

MELANESIA NEWS



**CAST YOUR CARES ON
THE LORD, AND HE WILL
SUSTAIN YOU** - PSALM 55:22

CARING FOR GOD'S WORLD & PEOPLE



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Voices from Melanesia

Legacy of Patteson

WHO CARES?



Perhaps one of the hardest challenges faced in the last year of this pandemic has been when we have received news of a family member being sick or in trouble. The immediate urge is to go and be with them, to be present, hold them, hug them to bring comfort and give practical help. For many, however, that has not been possible. Indeed, some have not physically seen or touched close members of their family or friends for over a year. We've had to find other ways to express our love, our friendship, our sympathy and help. Facetime, WhatsApp, Zoom and Teams have become familiar vocabulary and ways for us to stay connected during this pandemic. Even writing cards and letters has come back into vogue!

With a 10,000-mile distance between us and no visits possible either way, this has become our experience with our church family in Melanesia, too. We are finding ways - despite this virus' ability to disrupt

family life, activity and communion - to keep in contact and to strengthen relationships.



Last September, MMUK's AGM had to go online. Initially, there was sadness to not be gathering in-person, as one of the highlights is the opportunity to catch up with friends over lunch or coffee. However, being forced online meant many more people were able to be present. Thanks to Ian Drew's hard work and technical ability, together with Katie's planning, we were able

to welcome over 70 attendees including participants from Solomon Islands, Australia and Fiji.

From this experience, we are learning and adapting. Katie subsequently launched 'Coffee Mornings and Cocoa Nights' to enable communication and interaction across the globe. With guest speakers from Melanesia and the UK, these planned events are keeping supporters informed about issues, helping us to glean more detail about the specific challenges being faced and giving opportunity to reflect on how best to respond. Electronic, two-dimensional communication via a screen is not wonderful... but it is something! In larger groups, Zoom lends itself best to didactic communication and information sharing. With smaller groups, however, we are finding that conversation, dialogue and prayer are possible. Trust and care grows.

In some ways, we may now be communicating more with our family in Melanesia during this pandemic than before. It has underlined for us who we are and what we are about as MMUK. We are not a Relief Agency - merely promoting and collecting funds in response to disasters



and requested projects. No, we are first and foremost a Mission Agency - companions in God's Mission with the Church of Melanesia, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Our most important action seems to be in communicating with one another- by whatever means; listening to one another, learning from one another, helping each other when and where we can.

Yes, of course, like good friends and close families we want to help out where possible - show our love and give practical care. But this is mutual support and not a one-way passage.

At Exeter Cathedral in September, we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson, and once again will be reminded how we are bound together in the Gospel. As Patteson, a vicar from Devon, helped take the Good News to Melanesia in 19th century, so in 2005, twenty-five members of the religious orders of Melanesia brought the Gospel back to Britain from the Solomon Islands, with stunning performances of a Passion Play and school assemblies seen by thousands.

We are children of One who, in Jesus, has shown himself to be love incarnate: love in the flesh - seen, touched and experienced. Love in the flesh is to be our badge and will mark our care for each other. It is the sign not only of who we are but also of who our God is. May that be evident in our 'one big caring family.'

+Mark Rylands, Chair of MMUK

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATORIES

Freda Fataka reports on the success of Anglican Church of Melanesia's (ACoM) Environment Observatories -

Representatives of ACoM, the Solomon Islands National University, government officials and "Green Apostles" from the ACoM Environment Observatory test sites, have celebrated the first anniversary of the ACoM Environment Observatories in Solomon Islands.

Honourable guests included His Excellency Dr Brian Jones, British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, Mr Hudson Kauhiona, Director of the Climate Change Office at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) in Honiara, Mr Barnabas Tahoo, Director of the Meteorology Department at MECDM, and Dr Michael Ha'apio, Director of the Solomon Islands National University.

The festivities provided an ideal forum to reflect upon the origins and implementation of the observatory project. Voices from the test sites at Fanalei, Walande, Selwyn College and Red Beach were heard. The "Green Apostles", who conduct and document measurements of temperature, rainfall, water levels and shoreline positions for the observatories, shared their thoughts on past experiences, challenges and future opportunities.

