

MELANESIA NEWS



A COMING OF AGE

PRAYER, PEOPLE, GIVING



ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Religious Orders Update

50 years of Selwyn College

WALKING TOGETHER



The picture of the disciples following Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, I have always found compelling: often they don't understand what Jesus tries to teach them; their motives are very human; but Jesus never gives up on them. Jesus puts his faith in them and his mission is not thwarted, despite their weaknesses and failures.

The story of Christianity in the Solomon Islands is not one of a 45 degree angled, straight line success. As Brian Macdonald-Milne colourfully writes in his excellent new book, 'Seeking Peace in the Pacific', God's Mission in Christ meets many challenges, conflicts and setbacks. Although key persons are killed (martyred) at seemingly crucial moments and the workers in God's harvest field become thin on the ground, yet the Mission goes forward. Despite

the moral failures of Christian leaders, the Gospel message is still shared and received and God's Church in Melanesia grows.

As Chair of MMUK, it is a blessing to be walking together with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in God's Mission today, 150 years after Bishop Patteson's martyrdom. God's Spirit at work in the West Pacific has much to encourage, feed and teach us here in the UK.

In particular, there are two specific areas where ACoM is a pioneer in the world-wide Anglican Communion:

Facing Climate change and promoting Climate Justice: The disappearing islands have been well documented by the film work of Alex Leger and interviews with

Bishop Willie Pwaisiho and others. More recent work by Dr Adam Bobbette (Glasgow University), Marie Schlenker (PhD student at Southampton University), Kate Pwaisiho (Ordinand at Emmanuel College) and Freda Fataka (ACoM's Environment Observatory Manager) is providing crucial researched evidence to demonstrate to the planet what is really happening. Without the leadership of ACoM's Bishops and Lay leaders and the enthusiastic participation of the Church family, this would not be taking place. The Solomons is growing 'Green Apostles' and they are pioneers for a watching world.

Making and Growing Disciples: The Church in the West has been struggling to make and grow disciples for the last 50 years. The Church in 'the Global South' has been leading the way across the Anglican Communion. No one knows how secularism



and other social forces will affect the strength of the Melanesian Church in the future. Some fear a downward spiral as experienced here in Europe and the UK.

However, our brothers and sisters in Solomons and Vanuatu are certainly learning from our weakness and flaws. The Church leaders are trying to deliberately pass on the faith to the next generation and not assume it will happen like osmosis. In particular, the four Religious Communities act like a wellspring, forming and nurturing faithful disciples of Christ for service in the Church and wider society. The genius of the Melanesian Brothers and Sisters having vows for 3 to 6 years rather than life vows has meant a healthy recruitment of young men and women to the orders. As we read, in this issue, about 50 years of the Society of St Francis, the vibrant missionary work of the Melanesian Brothers in Northern Queensland, the news from Tabalia, the Melanesian Sisters and the Sisters of the Church, we can be encouraged.

It is my desire that MMUK helps many young Christians to have the opportunity to be inspired by God's Mission in Melanesia and which will lead to a renewal of discipleship back here (Grants are available!) Over 50 years ago, as youngsters, Alex Leger, Chris Liley and John Pinder went out to serve in different ways and what they experienced has led to changed lives, not just their own. Read John's account of the moving of Selwyn College from Ugi to Guadalcanal in this issue -it's fascinating. Despite setbacks and challenges, God's Mission goes forward. Let us continue to walk together in faith, love and hope.

+Mark Rylands
Chair of MMUK



A COMING OF AGE

Bishop Mark Rylands Chair of MMUK, Bishop Willie Pwaisiho, Bishop Jackie Searle & Archbishop Justin Welby

MMUK Trustee Revd Martin Cox, reflects on this year's AGM and Festival Day at Exeter Cathedral.

All the 'clicks' of the liturgical Rubik's cube had been made and there was full alignment around the sides of the cube. This was through the hard work and negotiating skills of Katie Drew, Executive Officer of MMUK. So it was that MMUK trustees past and present gathered with the Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife and party, the Diocesan Bishop of Exeter, the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral, a researcher from the University of Southampton along with supporters of MMUK for this year's Festival and AGM on a warm day in September in Exeter Cathedral.

