

# MELANESIA NEWS



## VOYAGING TOGETHER

PRAYER, PEOPLE, GIVING



THE MELANESIAN MISSION

### ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The UK visit of Archbishop George

Gap Years Take Off

# JOY IN THE LORD

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## In the end, God got through to me.

Making my first visit to the Solomon Islands two years ago, I was struck by the welcome, hospitality and the joyful celebration of the Melanesian Church.

When people come from overseas to visit us in England, our welcome is polite, yet restrained; our hospitality tends to be friendly, yet formal; and our celebration is usually subdued and certainly not too enthusiastic. We'll shake people by the hand and say: 'How do you do?' We'll put the kettle on to make a cup of tea and we will even organise a formal dinner. We are, in fact, glad to see our companions from overseas – we just don't always show it!

But this is not the Melanesian way. No. You are met at the airport and presented with beautiful garlands that have been hours in the making. This is followed by singing, dancing and prayers which is then followed by feasting, more dancing, singing and yet more praying. Joyful welcome, lavish hospitality and exuberant celebration – that is the Melanesian way.

My first thought was: why so much effort?! Is it just an attempt to keep 'the westerners' on side? We had certainly not brought gifts of money, so it was not 'cupboard love'. After two weeks of these similar welcomes, as we visited



different Christian communities around the islands on the Southern Cross, I saw that this was usual behaviour.

It dawned on me that the Melanesians are joyful because they are thankful people. They are thankful that 150 years ago, 'we' had brought them the Gospel. Bishop Selwyn brought missionaries to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the pacific islands and, of course, Bishop Patteson had brought the Gospel to Melanesia.

As a guest, I was treated like a friend. Then, as a friend, I was treated like part of the family. I was made to feel at home, like I belonged to them. The Melanesian Christians made it obvious that they loved us. Their sheer joy came from belonging to Christ. We were welcomed with the same joy because, in Christ, we were to them like brothers and sisters whom they had not seen for a long time. I was humbled and challenged.

Where does my joy come from? Truthfully, over the last twenty years, maybe too much has depended on how well my work has been going. If it is going well, I am joyful. If not, then less so.

The Melanesian Church's joy has challenged me to remember that I am first and foremost a child of God and a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. These are the basis of my life and ministry. My vocation springs from this. I had better not forget it.

The Melanesians have taught me to rejoice in the Lord, for his sake alone.

I am a slow learner. Joy in the Lord! This is what I began to see more clearly over 10,000 miles away in the Solomon Islands. I have known the importance of this in my head. However, after 30 years of ordained ministry, now it has started to move from my head to my heart.

**+Mark Rylands, Chair of MMUK**





# SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP

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 Back in September and October of last year, MMUK had the privilege of hosting the Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Revd George Takeli, Mrs June Takeli, the Anglican Church of Melanesia's General Secretary Dr Abraham Hauriasi and Mission Secretary Fr Nigel Kelaepa.

One of Archbishop George's priorities on being installed as Archbishop was to build on the strong historic links the Anglican Church of Melanesia has with the churches which sent the first missionaries to the region. This was His Grace's first visit to the UK as Archbishop and the first time in the UK for Mrs Takeli and

Dr Abraham. Fr Nigel had studied in the UK a number of years ago.

As usual there was a full programme including visits to London, Southwark, Ely, Chester and Exeter Dioceses. Mrs Takeli also went to Edinburgh to attend the Mothers' Union AGM with friends from Chester Diocese.

The group also visited a number of schools partnered with schools in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Archbishop George met with students at Wycombe Abbey and Selwyn College, Cambridge and preached in Chapel at Eton College.



Dr Abraham and Fr Nigel spoke passionately about climate change at a conference at Southampton University, and Archbishop George raised the issue at the Primates Meeting in Canterbury at the end of his UK visit.

Reflecting on the UK visit, Archbishop George, said "It was a truly enriching visit, we made so many friendships, and learnt so much about our mission link with the UK.