Population growth and sea level rise resulting in a lack of land for gardening were concerns highlighted by the representatives from the test sites in South Malaita. Both communities currently face challenges of relocation and are in need of support to obtain land for settlement and gardening. Representatives of Sikaiana community at Red Beach reiterated the concerns about sea level rise and mentioned the additional challenge of changing weather patterns, which impact



From left - Red beach Sikaiana rep, Dr. Jones, Dr. Mataka and Rev. Kelaepa cutting the anniversary cake

crop harvests across the country.

Speeches by government officials and the observatory project staff confirmed that for Melanesians, climate change is not a challenge of the future, but one that is already being lived in the here and now.

The observatory project aims to address the climate emergency by taking a two-



Group photo of the guests, representatives from the four test sites and staff from ACOM head office

way approach, combining knowledge transfer and local awareness raising, with the creation of scientific evidence of climate change and political engagement. Clergy and community members in Solomon Islands are equipped with the necessary skills to create trusted, scientific evidence of environmental change, which will be shared with policy makers and other stakeholders. At the same time, the observatories positively affect local adaptation in Anglican communities as knowledge about climate change and strategies for sustainable and environment-friendly livelihoods are shared amongst the community members.

The reflections by the “Green Apostles” during the festivities for the project’s first anniversary confirmed that the concept is working. The community representatives expressed their great appreciation for the project and highlighted that the engagement with the observatories has

sparked discussions about possibilities for community-led adaptation at the test sites. For the future, the “Green Apostles” expressed their interest for greater engagement with policy makers to bring about positive change in their communities, especially with respect to relocation.

ACoM is seeking funding to expand this project with further sites across the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, empowering local people to understand and record changes in their local environment. Set-up costs for each site are £200. If you would like to support this programme, contact MMUK.

For more information on this project visit www.mmuk.net/careofcreation

VOICES FROM MELANESIA



Pamela in the yellow dress with her MU Team

Pamela Abana, Provincial President for the Mothers' Union Melanesia, describes the challenges she has faced in life, the important role the Mothers' Union has played, and how her faith in God has never wavered.

Survivors of abuse, my parents were inspiring in their faith.

They were both orphans, and in their youth, just after World War II, they were enrolled in Anglican mission training schools. My mother became a midwife and my father a marine officer for the Melanesian Mission. They had eight children – four adopted and four of their own. My parents would pray with us, and that's how I came to faith in the early 1960's.

I married my beloved husband Bill in 1979.

As our parents were strong Christians, we both embraced that teaching in our family. We had morning and evening prayers at home. We taught our five children to pray, which they did with passion! Our relationship was tough going. There were ups and downs, but we stayed together.

To help me cope with married life, my cousin suggested I join the Mothers' Union.

I joined the movement in 1987. I was immediately appointed secretary for the Diocese of Honiara, and the following year I became general secretary of the provincial Mothers' Union in Melanesia.

Life dramatically changed for Bill and me. We were transformed totally. Still I recall vividly when he would come to my office for morning or afternoon tea. Our prayer life picked up again at home with our children and at our parish.

Bill was in a plane crash with 15 others in 1991. None survived.

I was just 34. I thought God was very unfair. He had suddenly taken Bill away from me and my children. I resigned immediately and returned to my home island. I coordinated a literacy programme there and established eight schools for Mothers' Union in those villages.

In 2001 my Bishop selected me and two other women to study at Bishop Patteson Theological College in Kohimarama, 30 kilometres west of Honiara. We made history, as women had never been selected officially before. Four years later, I was chosen to attend Auckland University to do a theology degree, majoring in church history. I graduated in 2008, and on my return, I was appointed the first woman lecturer at our theological college.

I couldn't believe it when I was elected to provincial president in 2017.

I had just retired from college work! I had never dreamed of fulfilling such a role. However, I came to accept the post, believing I was following in my parents' footsteps of serving our people.

I have remained a widow. Our children have gone on to raise families of their own. Now I have 16 grandchildren. I remind my children to carry on the tradition of family prayer.

We celebrated Mothers' Union's 100th anniversary here in 2019.

