

## Report on Marseille Seamen's Club celebrations - Friday November 21st 2014

*A.M.A.M. (Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins) celebrated the 20th anniversary of its creation together with the 300.000th sailor welcomed by the Seamen's Club last Friday November 21st on its premises next to the cruise terminal in the port of Marseille.*

*The Anglican Church in Marseille was involved in this event from its very beginning since I was invited to join the preparatory committee and over the prior 3 weeks we had three meetings during which I volunteered to create the invitation card. We discussed:*

- who was going to be invited and in which form (by simple email or with a traditional invitation card)*
- what the cocktail party would comprise and which professional caterer would provide the food and the drinks*
- how to identify the selected sailor and which presents we would give him.*



AMAM's director Marc Feuillebois, Martine Soria and founding member Alain Coudray

*The turn-out of invited people exceeded our expectations since more than 70 people came to the event. Amongst them, we were pleased to welcome the « commandant du port » i.e. the most senior person within the port authorities ; we were also honoured with the presence of the Rector of Notre Dame de la Garde, Père Jacques Bouchet and his deacon, Jean-Philippe Rigaud. I duly introduced myself to both. Many other influential and/or high ranking guests came. FR3 visited us the day before and a small documentary was shown at prime time during the same evening.*



*During the ceremony to give the selected sailor his gifts and official diploma, I was entrusted with the simultaneous translation from French into English. In his official speech, A.M.A.M.'s chairman, Gérard Pelen, was kind enough to mention that 2013 had been marked by the recruitment of a few dynamic volunteers from the Anglican Church. Our « Brief history of the Anglican Church » raised a lot of interest and I sold several copies. Apart from me, Helen Brooking was another member of All Saints to be present*  
*Gaston Roumieu*