"I am excited about the ongoing spirit of friendship and links for a strengthened partnership."

Many thanks to all the hosts, drivers, cooks and friends who made this trip so warm and welcoming. Here are just a few pictures from the visit. Many more can be found on the website.



## REST IN PEACE

On their return to Melanesia, Archbishop George and colleagues suffered the loss of a number of faithful servants of the Church of Melanesia.

Former Sister Provincial for the Community of the Sisters of the Church, Sr Kathleen died while visiting family in PNG. A huge loss for her community, she was buried at TNK.

Archbishop George's Private Secretary, Michael Anita died shortly before the General Synod. Later in December after the successful Synod in Vanuatu, we were shocked to hear that the Rt Revd James Ligo, Bishop of Vanuatu had died.

Two former Bishops also died in December. Bishop Hugh Blessing was principal of Bishop Patteson Theological College for many years before becoming the Bishop of Vanuatu.

The first Bishop of the Diocese of Banks and Torres, Bishop Charles Ling passed away on his home island of Motalava.

Then, this year in February ACoM's Human Resources Manager, Mr. Alfred Sare passed away.

Please pray for all those missing loved ones, valued colleagues and servants of the church.

***God of the spirits of all people, we pray you give freely to those who rest in Jesus, the many blessings of your love, that the good work which you here began in them may be finished in the day of Jesus Christ. Amen***



# NEWS IN BRIEF



**In June Chester Diocese will be celebrating the 30th anniversary** of their link with the Province of Melanesia. Many exchanges have taken place, including last year's visit of Archbishop George and party, prayers have been shared, and deep friendships forged.

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**Christina Vunagi has retired as Principal of St Nicholas College** in Honiara, after 25 years in which the school grew from 25 pupils to nearly 2,000. Her successor is James Lengi, who has returned from training in Taiwan, having previously been a deputy head at St Nicholas.

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**Solar panels will be installed** at CSM's Headquarters thanks to donations from St Martin-in-the-Fields, Newport Pagnell Parish Church and individual donors.

At their recent Chapter SSF Brothers elected Br Jonas as their Minister Provincial.

**On 12th August** the new Bishop of Vanuatu will be installed. The Bishop Elect has not been announced at the time of print.

**The former Archbishop of Melanesia,** David Vunagi has been appointed Principal of Selwyn College.

**Companions to the Melanesian Brotherhood will remember Ini Kopuria** on 2nd June in the north with a pilgrimage to Holy Island and in the south west with a Eucharist at Exeter Cathedral. Contact MMUK for more details.

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In February MMUK Trustees and special guest +Willie met at Foxhill in Chester Diocese for a two-day residential. Under discussion was how to grow the charity's supporter base, build on parish links and encourage more exchange visits.



This year's AGM and Festival Day will be held on Saturday 8th September at Selwyn College, Cambridge. The Eucharist will be held in the Chapel and there will be the opportunity to tour the College and beautiful grounds. Further details and guest speakers to be announced shortly.

# VOYAGING TOGETHER IN CHRIST



*Oceania Fono members have released a communique from their recent gathering in Suva, and identified climate change as the first of their common concerns.*

The second Fono (gathering) of the Anglican Primates and General Secretaries of Oceania was held in March 2018 in Suva, Fiji and was hosted by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia (ANZP). The Fono, in joint collaboration with the government of Fiji, was privileged to welcome Archbishop Justin Welby in his capacity as Archbishop of Canterbury.

This Fono heard stories from the four provinces, and the Diocese of Hawai'i whose

Bishop was a guest, and shared successes and challenges of our Church in fulfilling its mission to remain true to the gospel and to be agents of transformation in our region.

Recognising their moral responsibility and mutual accountability, the Fono committed to take concrete action, to be champions and advocates, and to support each other in the following areas.



