

### JOHN ASHLEY

In 1835 the Rev. Dr. John Ashley was looking out at the becalmed sailing vessels in the Bristol Channel and was asked by his small son how the men on board could get to Church. This question led him to resign an important benefice and to devote the remainder of his working life to a ministry to seafarers. His pioneer efforts led to the co-ordination of other similar localised efforts and to the founding in 1856 of The Missions to Seamen.

### M.V. "JOHN ASHLEY"

For the last seven years a small Admiralty fishing vessel on loan to The Missions to Seamen and converted into a floating Church and club has been ministering to the men of colliers and coasters in the Thames and Medway. She has logged some 6,500 miles each year and welcomed over 17,000 men aboard annually, being to them a cinema, a television room, a shop, a library, a haven and refuge from the dirt and monotony of the ships and in time of need an ambulance, an errand boy, a hospital. Last year it became clear that this vessel, never intended for her present work, was too small and too old and the new "John Ashley" was ordered.

### THE COST

The new vessel will cost £31,000. £22,500 of this sum has already been subscribed by various companies and private friends of The Missions to Seamen, including a donation of £9,000 from the Calouste-Gulbenkian Foundation. The raising of the remaining £8,500 is a matter of urgent concern but is being facilitated by the most generous offer of an anonymous donor to match pound for pound any donations received by the Society towards this outstanding sum.

Patron  
Her Majesty The Queen



President  
H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,  
K.G., K.T.

## THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

ST. ANDREWS WATERSIDE CHURCH MISSION FOR SAILORS & THE THAMES CHURCH  
MISSION

4, BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDENS, LONDON, S.W.1. TELEPHONE SLOANE 6223/4

*Vice-Patrons* . . . The Archbishops      *Hon. Treas.* The Lord Huntingfield, K.C.M.G.

*General Superintendent* The Rev. Cyril Brown, O.B.E., M.A.      *Secretary* Commander H. Selby Ash, R.N.  
(*Chaplain to The Queen*)

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# PRESS RELEASE

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M.V. "JOHN ASHLEY"  
Ceremony Of Acceptance And Dedication  
Westminster Pier 11th December, 1958 at 11.0 a.m.

### PRESS ARRANGEMENTS.

1. 2.15 p.m. Tuesday, 9th December, 1958. Representatives of the Press (reporters and photographers) may inspect the vessel and those who wish will be taken at 2.45 p.m. for a short journey down river, returning for disembarkation at Westminster Pier 3.15 p.m.

EMBARGO ON INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS OBTAINED ON THIS OCCASION TILL  
NOON 11TH DECEMBER

2. 11.0 a.m. Thursday, 11th December, 1958. A certain number of passes to Westminster Pier can be issued from the Press Office, The Missions to Seamen, 4 Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W.1. The "John Ashley" will lie alongside this Pier for the Ceremony of Acceptance by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh and Dedication by the Rt. Hon. and Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London, and the majority of the guests will in fact be on the Pier and not on the vessel.

P.T.O.

3. "Royal Rota" Party. Passes issued by Buckingham Palace through the usual channels to enable the specially accredited reporters and photographers to be on board "John Ashley" during the ceremony and to accompany the Duke of Edinburgh on a trip in the vessel to Tunnel Pier, Wapping immediately after the ceremony, departing Westminster 11.45 a.m.

His Royal Highness will arrive at Westminster Pier at 11.20 a.m. and will disembark at Tunnel Pier, Wapping at approximately 12.25 p.m.