Although we called for 100 members only from each diocese to attend, we welcomed more than 2,500 members to the celebrations!

Mothers' Union has a big task here. We might be the "Happy Isles", but we are also the challenging islands. A high cost of living prevailed before the impact of COVID-19 – and now it's getting worse with the consequences of the pandemic on the economy. I want to see the Mothers' Union fully equipped to help our people face that future. Our programmes are aimed at encouraging stable family life.

My faith in God has never wavered ever since I came to know him.

Today I am a liberated woman because of that firm faith in God. He is so real in my life and I cannot stop thanking and praising him for honouring his promises. I am always ready to share my stories of challenges and change to those who want to hear.

Pamela Abana, Provincial President for the Mothers' Union in Melanesia

Many thanks to the Mothers' Union and Families First Magazine for permission to reproduce this article.



NEWS IN BRIEF

CONSECRATIONS & RETIREMENTS

Earlier this year ACoM consecrated and installed the Rt Revd Benedict Loe as Bishop of Guadalcanal and Rt Revd Arthur Stanley Abui as Bishop of Hanuato'o. Read more about the new bishops on the charity's website. We look forward to welcoming the new Bishops to the UK for the Lambeth Conference in 2022. Rt Revd Ben Seka of the Diocese of Central Solomons has announced that he will officially retire towards the end of this year. We give thanks for Bishop Ben's ministry and leadership in the Diocese since 2011.

COVID19

As we go to print there are no active cases of COVID in either Solomons or Vanuatu. In Solomons the vaccine rollout has begun. Please pray for a fair distribution of the vaccines and a good uptake. MMUK will not be encouraging any travel either way until the populations of these countries are protected.



INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

The Lambeth Conference Group have given a grant to ACoM to buy and install satellite dishes at six Diocesan Offices, which were without reliable and affordable internet connections. MMUK is providing the funds to cover the data costs for these new links for the first 12 months. The five dioceses in Solomons and one in Vanuatu will now be able to join online meetings and training programmes, particularly important in the lead up to the Lambeth Conference in 2022.

SSF & CSC

MMUK is looking for donations to enable the Society of St Francis and the Community of the Sisters of the Church to install their own satellite dish at Patteson House in Honiara. The improved internet connectivity will enable them to engage fully, and more cost effectively with their international communities and aid their wide-reaching mission and advocacy work. The total cost of the installation is £1,500. If you would like to donate to this project reference your donation Patteson House IT.



COFFEE MORNINGS
COCOA NIGHTS

ONLINE EVENTS



Online Coffee Mornings and Cocoa nights continue each month, many with guests from Melanesia staying up late or getting up early to join us. In April St Luke's Chelsea held a joint event with the Melanesian Brotherhood, with over 30 members of the congregation learning about the work and mission of the Brotherhood. UK Associates to the Melanesian Sisters have also met with the community online for morning worship and to hear news of the new chapel build. And in March, UK supporters were keen to hear about the SSF Brothers' address to the UN on the Human Rights implications of logging. Reports from these online meetings can be found on the charity's website.

More sessions with the religious orders, Mothers' Union and on other topics and ministries are planned for the future. Please contact the charity for more details.

GIVING



If you can, Gift Aid your donations to increase their value by 25% and make payments online. The charity is currently being charged £1.50 for every cheque it has to bank.

LATEST NEWS

For prayer requests, news and events, visit the charity's website, follow us on social media and sign up for the charity's monthly email newsletter
www.mmuk.net/subscribe



**The Rt Revd Benedict Loe
delivering his first Address**

PRAYER DIARY

WEEK 1

Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all the staff at the Provincial Head Office in Honiara. For Dr Abraham Hauriasi, the General Secretary.

For the New Zealand Trust Board and its directors, as they support the Anglican Church in Melanesia. For the work of the Melanesian Mission UK in Prayer, People and Giving.

Monday

For the Diocese of Temotu and for Bishop Willie Tungale and all the staff working at the Headquarters at Lata. We pray for the commemorations of the 150th anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Patteson in both Melanesia and the UK.