# CLIMATE CHANGE

*Climate Change poses an existential threat to our people of Oceania.*

The Fono heard from Professor Beth Holland about the increase in number and severity of extreme weather events, storm surges and rising sea levels in the region. The Fono also focused its attention on the effects of climate change in Oceania and heard from the government of Fiji as the chair of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 23rd Conference of Parties.

The Fono notes the success of the province of ANZP decision to divest out of fossil fuels following the General Synod 2014. The Fono therefore encourages investment into sustainable energy as a valid option for our investment funds, and encourages the various Trust Boards to consider restructuring their investments to maximise returns from such innovative ideas. Archbishop Richardson and Archbishop Takeli will actively begin a conversation with the Melanesian Mission Trust Board.

Recognising that all Provinces have Anglican schools, the Fono commits itself to integrating climate change topics into the current curricula of the schools.

Furthermore, the Fono agreed to engage with existing action-oriented campaigns such as the 'plastic-free' campaign, tree-planting campaigns, or even "rubbish picking" events to place the Fono members at the forefront of changing behaviour of our children to have greater stewardship of our environment. The Fono will continue to monitor this commitment and will encourage mutual accountability, particularly on this critical decision.

The Fono notes with great encouragement the change of perspective to emphasising greater resilience towards climate change. In this regard, the Fono will encourage each other to be climate champions.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN

The Fono encourages and supports the zero tolerance for violence policy as promoted by the House of Sarah and encourages ways they may be able to share their work in other Provinces.

The Fono encourages all provinces to adopt, implement the ACC 'Safe Church charter', and commits to review and respond to the guidelines coming from the International Safe Church Commission.

The Fono will further promote the message of 'God's love for all' and offer alternative responses to violent reactions.

Taken from the Oceania Fono 2018 communique.

To read the full statement visit [www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/tikanga\\_pasifika/oceania](http://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/tikanga_pasifika/oceania)

# PRAYER DIARY

## WEEK 1

### Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia across the nine dioceses 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 Bishop Leonard Dawea. For all the staff working at the Headquarters at Lata.

For Revd Hillary Anisi and the Missions to Seafarers, through their centres in Honiara, Noro Port in the Western Province, Lata in Temotu and Port Vila in Vanuatu.

### Tuesday

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and their work with women throughout the islands. For Head Sister Annie and Assistant Head Sister Jessie and for the six households, including the new Household in Vanuatu led by Sr Collin.

For a greater understanding of Human Rights to promote stability and respect within communities, to love thy neighbour.

### Wednesday

For the Diocese of Ysabel, Bishop Ellison Quity and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters at Jejevo, Buala. For the new church secondary school being built on the island.

For volunteers from UK, Australia and New Zealand who share their skills in Melanesia. For projects, which are driven by the needs of Melanesians.

### Thursday

For the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo as they prepare for the installation of their Diocesan Bishop.

For the generosity of supporters providing school scholarships, enabling students to complete their education.

### Friday

For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia. We pray for their work along with Third Order members with the homeless and beggars in Honiara.

We pray for the greater care of creation and give thanks for the life and inspiration of St Francis.

For communities affected by climate change and pray for protection from unscrupulous mining and logging.

### Saturday

The Diocese of Malaita, Diocesan Bishop Sam Sahu and Assistant Bishop Rickson George Maomaoru.

For Church schools, rural training centres, the Bishop Patteson Theological College and John Coleridge Patteson University, staff and pupils.

## WEEK 2

### Sunday

For the Most Revd George Takeli in his role as Archbishop of Melanesia and as Diocesan Bishop of Central Melanesia. For all the staff in the Diocesan Headquarters in Honiara.

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

For the Church's outreach work in hospitals, Rove Prison, women's issues, climate change relocation programmes and youth conferences.

### Monday

For the Diocese of Guadalcanal, Bishop Nathan Tome and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Honiara. Pray for the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas, Honiara, and the 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 work with children around TNK and at KG6 School. For the Christian Care Centre and their work on gender-based violence with police and community leaders. For Sr Phyllis Sau as the coordinator.