There was a significant poignancy to this year's event as we gathered to mark the 150th commemoration of the death of Bishop John Coleridge Patteson on 20 September 1871 in the very same Cathedral where he had been ordained Deacon and Priest. The liturgical colour was red; the side of the Rubik's cube was complete.

It was wonderful to gather together in person with several hundred others for the Festival Eucharist. The Book of the Gospels was processed in on a processional canoe. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached

from the Martyrs Pulpit and spoke movingly of Patteson as a red and white martyr. Bishop Robert presided and beautifully intoned the Eucharistic prayer. Bishop Willie led the prayers of intercession in the way that only Bishop Willie can! We were reminded of the faithfulness of God and the call upon us all to be faithful. A presentation was made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral of a copy of Bishop Patteson's letter asking for more resources.

After our pre-booked packed lunch and conversations, another side of the Rubik's cube where the clicks had led to perfect alignment, we held our Festival and AGM. Revd Richard Carter and Bishop Willie Pwaisiho both spoke movingly of Bishop Patteson's legacy of a spirit of service and mission, of equality of relationships in and through Christ, of the call to live simply and close to God and one another, of the importance of education and a holistic approach to mission, of the role of women who wrapped Bishop Patteson's body following his death before he was buried at sea so his love for the people could be washed upon the shores of the islands. Bishop Willie ended by leading us in the Lord's Prayer in Pidgin English.

We moved from looking back to the past to thinking about the present. Marie Schlenker from the University of Southampton and Kate Pwaisiho spoke of Faith and Science in the Care of Creation. Their equally moving presentation drew attention to the impact of climate change on rising sea levels and the way of life for many. Marie spoke of the climate change observatories to collect much needed data. Kate spoke of the immediate impact on Fanalei Island. Images of coral bleaching and sand dunes in the church made a powerful impression on those gathered together. We were left with the challenge to reflect on our own lives as the decisions we take do affect the lives of others. We know this instinctively, but Marie and Kate highlighted the challenge powerfully.

Before he departed, Archbishop Justin responded to the presentations. His Grace spoke of the capacity of the Anglican Communion to tell the story of climate change, of how the Melanesian church is engaged in holistic mission and speaks the voice of the Spirit, of how peace and reconciliation are vital to create the space to engage with climate change issues: "If it's not dealt with for everyone, it's not dealt with for anyone." Archbishop Justin concluded his remarks by reflecting to us that Bishop Patteson set an example for us all, commenting that when we are at war with the world we are war with God.

Following the departure of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his party the Festival heard a recorded message from the Archbishop of Melanesia. Archbishop Leonard spoke of how Bishop Patteson was truly Melanesian oriented and how Melanesians claim him as their own for ever. Bishop Mark Rylands, Chairman of MMUK interviewed Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne about his book, "Seeking



Peace in the Pacific'. Brian reminded us of how God's grace transforms human failure and failings. The Annual General Meeting of MMUK followed with a presentation to Marie in token of her work as an intern over the last year, the presentation of the accounts by Steve Scoffield, Honorary Treasurer of MMUK who spoke of the need for wise decision making and a trust in God's faithfulness going forward. Following the re-election of three trustees, Bishop Mark concluded the AGM by assuring us of God's blessing.

It was a real joy and privilege to attend the Eucharist and to be present for this year's in-person Festival and AGM. Those I spoke to during the day echoed these sentiments and were grateful for the way in which the day had been organised. As I left the Cathedral as one of the re-elected trustees I was conscious that the pieces of the liturgical Rubik's cube were now being scrambled again having been in alignment for our day together. It was ever thus. However, as a result of this year's Festival and AGM, the occasion, the location, the participants, the presentations and the way in which the sides of our Rubik's cube had been aligned for the moment, I was also conscious that MMUK and our support for the mission of the Anglican Church of Melanesia had somehow come of age.