For the chaplain to seafarers, the Revd Bobby Chuchuni and his mission to visit, pray and share the Good News.

Tuesday

For the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and their work with women throughout the islands. For Head Sister Annie and Assistant Head Sister Alice.

We pray for the fundraising appeal of the Sisters' chapel rebuild at Verana'aso, and give thanks for the generosity of donors.

Wednesday

For the Diocese of Ysabel, Bishop Ellison Quity and the staff at the diocesan headquarters at Jejevo, Buala.

We give thanks for all those who give their companionship, time and financial help to support the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the religious orders and the Mothers' Union.

Thursday

For the diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia, Bishop James Tama and the staff at the diocesan headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo.

We pray for the fair distribution and good uptake of the COVID vaccines across Melanesia.

Friday

For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia and for their Minister Provincial Br Worrick Marako. We pray for the Brothers' mission drawing attention to the human rights concerns of unregulated, illegal and unsustainable logging.

For communities affected by climate change and for the work the church is undertaking in monitoring weather patterns, coastal erosion, and other environmental changes. For climate adaptation and community mobilisation programmes to help villages plan for the future.

Saturday

For the diocese of Malaita, diocesan Bishop Sam Sahu and assistant Bishop Rickson George Maomaoru.

For church schools, rural training centres, the theological colleges and John Coleridge Patteson University, staff and pupils.

WEEK 2

Sunday

For the Archbishop, the Most Reverend Leonard Dawea. For all the staff in the diocese of Central Melanesia.

For ACoM's Mission Secretary Fr Nigel Kelaepa and his team at PHQ, and their outreach work in hospitals, Rove prison, climate change programmes, women's and youth work.

Monday

For the diocese of Guadalcanal, and their new Bishop the Rt Revd Benedict Loe. We pray for the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas, Honiara, and for Dean Philip Rongotha, and all who minister and worship there.

For all the different communities in Honiara, that there is a safe and clean environment for all these groups to flourish and value each other.

Tuesday

For the Community of the Sisters of the Church, and for Sr Veronica, Provincial Sister for the Solomon Islands Pacific Region. We give thanks for the Community's mission work with families and children around TNK and their retreat ministry.

For the Christian Care Centre outside Honiara and the new centre on Malaita. For the work on gender-based violence with police and community leaders. For Sr Phyllis Sau and Sr Doreen.

Wednesday

For the diocese of Central Solomons, the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Tulagi and Bishop

Ben Seka in his last year in office.

For the shipyard at Taroaniara and all those who travel by sea around Melanesia, including those who work and go on missions aboard the Southern Cross. For the printing press in Honiara.

Thursday

For the diocese of Banks and Torres, Bishop Pattenon Alfred Worek and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Sola.

For the Mothers' Union in the Province, their President Pamela Abana and for their work with satellite churches, literacy programmes, couples counselling, the Girls Friendly Society, savings clubs and the Positive Parenting programme.

Friday

For the Melanesian Brotherhood in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, Philippines and Canada and the Head Brother Jairus. For the Companions worldwide working to support this community.

For ACoM schools, school chaplains, teachers and pupils and for school partnerships linking children and teachers in the UK and Melanesia.

Saturday

For the Diocese of Hanuato'o, and their new Bishop, the Rt Revd Arthur Stanley Abui.

For closer diocesan links bringing Christians around the world together in Christian unity. For all those called to be missionaries in the past, now and in the future. For those who have given their life in service to God.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF LOGGING

Brothers from the Society of St Francis in the Solomon Islands are making a stand against illegal, unregistered and unsustainable logging in their country, via petitions to the United Nations. SSF Minister General Br Christopher John, writes about this important mission.

The forests of the Solomon Islands have sustained life in all its forms over countless generations. But now trees are being felled, dragged down from the mountain areas, and exported as unprocessed round logs. The logging companies, mostly Malaysian, often bribe politicians and local representatives to obtain logging licences. Customary landowners receive some payment for their logs, but after the logging company has left there is nothing but bare earth. The work of the loggers is not monitored by government and often the terms of the logging licence are not respected.