### Wednesday

For the Diocese of Central Solomons, Bishop Ben Seka and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Tulagi. 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 Pateson Alfred Worek and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Sola.

For the Mothers' Union in the Province, their Headquarters in Honiara and their guest houses. For their work on literacy programmes, couples counselling, the Girls Friendly Society, savings clubs and the Positive Parenting Programme.

### Friday

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

For School Partnerships and the opportunities for children and teachers in the UK and Melanesia to learn together. We also pray for the success of the new gap year programme with the Project Trust students placed with Selwyn and St Nicholas Colleges.

### Saturday

For the Diocese of Hanuato'o, Bishop Alfred Karibongi and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Kirakira.

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.





# BEING A COMPANION TO MELANESIA

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It is twelve years now since I returned from being a priest and brother in Melanesia. In many ways no two lives could seem on the surface more different. At Tabalia I never had more than a few hours electricity from the generator each day. Even fresh water was at times sporadic with long walks to the spring by the river when the taps were dry and the rainwater tanks empty. My refrigerator with no electricity was used only for storage.

Living as a Melanesian Brother at Tabalia I felt so close to the natural world- you knew where everything came from and that if the gardens failed you would go hungry. I remember waiting for the rains to come and when I heard the first drops running over to the church gutter where the downpour cascaded off the roof: after the wait it was the most refreshing shower you could ever have. Night could be as dark as velvet and the stars- with the Southern Cross so astonishingly bright. When I first moved into my flat in Trafalgar Square

I thought I would never sleep. London is nonstop- it is twenty-four seven- and it's hard to keep the neon out of your bedroom, and the sound of sirens, and cars, and emptying bottle banks and the shouts, laughter and cries of those returning from a night out. How could the lessons of Melanesia be of any value here? I felt like a tuna out of water. Most of all I missed Melanesian community- where you were always with people but not in a demanding way- just with people-sharing in a generous reciprocity and a lot of fun laughter. In Solomons whatever you do there are always people to share that doing with you, be it washing clothes in a bucket, peeling sweet potatoes, riding on the back of a truck, or going in search of ripe pawpaw.

But if my first reaction was how different this life in London - I soon began to realise there were, deep down, such similar human needs. And the deepest perhaps of all those needs the need for companionship- relationship

with others to make meaning of our lives. The church is a unique place to do that of course. While the corner shop may have disappeared, and the post office and even the person in the supermarket has been replaced by the self-service till whose only conversation is to tell us repeatedly that there is an unidentified object in the bagging area- there is still a church in most communities and if you are blessed like we are at St Martin's- it's not only here, it's also open every day of the year- then you do have a place to belong- to God, to your own deepest self, and to your neighbour, whoever that neighbour may be. And I began to realise that the skills that the Melanesian Brotherhood had taught me were the greatest possible gifts for ministry not only in Solomon Islands but in the centre of London.

First the need for the rhythm of prayer to provide the pattern and centre of my life- and those who come through our doors of St Martin-in-the-Fields to join me. Second the vital importance of face to face encounter - actually listening and talking to people - giving them the gift of time and relationship rather than believing our primary relationships are with Facebook or a mobile phone. Third, I learnt the importance of generous sharing - being with others and benefitting from each other's gifts and skills. I learnt that community is so much richer and less stressful when we let go of our western obsession with competition and self-sufficiency. I might be good at cooking, but others were good at planting, at growing, or climbing coconut trees and that together we were so much more than we would be as isolated individuals and how much the same is true in London when we begin to share the gifts. Fourthly, I learnt that community is Eucharist - it's about sharing food and just like Solomons, if you begin sharing food in London you will soon create that community. You become companions - those who share bread. You see, you share Christ and find Christ in one another. Here in London we have created an informal Eucharist called Bread for the World and it is a wonderful celebration of diversity

and all that we have to gain from creating communities of compassion and hope and joy in this country just as we have seen in Melanesia. Fifthly, I learnt from Melanesia that those who one at first thinks of as being poor are in fact God's gift. They open our eyes to a new way of seeing and being. They open your eyes to our own poverty. Some of the most rewarding work I have the privilege of doing here in London is with those who are homeless, refugees or who have mental health difficulties, those who for whatever reason are on the edge of so called society. They are actually at the heart of our Christian faith and it is being with them that I know will renew not only me but also the church. For this is where we must look for Christ- on the edge where he was in his own life.

