

The Lifeboat Prayer

© Jon Heslop/Red Herring Music February 1999 Harmony arrangement © Sarah Morgan

Those who venture on the sea,
To ply their trade upon the deep
They sail within fate's countenance,
And pray their gentle souls to keep.

Chorus

*And should I be beset by gale, let me not drink the bitterest cup
Yet if the wind and wave prevail, let not the deep swallow me up,
Let not the deep swallow me up.*

When the call for rescue comes
From those in peril on this day,
No matter how the storms may roll
We cannot turn our heads away.

We must go where we are called
Through wind and rain, through wave and foam,
'Tis not for glory nor for gold
We bring poor sailors safely home.

We are but leaves upon the wind,
We are but men in love with life
We are afeard like any men
To venture gainst the ocean's strife.

The words in the last line of the chorus are those engraved on the RNLi medal for gallantry.
The song was written in commemoration of the Port Isaac Lifeboat disaster in 1998