Revd Martin Cox
MMUK Trustee



SELWYN COLLEGE AT 50

In September Selwyn College celebrated its 50th anniversary, delayed from last year due to COVID. MMUK Trustee Revd Canon John Pinder, remembers well the formation of the College.

At the end of 1969 I was in charge of the move from Pawa School on the island of Ugi to Selwyn College at Najilagu on the island of Guadalcanal. It was a huge wrench as Ugi had been the nearest we had ever been to paradise, but Bishop John Chisholm had rightly decided that

Pawa was too remote for a secondary school.

We had to be within range of Honiara the capital and like other secondary schools it was time for the school to go co-educational and join with the girls' secondary school which had been at Pamua on the island of Makira.

Moving a school 150 miles by boat was a logistical challenge. We had 60 boys who were a reluctant work force, having been told they could not go home for their Christmas holidays. Fortunately they were mature beyond their years and managed the transfer with the minimum of supervision. We arrived at the Najilagu site three weeks before Christmas, in a state of exhaustion to find a half-finished school. There was little time to relax as the boys were expected to work in shifts, loading the Bedford truck with sand and gravel to keep the builders supplied, weed the food gardens and cook meals. I did my best to raise morale but it was hard going. We had made no preparations for Christmas, but in typical Melanesian fashion, on Christmas Eve, the

builders bought a pig and the boys set about preparing earth ovens and grating coconuts and cassava for puddings for a feast the following day. After midnight mass I was ready for bed, but tradition demanded that we should tour all the local villages singing carols. We finally got to bed at 3am on Christmas Day.

The bishop still hadn't been able to select a suitable head teacher and a week after Christmas he announced several appointments. John Rolfe, a fellow teacher and I travelled on his motor bike to Kohimarama, 50 miles away, to tell Tom Tyler, the head of the catechist college, that he was to be our new head. We left him and his wife Trish in a somewhat dazed state. I was in a state of shock too, as the bishop had appointed me to be head of Vureas secondary school in Vanuatu, a thousand miles away in a different country. Having packed my things and got a work permit and a visa, after a week the bishop relented and said I could stay at Selwyn.

At the end of January, we welcomed the girls from Pamua and the new Form ones to a school that was by now three quarters complete. The main problem was that the ablutions blocks weren't finished. Fortunately the Nalimbu River flowed powerfully at the bottom of the school section, but there was a lively debate as to who should bathe where. Naturally the boys insisted they should bathe upstream from the girls, but the girls weren't having that. In the end it was agreed they could all bathe in the same place but at different times! The school water supply was an issue. Moses, the site manager was building a concrete tower which didn't look very substantial to me. He had ordered a steel tank to go on top. I asked him how much weight of water the tank would hold. He said he thought about

ten tons. I got my colleague, Jim Nolan, the science teacher, to do some calculations and his answer came out at 80 tons. After much discussion Moses agreed to put four 1000 gallon tanks atop the tower. About five years later during an earthquake, the whole edifice came crashing down.

Najilagu was always flooding and Terry Ward, a volunteer from Australia and a qualified plumber, constructed a massive drain across the campus which helped a bit, but it was still a very wet and muddy station when the government director of education came to make an official visit, dressed in tropical whites from top to toe. Unfortunately Tom Tyler's dog proved rather too friendly and jumped up to greet him, covering him with mud.

Somehow the school was more or less completed, the gardens produced good sweet potato and vegetables, despite the attention of the wild pigs and the time came for the official opening in September 1970. One of the guests was the legendary Dr. Fox who had first joined the mission in 1902. Jenny Maffey (later my wife) and I mixed a large bowl of punch for the guests, which proved very popular. It was only later that we discovered we had failed to add half the fruit juice and some of the visitors went home somewhat the worse for wear.

