

# REVELATIONS

The newsletter of the  
Morning Star Trust



## Editorial

Welcome to the latest issue of Revelations. I have to apologise for the late arrival of this issue, something to do with writing an MSc dissertation and job hunting (both very time-consuming!).

This issue mainly comprises news from the past few months in which a lot has happened with the Trust.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this issue. If you have any stories from trips, pictures, thoughts or anything else that you think would be of interest to the Revelations readership, please will you send them in to the office (address below) for inclusion in future issues of Revelations.

Finally I would like to wish you a belated happy 2004.

## News

The last few months have been full of new developments and key events for the Trust. The 2003 sailing season reached a close, but this did not mean a slow down in activities, in fact the opposite was true. The new season is just around the corner, which means that the winter refit has to be completed and bookings attracted. However, there is a definite sense of excitement about in the Trust as new opportunities open up for us and nowhere was this more apparent than at the November annual conference.

## December 2003

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### New administrator

One of the big developments was the appointment of Lynda Key as our new full-time administrator in November. This has been very important for the office as it has enabled Nick to focus fully on business development and fundraising. For the last six months Nick has had to give his entire attention to trust administration and day to day running of the operation.



Lynda has joined the Trust and moved to the Medway area having spent the last three years living in Leamington Spa, where she was working for CORD (a Christian overseas relief and development organisation). Her work with CORD involved working both overseas and in the UK in a variety of administrative, financial, logistics and personnel roles.

### Fundraising

Despite being tied up with the day to day running of things, Nick has been very busy over the past months at fundraising. Twelve months on from the ambitious plans that were revealed at the 2002 Conference, grants totalling £82,500 have been received enabling every target to be reached. Far from being awash with cash, the funds have now been spent on the foundations for the future.

### Winter refit

All things considered, this year's refit looked like it was going to be an easy one which would allow Tim to spend lots of time conducting a handover of Morning Star to Steve. However, in reality it's rarely that straight forward. As the season drew to a close it became clear that Morning Star's main engine and generator were going to require reconditioning. Following the advice, the Management Committee decided that it

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**Dayspring**  
*the Trust's new boat*

The Trust is now the proud owner of a Sigma 362 Bermudan Sloop. Following months of searching and numerous boat visits from friends and members of the Trust we finally homed in on a boat that was lying in Ipswich, going by the interesting name of 'Skampertrix'. She was up for sale at £53,950 and looked to be out of reach. The Management Committee had decided to set a maximum bid price for the new boat at £47,000 in order to keep a few thousand in reserve for maintenance and commercial coding adaptations. So, when the negotiation started we prayed that if the boat was to be ours the price would be flexible. Amazingly, after much grumbling, the seller agreed and parted with her for exactly £47,000. Isn't God good!!

A change of name was deemed necessary, and 'Skampertrix' is

now 'Dayspring'. She will sleep up to seven people and she will be ideal for introducing novices to the thrill and excitement of cruising and even racing.

Dayspring will not only be great for first time sailors but will also provide a platform for running Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Day Skipper and Coastal Skipper courses and other training and the gaining of experience for Sailing Leadership Team members.

This vessel also presents a great opportunity for smaller community based groups who previously struggled to find the numbers required to sail aboard our larger vessel. Dayspring will hold a DTp Small Commercial Vessel Certificate and will be one of the best equipped small training yachts in the region, presenting a brilliant opportunity to sail a modern yacht at affordable prices.

**News continued from Page 1...**

would be wise to go for a complete replacement. The current unit has served us well but has run up more than enough hours to warrant the change. This, of course, has turned a more minor refit into a major one.

Dayspring, will also require some work, as she is to be commercially coded for the first time and therefore will require some modifications in order to comply with the Small Commercial Vessels Code standards.

**Some thoughts from Nick**

*An interview with Nick by Catherine Bertrand*

**How do you feel about the coming year at the Trust?**

I am very excited about the coming year. Now that we have received the financial support we needed we can go ahead with the work it was intended for. The first stage was to raise the money and then to establish a core staff team to take over from Tim. Now we have to publicise our intentions using the new brochure, web site and generally trying doors. Next year will be the acid test as we will have to increase business to sustain the changes. I see the winter as a real opportunity to gear up in time for March 2004 but the pressure will really be on

**What has been the most challenging part of the job so far?**

There is no doubt, it has been a really challenging year since I started in September 2003. To be honest, if I had known just how hard it was going to be I probably would have shied away from the task. But that year is behind now and that particular mountain has been climbed. Its time to look forward and give thanks to the Lord for his sustaining power and rich provision.

Specification	
Type:	Sigma 362
Length O/A:	10.97m (36 ft)
Beam:	3.35m (11.5 ft)
Draft:	1.83m (6 ft)
Hull:	GRP
Rig:	Bermudan Masthead Sloop
Crew:	7
Engine:	Volvo 3 cylinder Diesel 28 hp



**What aspects of the work have you most enjoyed?**

The most enjoyable aspect of any task is seeing the fruits of your work and getting results. I am thrilled how God is blessing the work of the Trust, it is clear he wants the work to continue and that's exciting.

**How do you feel your faith has helped you through the past year?**

If we don't go through hard times in life we don't grow, God continues to mould and shape us through our experiences as well as pruning us. Usually, when I reflect on a season I can see what God was doing, even if I hated it at the time. Basically, he's never let me down. This cumulative faithfulness waters my faith and make it grow as I trust him with more and more of me.