### What did I learn from Melanesia?

I learnt the joy of living together and sharing a common home - that God has entrusted to our mutual care. And the gift they gave me was that longing for community here in London and the realisation that it is when we remove our defences, our desire to control or dominate - and recapture the humility and hope of the Gospel, then the place where we are living can become a Tabalia or a Brotherhood and Sisterhood - can become the place of God's flourishing.

*Revd Richard Carter is Associate Vicar at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, and the Archbishop of Melanesia's UK Commissary*

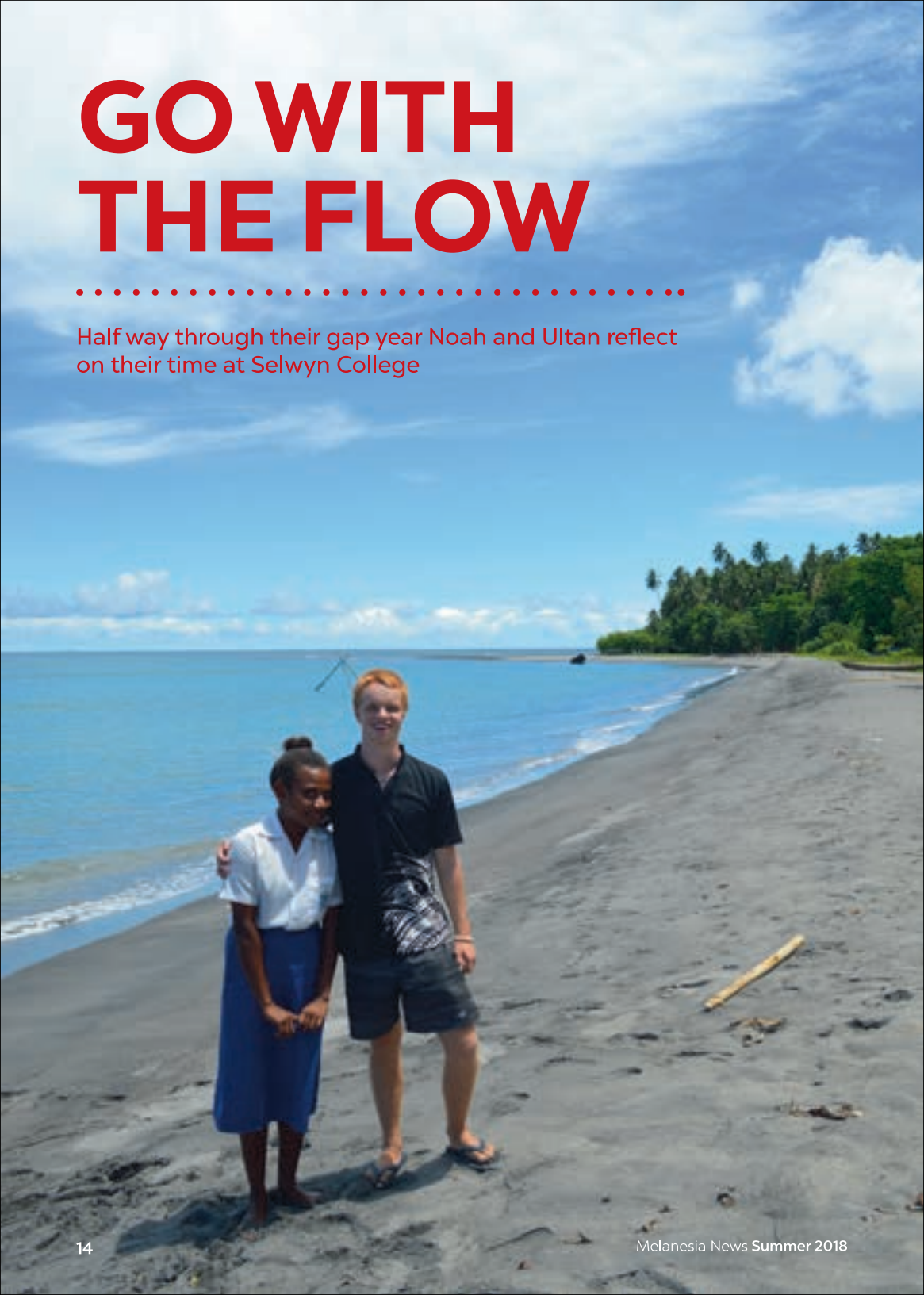
A younger  
Richard in  
Melanesia...