Revd Canon John Pinder

MMUK Trustee



NEWS IN BRIEF



COVID19

We give thanks that there has still not been any community transmissions of COVID in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. However the impact of the pandemic has been felt in other ways. Borders remain closed, imports have been restricted including medicines, and other health conditions have gone undetected. We continue to pray for a positive uptake for the vaccine across the region, and when safe, for borders to open and travel permitted.

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2022 CALENDAR

MMUK has produced a calendar for 2022. Contact the charity to order your copy.



LAMBETH CONFERENCE

The Lambeth Conference is being planned for the summer of 2022. In 2021, in preparation for the event, a series of pre-conference virtual meetings are being held for the Bishops. Using their new satellite dishes, our Melanesian Bishops have been able to join these conversations.

VIRGIN MONEY GIVING

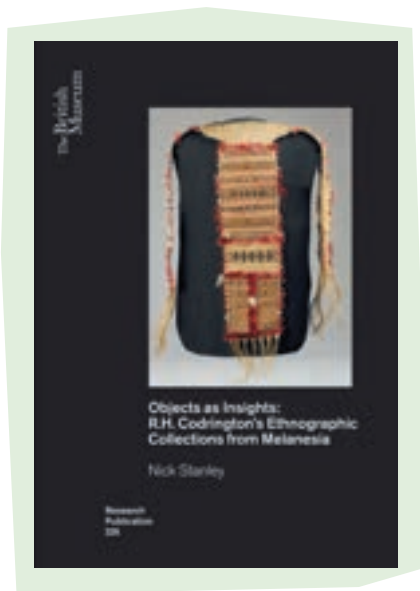
Some donors give to the charity via Virgin Money Giving. VMG will cease later this year. If you wish to continue to give to the charity please consider a direct transfer / standing order into the charity's bank account.

OBJECTS AS INSIGHTS: R.H.Codrington's ethnographic collections from Melanesia

By Professor Nick Stanley published by the British Museum.

After the death of Bishop Patteson, The Revd Dr. Codrington was asked to take charge of the Melanesian Mission. He refused to follow Patteson as the next bishop as he felt he wasn't the right person. At the time he was head of the Mission's school on Norfolk Island, having joined the mission in 1865. Codrington was a fine linguist and established 'Mota' as the lingua franca of the Mission.

As well as providing a background to his life and achievements, Nick Stanley's main focus is on Codrington's collection of 606 artifacts, deposited in the British Museum, the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge.



The book retails at £25 but if you are willing to wait, it will be available free online in a year's time on the British Museum's website.

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

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 discussions and decisions to come out of ACoM's General Synod in late November.

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.

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

Tuesday

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 efforts to enable the Community to complete the rebuild of their chapel 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 rollout 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.

Saturday

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 and for the Assistant Bishop Elect Othnielson Gamutu.

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 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.

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 In Auki on Malaita. For the work on gender-based violence with police and community leaders.

Wednesday

For the diocese of Central Solomons, the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Tulagi and Bishop Ben Seka in his last few months in office. For those with responsibility for electing a new Bishop to lead the diocese.

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, Australia 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 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.

GETTING TO KNOW ACoM'S ENVIRONMENT OBSERVATORY MANAGER

AN INTERVIEW WITH FREDA FATAKA

Since October 2019, Freda Fataka has managed the ACoM Environment Observatory project at the Provincial Headquarters in Honiara. She is part of a wider team at ACoM's Project Office, organising practical action on climate change and environmental matters in ACoM's dioceses, which we would like to introduce to you.

We have asked Freda four interesting questions about herself, her role as ACoM's Environment Observatory Manager, the challenges that Solomon Islanders face in the years to come and how her work relates to tackling them.

Q: Can you tell us about yourself and your training?

My name is Freda Fataka and I am from Malaita Island, Solomon Islands. I attended Solomon Islands National University from 2016 to 2019. I have graduated with a Certificate and a Diploma in Environmental Applied Science Studies from the School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences. It comprised four years of academic learning and training in field research and observations based on my specific field of study, such as environmental observation and monitoring that focused on water pollution, biological observation of ecosystems as well as undertaking baseline surveys on Waste Management in and around Honiara.