**Tall Ships 2003***Some thoughts from Steve Thompson after Tall Ships:*

Tall Ships was an entirely new venture for me having never done a trip longer than crossing the channel before so both in terms of time spent on board with a group, three weeks rather than one week max and length of passage up to seven days as opposed to probably 48 hours max in the past I was entering new sailing territory.

In terms of what I was concerned about it was organising the crew in port, navigating in the Finnish Archipelago, (have a look at all those islands in the atlas!) and sailing the boat effectively in racing conditions.

A lot of the pressure on my introduction to Tall Ships Race sailing was removed by sailing the first race under the experienced leadership of Mike Mac introducing me to the joys of Captain's receptions

and paperwork in port, sorting out Starting and Finish lines and reporting in schedules during races as well as efficient methods of sailing Morning Star in race conditions.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience even though Tall Ships official port visits are not my favourite way of spending time. However, the downside was more than made up for by the spectacle of being part of such a gathering of craft and Morning Star certainly looks the part among such a fleet. The racing was excellent and it was great to come back from Tall Ships 2003 with a 2nd and 3rd in class to add to Steve Morgan's winning start in the Small Ships race.

I definitely see taking part in the Tall Ships races as the icing on the cake of my job here at the Morning Star Trust. Spiritually it was a time of challenge. Challenge to live out my Christian faith in the close quarters that is Morning Star's living accommodation while getting to know the group in a unique and special way. Perhaps we could have got further or deeper together in discussing spiritual matters but

only time will tell where people's lives are going and it was great to find several faces from previous trips in the Tall Ships crews.

**Party Time!**

*(Winter work parties that is...)*

If you could spare some time this winter to help out with the winter refit, it would be greatly appreciated. Work parties are currently planned for the following dates:

Saturday 17 January  
*(at Chatham Historic Dockyard)*

Saturday 31 January  
*(at Gillingham dry dock)*

Saturday 14 February  
*(Gillingham dry dock)*

Saturday 28 February  
*(at Chatham Historic Dockyard)*

Saturday 13 March  
*(at Chatham Historic Dockyard)*

Please contact Steve Thompson at the office (phone number on the front page) to confirm that a particular work party is taking place and to let him know that you are coming.



**2004 Sailing Opportunities**

Just to get you in the mood for sailing this summer, here are some details of this season's programme and the opportunities that are available for you to sail on Morning Star.

Date	Voyage name	£ Cost 15-25	£ Cost 26+
<b>Easter Period</b>			
April 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Cruise A	151	181
April 12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Cruise B	151	181
<b>South Coast Visit</b>			
May 7 <sup>th</sup> -May 9 <sup>th</sup>	South West Weekend	83	99
May 10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	South West Cruise	184	221
May 15 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fastnet Challenge	POA	POA
May 24 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Homeward Bound	218	262
<b>Main Summer Programme</b>			
June 26 <sup>th</sup> -July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dutch Cruise 1	252	302
July 3 <sup>rd</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Dutch Cruise 2	252	302
July 17 <sup>th</sup> -August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tall Ships A (16-25 only)	504	-
July 31 <sup>st</sup> -August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tall Ships B (16-25 only)	612	-
August 16 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Frisian Hop	504	604
<b>Late Season Programme</b>			
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	October Weekend	83	99
October 25 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Late Season Cruise	184	221

And of course, 'Dayspring' will also be available for use this season.

For more details, either contact the office or visit the Morning Star website at [www.morningstar.org.uk](http://www.morningstar.org.uk). If you have not received a 2004 brochure to date and would like one, please request one from the office.

Sounds good so far: take stock of what we are doing, if the balance seems too much in favour of busyness then cut down on our activities (may be not quite so easy). But to use the time to reach out to people be those our families, friends or work colleagues, now that is when it gets difficult. If I am honest, it is far more comfortable to just stay busy with church things and avoid opportunities to reach out to people.

I think that there is also another good reason to not be too busy. It is all too easy to be always doing things and as a result end up missing out on spending time with God. As we read in the account of Jesus' visit to the house of Mary and Martha, in Luke 10:38-42, sometimes it is more important to just be in the Lord's presence than to rush around being busy.

So the point of this thought: if you feel that you are too busy maybe now would be a good time to evaluate your busyness and see whether you could change things in order to spend more time with the Lord, family, friends or work colleagues.

**Thought for the Quarter**  
**Minding our own busyness**

At the risk of offering a slightly clichéd thought given the time of year, this thought involves taking a look at our lives and evaluating how we spend our time...

Recently I have been challenged on a few fronts as to how we as Christians can better reach out to meet the needs of those people around us. This got me thinking about how and with whom I spend my time. I am sure I am not alone when I sometimes have weeks when almost every

night is spent doing church 'things'. I do not want to belittle church activities, as they can be important. However, I think that it is sometimes necessary to evaluate what we spend our time doing. For example, how can we witness to non-Christian friends if we never have any time to spend with them because we are always doing church? I think that this is illustrated by an analogy from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel when Jesus talks about his followers being salt and light. Salt is no good if it always remains in the salt shaker, it has to be poured out onto the food in order to be useful