# GO WITH THE FLOW

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Half way through their gap year Noah and Ultan reflect on their time at Selwyn College







On the 20th of August 2017 we set off from London Heathrow for our 32-hour journey to the Solomon Islands. Upon arrival the first thought was "how is it possible for anywhere to be so hot?" But after a few days of trying to get your body clock to go to the complete opposite side of the day and adjusting to the heat, all was well.

This phrase may get overused, but the people of Solomon Islands really are some of the friendliest people we've ever come across. Unlike many other countries across the world when walking down the street no one harasses you or tries to sell you everything under the sun, the only thing people will stop you for is to say hi. It's wonderful.

The school at which we work is called Selwyn College, a co-educational boarding school run by the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Named after the first bishop of New Zealand, George Augustus Selwyn. It's situated up on the north west point of the island, Guadalcanal, and about one hour from the capital by road. It's full of ambitious and awesome kids who are a bag of laughs, but also so well behaved during class time. They

really are a joy to teach. Across the road from the school is a beautiful beach that we use for swimming almost every day.

The staff and students at the school and from the church head office have been so good at accepting and accommodating us as two new young volunteer teachers. As we're the first volunteers from our charity and the first gap-year volunteer teachers to come here for about 20 years, it's fair to say we were slightly apprehensive about what to expect, but we need not to have worried as everyone here has exceeded expectations!

Of everything that is amazing here there is one flaw. The people of the Solomon Islands have an inability to do anything on time. At first this was very frustrating but as time moved on we learnt that people here just go with the flow and things happen when they happen. If you can't beat them, join them.

Half way through our endeavour and we're totally into the swing of things. Bring on the next term of teaching!

**Noah & Ultan**  
**Project Trust Volunteers 2017/2018**



*Due to the success of these first placements at Selwyn College and St Nicholas College, Project Trust is looking to extend the number of placements in the Solomon Islands and then into Vanuatu. For more information visit their website [www.projecttrust.org.uk](http://www.projecttrust.org.uk) or call 01879 230444.*



# SCHOOLS UPDATE

The highlight for the last six months has been Archbishop George Takeli's visit to a number of UK partner schools in Cheshire and Devon, as well as Wycombe Abbey School and Eton College. The Archbishop spoke directly about climate change and the impact on the islands, and the importance of keeping up two-way relationships.

The programme for Project Trust's gap year volunteers in the Solomons has gone very well. There have been two volunteers at each of Selwyn and St Nicholas since last August. Feedback has been terrific, and Project Trust hopes to be sending a larger contingent to ACoM schools later this year.

In March, two visitors from Woodchurch High went to make films at their new partner school, St Nicholas College; and there are hopes that a team from other Cheshire schools will go to their partner in Vaturanga for a couple of weeks in July.

Following visits from Blackburn to Vanuatu in 2014 and 2015, which focussed on school governance and Christian distinctiveness in church schools, ACoM's education team in Vanuatu produced an excellent practical guide to governance and distinctiveness for use by its schools last year. The Archbishop saw this during his visit there in May and wants to extend this practice to the Solomons as well as reinforcing it in Vanuatu. To support this, MMUK will be facilitating a visit by two experienced volunteers

to roll this out further in both countries in July.