Q: What is your role at ACoM and what tasks does it include?

Currently, I am working with the Anglican Church of Melanesia Provincial Headquarters in Honiara and in collaboration with the Melanesian Mission UK and international research teams, scientists from the University of Southampton and the University of New South Wales in Australia.

The key roles that I undertake in this interesting project are based on management and administration of the four different observatory test sites in Fanalei, Walande, Selwyn College, and Red Beach. I am working in close collaboration with the local communities at the respective locations, especially the trained representatives at the test sites, our Green Apostles, who include clergy, school staff and students from theological colleges and the Solomon Islands National University, School of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences students. I support them in undertaking shoreline change and beach profile measurements for the observatory. In addition to touring and field visits of the observatory test sites, I am in constant contact and communication with the Green Apostles to ensure environmental data are appropriately collected and documented in a timely manner.

Moreover, I am involved in the development of plans to expand the project to more locations in Solomon Islands in collaboration with different stakeholders. I will help to facilitate the ACoM Environment Observatory Short Training Course, which will teach clergy across Solomon Islands how to conduct and document measurements and information by using scientific equipment. Furthermore, I provide updates or feedback from the local communities to the research team, first point of contact Ms Marie Schlenker. This includes reports on the progress of the project as well as of any disturbances to the test sites and replacement of broken items, e.g. due to extreme weather events.

Q: What do you think are the most pressing challenges for Solomon Islands in the coming years? And why?

I think the two gravest challenges that the country faces today and in the future are the impacts of climate change and growing population. Climate change and human population growth contribute to hinder sustainable development at the national, provincial and community level.

Storm intensities are increasing across the country and weather extremes are unpredictable and have changed in their seasonal patterns. The recent destructions caused by heavy rains have impacted more than 300 islanders and last year's Cyclone Harold has affected most of the country. The annual sea level rise in Solomon Islands is also higher than the global average according to the Pacific Climate Change Science Program. The submergence of the artificial island of Walande in South Malaita, the shoreline erosion and saltwater intrusion on Fanalei Island, Sikaiana and Ontong Java atoll are just first examples of the destruction that awaits us, forcing people to relocate as climate refugees.

Climate change combined with population growth is also a potential threat to agriculture and food security in the next few years. Therefore, the present generation needs to sustainably manage available resources in order not to compromise the livelihood of future generations.

Q: How does your work relate to tackling climate change?

My work within the ACoM Environment Observatory is very much related to targeting the issue of climate change. The vulnerability of Solomon Islanders to climate change is obvious today and there has been evidence in recent years.

The aim of the ACoM Environment Observatory is to create a wide scientific database of environmental change across the country, and to facilitate and increase local observations and understanding of climate-related issues, as part of climate change resilience in vulnerable communities. The project highlights the potential of research and systematic observation as a way forward to provide up to date information on environmental issues to various stakeholders and to educate local communities on sustainable practices. It also helps to create a clear understanding of climate change across all sectors and different sections of society for appropriate and effective planning and implementation as part of adaptation and mitigation in vulnerable communities.

The ACoM Environment Observatory also performs an important role in the Five Pillars of Mission by engaging and involving local people, stakeholders and partners to improve community life, creating and increasing the understanding of climate change and its related issues at the local level to sustain people's lives and care for Creation as God's people.

ACoM Communications



NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Community of the Sisters of the Church

In September Sister Ruth from Kwara'ae in Malaita Province made her life vows at TNK in the presence of over 100 family members and supporters. Sister Ruth is currently looking after the Malaita Christian Care Centre in Auki.

MMUK has been able to send a grant of £1,500.00 for satellite dish installation and network setup at Patteson House in Honiara for SSF & CSC households.



The Society of St Francis

SSF celebrated their 50th anniversary in the Solomon Islands in October. This was delayed from last year due to COVID. The Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Revd Leonard Dawea and the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Malaita the Right Reverend Rickson Maomaoru, who is also the Bishop protector of the Franciscan Brothers in the Province of Solomon Islands, were the guests of Honour.

