

The times, they are a-changin': on board, on shore – and in the rulebooks

HOW good are we at adapting to change? In my own life I have had to adapt to change many times. I have lived in places with different cultures, which have been unlike anything that I was used to. Part of that was driving on different sides of the road – interesting but it was a change that was very important to make and to understand.

The biggest changes in my own life were when I got married, the birth of my son, two of the best things that have ever happened to me and two very positive changes. Change is important in life. Change helps us to grow and mature. I personally feel that if everything stayed the

same life would get boring.

Change affects all aspects of life and the shipping industry is no different. As many of you know there are big changes coming into effect through the Maritime Labour Convention, changes that some people in our industry are very excited about.

It is hoped these changes will improve life on board ships for all seafarers. Some groups in the shipping industry are more hesitant in accepting these changes, but we should not be afraid of change, especially when the change is, we hope, going to make life better.

As Christians in this modern world we are all

called by Jesus to be a part of a big strong family which carries a message of Good News to all corners of the world.

One of the most important things God teaches us is to love one another. Jesus took this message everywhere he went and he encouraged people to look after one another, to be fair to each other, to forgive one another and to stand up and support one another.

This message is for all of us whether we are a junior rating, a captain or even if we're shore-based. It is especially important during times of change when the rules may have changed or the landscape seems unfam-

iliar. It is in times like this that we can look for help and support from our family and the people close to us, with the reverse effect of this being that our neighbour may be looking for help and support from us.

One thing that does not change over time is what St. Paul mentioned in his letter to the Hebrews. He wrote that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

How wonderful are these words in times of change, of uncertainty, of the unknown, and how wonderful it is that we can be sure of one thing after all of this: that Jesus' love for us will never change.