

# Captain Charles Anthony Brindle

## MRIN AMImarE

Cachalot Tony Brindle has died, at St.Mary's Hospital, Newport, IOW, on 4th May, aged 94. He was a former Royal Navy engineer who began engineering training with the RN in 1943, and subsequently had an expansive career in the maritime business world..

In 1965, as Managing Director of British Rail Hovercraft Ltd, he established the world's first passenger carrying hovercraft services between Southsea and Ryde and Southampton and Cowes and was also responsible for the introduction of the larger cross-channel hovercraft in 1968.

He can be credited with insisting on having master mariners pilot the craft against the interests of the aviation world and used the smaller cross Solent craft to train up the handlers of the large hovercraft.

He was Technical Advisor to the Minister for Technology in 1969 and Maritime Advisor to United Nations in 1970 and was also involved in the drafting of several publications including the Economics of Coastal & Inland Water Shipping (1974) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea Training Manual (1986).

He was later co-director of a safety and training company, 'Aim Safety', with one of his sons, Ian, who is also a Cachalot.

Captain Brindle was a Papal Knight and a longstanding parish council member of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church in Cowes, where his funeral service was held on the 18th June.

He also held office in various faith-based organisations including Chairman/Joint Founder of the Catenian Association Vocations Initiative and was Founder/Co-ordinator of an early Planned Giving scheme in Shrewsbury Diocese.

Tony was also a former Chair of Trustees and long time supporter of Stella Maris.

Stella Maris CEO Martin Foley said, "Captain Brindle, as well as serving as a ship visitor, was our Chair of Trustees during the reorganisation of the then Apostleship of the Sea from a series of diocesan entities into one national charity. He was pivotal to the foundation of Stella Maris as we know it today.