The effects are widespread. Destruction of environment, pollution of waterways, flash flooding which sweeps debris downstream where it blocks culverts and bridges, causing them to be washed away, and muddy water which pollutes fishing areas and damages the reefs which have a vital role in absorbing the energy of incoming waves. The damage is also social, cultural and spiritual. There are recorded incidents of prostitution associated with loggers, including trafficking in underage females. An excess of cash can also lead to increased alcohol consumption and gender-based violence. Such logging destroys the

traditional reliance on forests to provide shelter for food crops, a place to hunt wild animals, a source of timber, vines and leaves for building houses and canoes, as well as the environment for plants used for medicinal purposes.



The Society of St Francis is one of the four Anglican religious communities in Solomon Islands. Our Brothers there know well the destructive effects of logging. They see it in the villages and when they are travelling out on mission. On our own we are too small to do much, but through our membership of Franciscans International (the voice of Franciscans at the United Nations) we are taking part in the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights being held in Geneva and online. Solomon Islands is one of the nations whose recognition of human rights is being examined at the UN Human Rights Council.

In March Br Lent SSF gave an online presentation to the United Nations, proposing the following recommendations for the Government of Solomon Islands.



The government should **protect human rights** against abuses and environmental degradation by logging companies and ensure effective remedies when abuses occur. It should also take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure that the use and exploitation of natural resources do not adversely affect the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

Undertake **awareness-raising programme** on the environmental, social and human rights impacts of logging and on the rights and protections people should enjoy.

Guarantee the effective **protection of people at risk** when they defend their rights in the context of logging projects. The government should ensure that all violations committed against defenders are thoroughly and impartially investigated and that victims are provided with effective remedies.



Ensure **effective protection against violence against women and children**, including sexual abuse and exploitation and domestic violence, with a focus on communities affected by logging activities.

Finally, the government should ensure **access to sufficient safe drinking water and adequate sanitation** for the entire population, including those who are affected by, or even active in, logging activities, as well as **adopt a coherent and comprehensive mitigation and adaptation climate policy** and actions based on human rights norms and principles.

Highlighting these concerns at the UN is just the beginning of what is planned to be a campaign calling on organisations to work in different ways according to their capacity. At an international level, tracking where the finished timber products are sold; regionally, finding allies and sources of information in small nations which have successfully stood up to the pressure of logging; nationally and provincially within the Solomons, finding effective ways of lobbying politicians and helping them find solutions to the problems of logging; and at village level, the members of religious orders and others working to educate people and give them strategies to resist the pressure of logging interests.

SSF Minister General Br Christopher John

Want to help? Please pray for the Brothers' work in this area, tell your church, friends and family about this issue, and take an interest in where your wood purchases come from. Learn more about sustainable wood sources and certification from Forest Stewardship Council. To find out more of the Brothers' work, visit our website www.mmuk.net/news.

FROM COCONUT TO COMPUTER

CHAPTER 4

Bishop Willie becomes a priest



On the 10th November 1974, I was ordained deacon in the Church of God and graduated with a Diploma in Biblical Studies. I returned to my home in the parish of South Malaita from Sa'a to Walande as a deacon assisting the parish priest Revd. Basil Kaloa, until I was ordained to the priesthood in my village church of St Martin of Tours, bishop and martyr, on the Feast Day of St Andrew, Sunday 2nd December 1975.

On the 4th January 1976, I married my wife Kate from Fanalei Port Adam, South Malaita. A week later we left for Honiara the capital, where I was to be chaplain to the new Archbishop, Norman Kitchen Palmer, who had been elected to take the place of Archbishop J.W.Chisholm, having been previously dean of St.Barnabas Cathedral, Honiara. I did other things besides being chaplain. I was parish priest to Rove White River parish and chaplain to the Central

Prison in Rove as well as to the Police Headquarters in Rove along with their families. A very good training for a young Priest I thought.

Now it was during that time there was a movement of partnership between our founding mother churches in the Northern Hemisphere and the churches in the Southern Hemisphere including N.Z. and Australia. I thought the mother churches were very brave to start entering into this new dimension of relationship which had never happened before.