In his sermon at the service Archbishop Leonard Dawea gave thanks for the life and vision of Saint Francis for establishing the community of Brothers and Sisters, who choose to step away from excesses to work alongside those who are marginalised by society.

In preparation for the celebrations the Brothers have been busy improving on the buildings at Hautambu including their guest house. MMUK made a grant of £1,000.00 towards this work.

The Melanesian Brotherhood

Head Brother Jairus Honiseu reported that 52 Novices became Brothers and 19 Brothers were released from their promises on the feast of St Simon & St Jude in October.

In Australia the Brothers are providing a ministry on Thursday Island and further afield in the Torres Strait. Former Head Brother and part of the Simply Living Mission Team, Matthias Tovotasi, has also been released from his vows and continues to work as Priest-in-Charge of Lockhart River in Queensland.

In October Chester Companions admitted three new Companions, and South West Companions and Associates to the Melanesian Sisters walked the Patteson's Way Pilgrimage route in East Devon as they celebrated St Simon and St Jude.



Community of the Sisters of Melanesia

The Melanesian Sisters continue to work on their replacement chapel at their HQ at Verana'aso and are due to update supporters at an online service and meeting in early November.

MMUK was delighted to be able to award a £10,000 grant in July to the sisters for their chapel.

Prayer for the Religious Communities

God,
you call some of your young people to leave their homes
and to live together in communities as Brothers and Sisters.
Bless all the communities working in Melanesia and beyond.

Keep all Brothers and Sisters faithful to their promises,
and help us all to do your will,
after the example of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

FROM COCONUT TO COMPUTER CHAPTER 5



In this final chapter (so far) from Bishop Willie, his mission moves to Tabalia, Honiara and then the UK

In 1989 I tendered my resignation, left the Diocese and went to be Tutor at the Melanesian Brotherhood Head Quarters, Tabalia. That was my best move, as I needed a Community with whom I could be spiritually renewed for my next journey with God. At Tabalia and with the Brothers, we were able to do things in our worship which are more Melanesian in style, like dancing the Liturgy, and also the last night of the Novices retreat being on the mountain above Tabaila. I want to thank my Brothers for their love and care. It was at Tabalia I met and worked more closely with Rev. Richard Carter while he was a Brother and Tutor. He is a brave missionary who remained with the Brotherhood during the ethnic tension on Guadalcanal. He led

**THE WORLD HAS
BECOME SO SMALL.
YOU COULD NOW BE
HOLDING A COCONUT
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OTHER.**

two successful Missions to U.K. leading the Brothers and Sisters to perform dramas in churches and cathedrals. Richard is now at St Martin in the Fields, London, reaching out to the homeless in the city.

In 1990 the General Synod had passed a new Canon law for the Mission of the Church and they needed a Mission Secretary for the Melanesia Board of Mission. I was handpicked for the post by the Bishops, and went to head this very important arm of the Church linking and building bridges between our historical Mission Agencies, in UK, Australia, N.Z. Canada, U.S.A.

From 1995 to 1997 I was in charge of six churches in the outskirts of Honiara organising services every Sunday and assigning Priests to conduct services. At that time, I was also an Industrial Manager of a Japanese Construction Company Kumagai Gumi. The money was



good, but as a missionary I didn't enjoy the money. It was too dirty, too political and full of false hope. God was calling me to go out even further abroad, and now he wanted me to go to the UK. I approached Chester Diocese to see if they would have me as an assistant priest in the Diocese. The Bishops Council gave me their approval with letters of commendation from the Melanesia Bishops and the Board of Mission.

Towards the end of 1997 my wife and I, with three of our children left for the UK, arriving in Sale, Manchester in the Parish of St Anne and St Francis. I was Licensed as Honorary Assistant Bishop of Chester and Curate of Sale,

with Permission to officiate in the Diocese of Chester and the Province of York by the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Archbishop of York. I served my title for two years until 1999.

