in writing requesting that your details are updated.

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