

## Hymns for Today's Royal Navy

*(The material below may be used freely;  
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**SNIPPETS:**

**All things Bright and Beautiful (a maritime verse)**

**From heaven you came helpless babe**

**(no snigger version)**

**The Jack Dusties' hymn (chorus).**

# FRONT LINE

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# NAVAL CHAPLAINS

## **Onward Christian Sailors – version 1:**

Onward, Christian sailors! sailing as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ the royal Master leads his Navy on,  
forward into battle, till the fight is won.  
*Onward Christian sailors! sailing as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

Like a stealth ship, silently, sails the Church unseen;  
we're projecting power where the saints have been:  
Christ is not divided, all one fleet are we,  
one in hope and calling, one in charity.  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

Onward, Bootnecks, Matelots! March in faith, be strong!  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song:  
glory, praise, and honour, be to Christ the King,  
this through countless ages we with angels sing:  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

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## **Onward Christian Sailors – version 2:**

Onward, Christian sailors! sailing as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ the royal Master leads his Navy on,  
forward into battle, till the fight is won.  
*Onward Christian sailors! sailing as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the name of Jesus Satan's fleet will flee;  
on then, Christian sailors, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations tremble at the shout of praise;  
shipmates, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise!  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

Like a mighty navy moves the Church of God;  
humbly navigating where the saints have trod:  
Christ is not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and calling, one in charity.  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the Church of Jesus ever shall remain:  
death and hell and satan, never shall prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

Onward, then, you people, march in faith, be strong!  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song:  
glory, praise, and honour, be to Christ the King,  
this through countless ages we with angels sing.  
*Onward Christian sailors ...*

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## The MEs' hymn

*(Tune: "For all the saints")*

For all the engineers who work below  
Wielding their spanners, onwards make us go.  
Oil, dieso, sullage, they control the flow.  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

All hours of day, blind to the day or night,  
Watching they power us through the well-fought fight.  
Under the wise Chief Stoker's oversight:  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

And when the turbine's broken, DG shot:  
Into their ovies the stokers take their lot.  
Grease stained and weary: they'll want their showers hot  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

Port steering motors, starboard plumber blocks  
Gas turbine uptakes, important keys and locks,  
R-Os and intakes, endless dials and clocks:  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

Homeward bound, the dabbers take the cheers  
While deep below still turn the mighty gears  
Oiled and tended by our noble engineers.  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

When cast aside, one face among the horde;  
When challenged, frightened, overworked or bored:  
May still our efforts give praise to you O Lord  
Machinery breakdown, Machinery breakdown!

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## **Sailors who would valiant be (HMS Raleigh version)**

Sailors who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,  
let them in constancy follow the master.  
We're not afraid to fight! We'll scorn the devil's spite:  
For Christ gives us the right to be his pilgrims.

Who would take their courage in hand, and join the Navy?  
Who'd sail the seven seas, when they are wavy?  
We'll work hard at our kit, we'll not complain a bit  
We'll run and we'll get fit and keep up our chins.

Though our training seems designed to strain our spirit,  
We know we'll finish it soon, and we'll complete it.  
So we will double away! We'll do what our staff say,  
We'll labour night and day and won't quit on whims.

Some may be terrified by Satan's testing,  
But faith is verified when we're resisting.  
There's no discouragement shall cause us to relent  
Our firm declared intent to be his pilgrims.

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## **Lord of the Dance (less problematic version)**

I danced in the morning when the world was begun  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance then wherever you may be  
I am the Lord of the Dance said he  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be  
And I'll lead you all in the dance said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I healed the lame  
The priests and people said it was a shame  
They turned from the light and they hung me on high  
They nailed me onto a cross to die.  
Dance then .....

Locked in a tomb - but I leapt up high!  
Raised to life and never more to die  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me  
I am the Lord of the Dance said he.  
Dance then .....

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## **All things bright and beautiful (brutal reality version)**

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
he made their glowing colours,  
he made their tiny wings.  
All things bright, etc.

He even made the hornet,  
Red ant and snake and squid -  
Who made the spikey urchin?  
Who made the sharks? He did!  
All things bright, etc.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.  
All things bright, etc.

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## **SNIPPETS:**

### **All things Bright and Beautiful (a maritime verse)**

The power of the ocean,  
the sunset's glorious light,  
each morning filled with promise  
each calm and peaceful night:

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### **From heaven you came helpless babe (no snigger version)**

Normal words but change first line to:

“From heaven you came, helpless child”

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### **The Jack Dusties' hymn (chorus).**

All things Pusser gives to us  
to ships both great and small  
all things strange and obvious  
an NSN for all.

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