In Vanuatu, St Patrick's College was forced to evacuate away from its campus on Ambae following the eruption of one of the volcanos on the island. The school returned by the end of the year, and won top marks in the national year-end exams despite the interruptions. Unfortunately, the volcano seems to have become active again.

ACoM has opened a new Secondary school on Malaita, and is expanding the school at Kolobaubau, on Guadalcanal, which it took over from the Provincial government last year.

We are in the process of adding new links for schools here with Primaries in Vanuatu, and want to add more Secondary links for ACoM schools in the Solomons as well.

## **Andrew Cartwright, MMUK Trustee**

*Almighty God, from you comes all true knowledge. You give to everyone the power to learn about your works and ways. Give to your students in our schools and colleges the will to learn and understand the things they are taught. Help them in their learning and examinations, their games and their life together. May your Holy Spirit guide them to know and do all that is good and true. Help the teachers to do the best they can for the pupils in their care for your dear name's sake. Amen.*

# KEEP IN TOUCH

From May 2018 we are now required to obtain specific consent from anyone about whom we may retain or process any personal data. We are asking you for your consent that we hold your details to inform you about news, events, appeals and activities of the Melanesian Mission and the Anglican Church of Melanesia and to maintain records of donations.

**Please complete, sign and return the form below to the charity, if you have yet to give us this permission.**

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

Email:

**By signing this form** you give consent to the Melanesian Mission to hold and process your personal data for the following purposes **(please tick the boxes where you grant consent):**

To keep me informed about news, events, appeals and activities of the Melanesian Mission and the Anglican Church of Melanesia

To maintain a record of any donations

To including my details in the Membership List, available only to Trustees.

**I consent to the charity contacting me by:**

post (to continue to receive this magazine & other mailings)

email (to receive the regular E-news from the charity & other notices)

telephone

Signed:

Dated:

You can grant consent to all the purposes; one of the purposes or none of the purposes. Where you do not grant consent, we will not be able to use your personal data (so for example we may not be able to let you know about news and events), except in certain limited situations, such as where required to do so by law or to protect members of the public from serious harm. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Data Privacy Notice" which is available from our website or from the Office.

**You can withdraw or change your consent at any time** by contacting the Executive Officer at 21 The Burlands, Feniton, Honiton, UK, EX14 3UN.

**Email:** [mission@mmuk.net](mailto:mission@mmuk.net)

**Telephone:** 01404 851656

**Website:** [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net)



Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.



# GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you are a UK taxpayer, please complete this form.

As a Registered Charity, The Melanesian Mission can reclaim tax through the Gift Aid system, and boost your donation by 25p for every £1 donated. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current taxpayer.

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Date:

## Other ways to give:

Secure online donations via our website: [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net)

### By Standing Order

Please contact the Charity for more information

**By cheque**, payable to The Melanesian Mission, posted to the address below:

The Melanesian Mission, 21 The Burlands, Feniton, Honiton, EX14 3UN

**Tel:** 01404 851656 **Email:** [mission@mmuk.net](mailto:mission@mmuk.net) **Web:** [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net)



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# ANGLICAN EDUCATION IN MELANESIA PART 2

MMUK Archivist Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne continues his article from the last magazine

The Reverend Lonsdale Pritt, one of the Headmasters at St Andrew's, had learnt the language of Mota, an island in the Banks Islands north of the New Hebrides, and he used it as the language of instruction in the school. It gradually became the common language used throughout the Mission.

At St Andrew's the pupils had undertaken farming and printing as their "useful industry", and this tradition was followed at St Barnabas'. The pupils continued to be collected from the islands by the Mission ship the "Southern Cross" and returned there for holidays, or when their studies were completed.