Over a hundred years before, 'the mission' had come from the West to the developing world countries, and we had accepted that as the norm. Now people from developing countries were being asked to work in the mother churches.

In March 1977 my wife and I with our three-month-old daughter left home for the Auckland Diocese in an experiment to see how a Melanesian priest would fit in New Zealand parish ministry. Well I survived and it was a wonderful experience on my part. We returned after two lovely years of training, which I could not have had anywhere else. I was so lucky to work under a very caring loving priest John Brokenshire, who showed me what to do and how work should be done in a New Zealand parish.

I returned to the Solomon Islands to be chaplain and tutor at my old College Kohimarama and then appointed to become Dean of St Barnabas Cathedral, Honiara from 1980 to 81. Then I was elected to be the second Bishop of Malaita Diocese.

I was consecrated and enthroned Bishop of Malaita Diocese on the 28th June 1981. I want to pay tribute to the First Bishop of Malaita, The Rt Revd Leonard Alufurai a pioneer of the Diocese, for his tireless work for the people of Malaita, Sikaiana and Lord Howe. Things were hard and

difficult with no money to run the Diocese. We did however, manage to build the administration of the Diocese, setting up Regional Headquarters headed by senior priests for pastoral supervision throughout the whole Diocese.

There was need for renewal, so priests and lay people were brought from New Zealand and Australia to help the Diocese by leading and teaching about the renewal of the whole Church, which was very successful. We also set up mission bases where the heathen were, and those posts were manned by the Melanesian Brotherhood to take the Gospel to the people wherever they were. We supported them by providing outboard motors and canoes. We also brought into the Diocese the Society of the Franciscans for ministry in the towns, and later the Community of the Sisters of the Church and Sisters of Melanesia.

We completed all we wanted to do, and the Diocese was running well with Senior Priests, clergy paid every month and we even trained Village Priests to take care of the parishes which were very remote in the hills. Those priests came from the communities who chose them, and we trained them ourselves.

+Willie Alaha Pwaisiho

**The story continues online
www.mmuk.net/news/from-coconut-to-computer/
and in our next magazine.**

We are delighted that Bishop Willie will be one of our guest speakers at this year's MMUK Festival at Exeter Cathedral on 18th September.

COVID-19 – A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

• • • We are thankful that to date there have been very few cases of COVID-19 in Solomons and Vanuatu, due to stringent border closures and quarantine controls. However, there are some long-term lessons the world needs to learn from this pandemic and some changes to be made. Marie Schlenker explains more.

“COVID-19 is not only a wake-up call, it is a dress rehearsal for the world of challenges to come”, stated UN Secretary-General António Guterres during his address to the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2020.

According to health and biodiversity experts around the world, the current COVID-19 pandemic is deeply connected to the climate crisis and our continued venture into spaces previously occupied by nature to obtain new resources and farmland. In the 2015 report of the Rockefeller Foundation – Lancet Commission on planetary health, scientists observed:

“Health effects from changes to the environment including climatic change, ocean acidification, land degradation, water scarcity, overexploitation of fisheries, and biodiversity loss pose serious challenges to the global health gains of the past several decades and are likely to become increasingly dominant during the second half of this century and beyond. These striking trends are driven by highly inequitable, inefficient, and unsustainable patterns of resource consumption and technological

development, together with population growth.”

We have reached a new era: the Anthropocene, an era in which humans shape the surface of our planet and, thereby, the fate of future generations.

UN statistics show that each year we destroy 10 million hectares of forest on our planet, mainly for gaining access to new farmland to feed growing populations worldwide. According to the World Wildlife Fund’s 2020 Living Planet Report, populations of nearly 21,000 species of mammals, fish, birds and amphibians declined by an average of 68% globally between 1970 and 2016. Burning of fossil fuels and deforestation resulted in increases in the concentration of carbon in the Earth’s atmosphere by 47% since the beginning of the Industrial Age, and by 11% since the year 2000, resulting in global warming, changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme events.