On the 15th June 1999 I was Inducted and Licensed as Rector of Gawsworth and Assistant Bishop of Chester, the position I held until 2014 when Gawsworth became a united Benefice with North Rode, hence my rectorship covered both parishes until my retirement at the end of January 2019.

During my time as Rector of Gawsworth, I was Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Chaplain to Crime Beat, the High Sheriff's Charity, Chaplain to the Bailiff of the Weavers and Chaplain to the Worshipful Lord Mayor of Cheshire East.

In recent times I have attended conferences in Brussels, Geneva and a roundtable convention at Lambeth Palace on climate change.

The world has become so small. You could now be holding a coconut in one hand and a computer in the other.

God Bless.

Right Revd. Willie Alaha Pwaisiho. O.B.E.

The complete article – 'From Coconut to Computer' can be read on our website www.mmuk.net/news



CLIMATE CHANGE & PACIFIC COLLECTIONS

SIR JOSEPH BANKS SOCIETY



We are absolutely delighted that the Melanesian Mission trustees have agreed to lend our new natural history museum objects from their extensive collection from the Pacific region.

Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne who is the Melanesian Mission's Honorary Archivist said, "I hope that I have been able to supply some items of interest for you, and for the visitors to your Centre, to study and enjoy." This has culminated in our exhibition examining the past, present, and future of the peoples of the Pacific, and a disturbing connection to our home county of Lincolnshire.

Our exhibition starts of course with Sir Joseph Banks, who sailed through this region on the Endeavour with Lieutenant Cook. Banks took a great interest in the island people who they encountered. He describes their dress, customs, houses, food, games, religions, and even speaks of tattooing which he describes as, "universal,

painful, and wonderfully accomplished.” Importantly, he also studied the building of canoes both large and small and the sailing of them by the “clever ones” who used navigation by the stars and above all by the rising and setting of the constellations throughout the year. These skills were demonstrated by Tupaia (a well born Chief and priest of the traditional Polynesian religion) who embarked on Endeavour from Tahiti as a guest of Banks, and it was his navigation skills which were undoubtedly instrumental in the success of the voyage across the Pacific.

Moving forward to the present day, many of the objects are timeless in the sense that they will have been used for hundreds of years, and in some cases will still be in use today. The objects on loan are a delightful mix of every day common tools and cooking bowls together with mats and ceremonial items. They help us to understand about everyday life on the islands and how these lives are currently threatened by climate change and in particular rising sea levels.

Livelihoods across the Pacific Islands are highly dependent on subsistence agriculture and fishing, which provide the main source of food and income for most rural communities. Climate variability and erratic weather patterns, and particularly extreme weather events affect the ability of households to maintain their livelihoods.

However, by far the most disturbing result of climate change is rising sea levels. This is not something that Islanders can simply adapt to, for example if crops suffer it might be possible to import food subject to affordability, but if your land and houses are being submerged you can only retreat or leave the island.

Our exhibition then takes us into the future and what our world might look like if we do not take further steps to reduce global



warming. Surely, we in the UK need to play our part in taking responsibility for what is in fact a worldwide problem. We demonstrate that small steps can and do make a difference. We concentrate on education and how our lives need to change to ensure that others across the world can simply survive.

Finally, we show the likely consequences of not taking action and how that will affect us here this country and also here in our home county of Lincolnshire, because rising sea levels affect everybody.

All our exhibitions tell stories about the past, the present and in many cases the future. We hope that you will be able to visit us in the future and perhaps share your stories with us.

Paul Scott

Hon. Curator/Trustee

Joseph Banks Society

Horncastle, Lincolnshire

www.joseph-banks.org.uk

Patteson's Way Pilgrimage

We invite you to make a pilgrimage with Bishop John Coleridge Patteson on an eight-mile walk, visiting Feniton, Alfington, Ottery St Mary and Patteson's Cross in East Devon. Patteson's Way can be walked in a day or in stages.

Download the route booklet from the MMUK website or pick one up from the churches along the route.



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 Pestrige.




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Designed & printed by Nettl of Exeter (01392 797400)