There had been a few girls at St Andrew's, but there were more at St Barnabas', the idea being that if the boys became Christians there would be Christian women for them to marry. Melanesian custom at the time involved mostly arranged marriages! Another feature of the College was the small houses made by the boys where they could gather in their language groups during their free time. In later schools these became known as the "bush sections". After the killing of Bishop Patteson in the outer eastern Solomon Islands in 1871, the Headmaster, the Reverend Dr Robert Codrington, had a beautiful Memorial Chapel built in his memory with inlaid work done by Melanesians as part of the decoration, and this was used as the pro-Cathedral for the diocese until 1919. The aim of the College was to provide the education necessary for village "teachers", but their work usually involved being also evangelists and catechists and taking services in their village communities. Those who proved faithful in this ministry were given further

training at St Barnabas College to prepare them for ordination. Some were trained for other occupations, and the girls were given training especially in sewing and skills which would prepare them for motherhood, as all the pupils expected to get married eventually, according to Melanesian custom.

It became increasingly recognised in the diocese that the education of the islanders could not indefinitely be based in one place at such a distance from the homes of the potential pupils, especially the Solomon Islanders, as increasing numbers were being baptized as Christians. There had been "summer schools" in the Loyalty Islands near New Caledonia and at Mota in the early days of the Mission, but the first permanent school was established at Siota on Gela in the central Solomons in 1896, but it only lasted for four years because of bouts of illness. The next one established was at Vureas Bay on Vanua Lava in the Banks Islands in 1902. Both these schools were for boys. The first girls' boarding school in the Solomons was established at Boromole on Gela in 1917, but it soon moved to Siota, thus renewing the earlier tradition of education on that site.

When Bishop John Manwaring Steward was chosen as fifth Bishop of Melanesia in 1919, he made the important decision to move all the departments of St Barnabas College to the Solomons and the New Hebrides. There were to be schools for boys and girls in both countries, and also colleges for the training of clergy. English was gradually adopted as the medium of education. The island of Ugi was chosen for the Senior School in the Solomons, and it was named All Hallows.



There were to be primary schools which would feed pupils into this school and into the enlarged school at Vureas Bay in the Banks Islands, which served the Southern Archdeaconry. Vureas School for boys and the neighbouring Torgil school for girls were moved in 1936 to the island of Ambae further south in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), but retained their names. However, the two schools later combined, thus becoming co-educational, and this main school for the south of the Anglican Province of Melanesia is now known as St Patrick's College, Vureas.

In the Solomons, two main senior and primary schools eventually emerged, one at Maravovo on Guadalcanal, and another at Alangaula on Ugi in the Eastern Solomons. The main school for girls was at Pamua on Makira (San Christobal) island, opposite Ugi. Pawa and Pamua schools eventually combined to form the co-educational Selwyn College in the 1970s, based first at Najilanggu and then at Maravovo, both places on Guadalcanal. An increasing number of junior secondary schools have been established by the Governments in both countries, leaving the Churches to provide most of the full secondary education. However, in Honiara the parents decided there should be an Anglican Church secondary school to serve the needs of the capital of the Solomons, and they have established a full range of primary and secondary education at St Nicholas School there. In both countries, the Churches are seen as partners in education with the national and local governments, and some schools have been handed back to the Church to run.

The aim of the Anglican Church in providing education for both boys and girls, men and women, is still to enable them to receive and practice "true religion, sound learning and useful industry", and to be able to help themselves, their communities, their Church and their countries develop in Christian ways. Much has been achieved but there is much still to be done, if all the people of these countries are to receive what is readily available in other places in the world.

**For more information on ACoM schools, and to read Part One of this article, visit our website [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net)**

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

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**Please use email address to the left when contacting the charity.** *Please Note:* If you've recently contacted the Melanesian Mission using our old email addresses ending in '@melanesia.anglican.org', we've recently learnt that these are no longer forwarded to us. Please make sure that you update your address books to use our current contact information; 'mission@mmuk.net'. If you've not heard from us and are expecting a reply, please resend your email - we apologise for the inconvenience caused.

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