But what we often seem to ignore is that by destroying our planet, we are also putting us humans at risk. The World Health Organisation estimates that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will kill an additional quarter of million people a year through the spread of infectious diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever. Increasing interactions between animals and humans as we venture into the last truly wild spaces on Earth will facilitate the spread of new strains of diseases, such as COVID-19 and Ebola, and an increasing risk of flooding in a changing

climate will likely bring more outbreaks of waterborne diseases like cholera and typhoid.

COVID-19 is a crisis of our own making and, with climate change and resource extraction advancing, there is more to come in the future.

The good news is, there is hope and we can show we care.

The response to the pandemic has shown that people all across the globe have been willing to significantly alter their lives and work in partnership in order to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. Every one of us has an enormous capacity to adapt to new circumstances.

By taking little steps, all of us can help to create a more sustainable and more equitable world, which our friends in Melanesia and our future generations in this country can strive for.

Here are 8 actions that we can take:

- 1. Adjust your diet:** Eat fewer portions of meat and dairy. Try to choose fresh, seasonal produce that is grown locally to help reduce the carbon emissions from transportation, preservation and prolonged refrigeration.
- 2. Consume & waste less:** Avoid food waste. Try to repair and reuse. Consider second-hand options or high-quality items, which will last a long time. Give unwanted items a new life by donating them to charity or selling them on. Put your purchasing power to good use by choosing ethical brands.
- 3. Leave the car at home:** Walk or cycle as much as possible. For longer journeys, use public transport, or try car sharing schemes. If driving is unavoidable, investigate switching your diesel or petrol car for an electric or hybrid model.
- 4. Cut back on flying:** Choose nearby holiday destinations and take public transport where you can or use car sharing schemes. Consider using video conferencing instead of flying



to meetings. When flying is unavoidable, pay a little extra for carbon offsetting and fly economy – on average, a business class passenger has a carbon footprint which is three times higher than someone's in economy.

- 5. Save energy:** Turn off lights and appliances when not in use. Replace light bulbs with LEDs or other low-energy lights. Consider switching energy supply to a green tariff, which is a great way to invest in renewable energy sources – and could save money on bills.
- 6. Respect & protect green spaces:** If you have your own outdoor space, don't replace the grass with paving or artificial turf. Plant trees and create your own green space. Help to protect and conserve green spaces like local parks, ponds or community gardens.
- 7. Invest your money responsibly:** Voice your concerns about ethical investment by writing or talking to your bank or pension provider and ask if you can opt out of funds investing in fossil fuels. You can also investigate 'ethical banking'.
- 8. Make your voice heard by those in power:** Tell your Member of Parliament, local councillors and city mayors that you think action on climate change is important. You can also get your local church involved in engaging with your MP about climate change.

Marie Schlenker - MMUK Intern Jan - Apr 2021



Nukapu where Patteson died

THE LEGACY OF PATTESON

Honorary Archivist of the Melanesian Mission, Father Brian Macdonald-Milne writes how Patteson has influenced his entire life and 60 years of ordained ministry.

I was born before the Second World War, during which I became a choir boy at St Barnabas Church in Sutton, Surrey. One of my hobbies, like many boys in those days, was collecting stamps. We had very little pocket money, but stamps could be acquired in many ways, either by asking people for ones they received on their mail or using one's small amount of pocket money to buy what one could afford. When

I was about thirteen, I visited Trinity Road in Tooting, South London, as I knew that there were two places which would interest me - a stamp shop and an aquarium shop. As I passed the stamp shop, something caught my eye in the window, it was the first stamp issue for the Pitcairn Islands, a British colony in Polynesia. On closer examination, I realised that the set of stamps told the story

of the mutiny on the 'Bounty', and I went in and bought the set.

I have always been interested in history, and the subject of the stamps set me doing some reading about the Bounty mutineers, and how they fled with some Tahitians to the uninhabited isolated Pitcairn Island to escape punishment. Their descendants later moved to Norfolk Island, having outgrown the small island of Pitcairn, where they had become Anglican Christians and been given a priest by the Bishop of London. The Reverend Mr. Nobbs moved with them to Norfolk Island, south of Melanesia, after it had ceased to be a British penal colony.

From my reading I learnt that the Bishop of Melanesia, John Coleridge Patteson, had set up a school for Melanesians on Norfolk Island in 1866/7 and had also ministered to the Pitcairners there when they needed a bishop. I became interested in and inspired by this man. I asked my school chaplain if he had any books about the Church in the Pacific so that I could get a wider picture of the Churches' work there. He said "I have not been asked that before. Are you hoping to go there?" I had not considered going anywhere at that time, I was just fourteen and being prepared by him for confirmation! I replied however that it might be a good idea. He then said, "Would you go as a layman or as a priest?" That question changed my life. We had no priests in my family. Our family business in London was an engineering firm, established by my father, and I was his elder son. However, I thought and prayed and came to believe that this was a call from God, not only to the priesthood but to the Pacific. Eventually my family came to accept this totally unexpected call.

Two missionary dioceses were then associated with the New Zealand Anglican Church -- Polynesia and Melanesia. I was interested in both, and even started

a branch of the Polynesia Diocesan Association at Croydon Parish Church, now Croydon Minster, which I ran for a while. However, I decided that I ought to make up my mind where I should offer to serve. It was Bishop Patteson who provided the answer. I really wanted to follow in his footsteps, and also to follow, as far as I could, his example. As a teenager, I therefore contacted the Melanesian Mission office in London, and was put on their list of possible future missionaries. I left for Melanesia by ship in 1964, having been ordained as a priest in 1961. On the way from Sydney to Honiara in the Solomons by ship, we called at Norfolk Island and I was able to visit the Patteson Memorial Chapel there.

Bishop Patteson has guided me in how I have tried, by the grace of God, to fulfil my ministry in and for the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Like him, I taught Melanesians and prepared some of them for ordained ministry and evangelistic work. I used Melanesian languages in my work, I lived in a Melanesian way, sometimes sharing my home with Melanesians, and eventually I was adopted into a Melanesian family. I was prepared to stay in the islands, if necessary as a single man, for as long as I was wanted. I therefore owe a great debt to the man who has so deeply affected my life from early days, and whose life and martyrdom I have researched and written about. In many ways, he is still an inspiration and encouragement to me today. Thanks be to God for the humble, saintly, talented, and devoted servant of God and of Melanesia, John Coleridge Patteson.

Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne Honorary Archivist, The Melanesian Mission UK

AGM & Festival Day

The Melanesian Mission will hold its Annual General Meeting and Festival Day on Saturday 18th September 2021 at Exeter Cathedral from 12noon until 4.30pm in the presence of the charity's President, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The charity will also commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson's martyrdom.

Please do contact the charity to **reserve your place** at the 12noon Eucharist followed by the Annual General Meeting and Festival Programme, including guest speakers on the 'Legacy of Patteson' and 'Care of Creation'. There will also be a recorded address by the Archbishop of Melanesia. The day's programme and service will also be live streamed by Exeter Cathedral.

This programme at the Cathedral will take place, in line with any COVID restrictions at the time.

The Melanesian Mission (MMUK) is an Anglican Mission agency that provides support to the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM), through prayer, people and giving.

Please visit our website for the latest news and prayer requests from MMUK and ACoM. To receive the charity's regular email newsletter subscribe at www.mmuk.net/subscribe.

You can follow the charity on social media www.twitter.com/melanesianm and www.facebook.com/melanesianmission

If you would like more copies of this magazine, leaflets on the work of the charity or would like to book a speaker, for when restrictions are lifted for public gatherings, please contact the charity.

Many thanks to all who have contributed articles and photographs for this edition of the magazine, including the Mothers' Union, ACoM, Exeter Cathedral and Tim Pestridge.



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Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia –

*Almighty God, for you the islands wait,
send down your blessings on the Church of Melanesia,
on the bishops, priests and deacons, the brothers, sisters, catechists,
on the doctors, nurses and all workers with the sick,
on the teachers and the pupils in our colleges and schools,
on the crews of our ships, and on those who work in our offices,
workshops and printing press.
Guide them Lord in all difficult times, keep them safe in all dangers,
strengthen them in all troubles, and give them such sure trust in you
that they may serve you without fear.*

Amen

UK Registered Charity Number 1104551
President of MMUK - The Most Reverend and Right
Honourable the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby

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