

MELANESIA NEWS



THE CLIMATE ISSUE

The reality of living with climate change, unpredictable weather patterns and rising sea levels (see page 4)



ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MMUK's new Chair of Trustees, Rt Revd Mark Rylands

Sr Veronica CSC following in the footsteps of Patteson

Visits to the region

WE WENT ICE SKATING IN NORTH WALES

Brothers John and Nelson from the Melanesian Brotherhood, were visiting Chester Diocese in the summer of 1992. They came to stay with our family in the four parishes outside Nantwich where I served as Vicar.

On the first evening we took the youth group ice skating in Queensferry. Seeing ice for the first time, Nelson and John did not hold back: they put on skates and had a go. The young people were impressed and loved helping them to keep their balance on this unfamiliar terrain. They enjoyed their company, began talking with them and then listened as John and Nelson shared their faith in a natural and gentle way. It was a great evening for the young people from these rural villages, and my first insight into the compelling witness and ministry of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

When working with the Church of England in Devon, I came into contact with Melanesia again, because of the historic links going back to Patteson. As Diocesan Missioner, I was heavily involved in organising the Melanesian Mission's itinerary and programme in Exeter Diocese in the summer of 2005. Leading assemblies in schools, visiting parishes, open air witness on the Cathedral Green and presenting the Passion of Christ to large audiences across the county, the Melanesian Church team had a profound impact. It was a privilege to spend time with the brothers and sisters and see how their presence, worship and witness inspired thousands of Devonians.

Now serving in Lichfield Diocese, as the Bishop of Shrewsbury, it is wonderful to learn of Bishop Selwyn's vision for taking the Gospel to the islands of the Pacific. His influence in calling John Patteson as an apostle for Melanesia was inspirational; and Patteson's desire and ability to train and commission home grown, indigenous priests and evangelists was a pioneering movement well ahead of its time.



Bishop Mark attended the installation of the new Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Revd George Takeli in April of this year.

What a huge privilege it is to be asked to serve as the Chair of Trustees for the Melanesian Mission UK! I am both humbled and glad to be offered the opportunity to help strengthen the Church of England's partnership with our brothers and sisters in Melanesia. This partnership is hugely treasured. As I take up this new role, I would like to pay tribute to Bishop Nigel, particularly for his pastoral wisdom in leadership. Please pray for me that I may know God's grace and be equipped for the task ahead. Together, may we faithfully serve, in his Mission, the One who is faithful to us.

+Mark Rylands, Chair of MMUK

CARE OF CREATION?

As part of my visit to the Solomon Islands this year, I was asked by Trustees to report on the impact of climate change. Is it really happening, and if so how are the Anglican Church of Melanesia, local parishes and communities reacting to it?



Turn over to read more





Thanks to the previous films made by Alex Leger, who also came along on this trip, we can evidence that climate change is happening at a rapid pace in the region. In 2002 Alex filmed for the BBC Children's programme Blue Peter, the thriving community on the artificial island of Walande. Back then the villagers were having to work very hard to keep their village above sea-level.



On visiting the same village this year, an island which once had over 200 properties, is now reduced to only two houses on a tiny scrap of land.

Over the last 12 years the villagers abandoned their homes to King Tides and rising sea levels and moved onto the mainland.

In the village of Fanalei we were told about the church being destroyed by a storm and the centre of the settlement regularly flooding as the sea water levels rise.

Erratic weather patterns are causing havoc. Schools have been forced to close before important exams are taken, as their water tanks have run dry. Other communities have lost their crops due to excessive rain fall and flooding. In the most extreme situations, some people are leaving their islands for good, as is the case for the people of Ontong Java. Irresponsible logging and mining, and the introduction of plastic packaging, are also harming the eco-system of the region.

To see and hear first-hand accounts of lives changed forever is very moving. People are frightened when the storms come, and some feel they are being punished.

The Fifth Mark of Mission says:

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”

As a holistic checklist to mission, the Five Marks of Mission have been used around the world by Christian parishes and Dioceses since the 1980's. Originally four and then five marks in the 1990's, Dave Bookless says:

“... the fifth mark of mission is not an optional extra, or simply a contemporary reaction to our current environmental crisis, but rather a genuine recovery of a biblically integrated understanding of mission”

In response to these changing times, the Anglican Church of Melanesia is working with communities to see how best to support them. Earlier this year the Anglican Church ran a relocation workshop to help those who have lost, or will in the next few years lose, their homes. The Church is looking at where these communities can be rehoused and also to help them to maintain their distinctiveness and ways for future generations.

Surely, we in the UK need to play our part in taking responsibility for what is in fact a worldwide problem. Do we need to make that car journey, do we need to print that email, can we recycle that packaging? Small steps can add up to make a difference. We can also ask our MP's and government how it will comply with the promises made at COP21 (also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference).

This is something we cannot ignore because it's on the other side of the world. Yes, people adapt, yes some people can move, but why should they give up their ancestral homes, and watch their homes, churches and graveyards wash away? It will take some communities decades to readjust to life in new lands, and many cultural traditions may be lost along the way.

Films made during this recent visit to the Solomon Islands, including the plight of Walande and Fanalei, can be watched on our new website. Accompanying reflections and prayers for groups or individuals, can also be found on the website.

Please let the charity know of any responses you receive from your local MP on climate change in the Pacific and the government's environmental policies.

Jesus, who raised the dead to life
Help us to find ways to renew
what we have broken, damaged and destroyed:
Where we have taken too much water,
polluted the air, poured plastic into the sea,
cut down the forests and soured fertile soils.
Help all those who work to find solutions to
damage and decay; give hope to those
who are today working for a greener future.

Amen

*Prayer from Creationtide and Environment
Resources for worship and prayer*

Katie Drew

MMUK Executive Officer



**Br Francis SSF points to where his house
once stood on the island of Walande**



CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE CSM COMMUNITY

Over the last two years St Martin in the Fields, London, has contributed to a water project for the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia with a working solar pump, two 10,000 litre water tanks, and a new ablution block of three toilets and three showers at Verana'aso. The solar pump gives the community access to running water for drinking, cooking and the laundry, whilst the water tanks will ensure that rainwater is collected and stored for the dry season. Around 50 Sisters and Novices live at Verana'aso and the provision of these facilities means that members of the community no longer have to wash in the river, where there are harmful parasites, or carry their drinking water up the steep hill.

These facilities have brought about a considerable improvement to the health of these young women as they labour in their gardens and provide vital pastoral care to prisoners, and to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence.

UK Associates to this Community have also

pledged to provide the whole community at Verana'aso with lunches every day, ensuring that the Sisters and Novices eat regularly. There are now 19 UK Associates in Chelmsford, Chester, Ely, Exeter, London and Winchester Dioceses.

With the appointment of the new Head Sister Annie Alaha and Assistant Head Sister, Jessy Sai in September, and a new Household in Vanuatu, we await what plans the Community has going forward.


Lord, we pray for the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia.

Give these young women the grace to answer their vocation readily and thankfully.

May they be strong to serve you in the work which you called them to do, serving in a spirit of joy and love.

Bless the work of the Sisters at the Christian Care Centre and those who have been given responsibilities in the Community.

Amen



If you would like to find out more about the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, current projects or becoming an Associate, please contact the charity.

TEACHING HUMAN RIGHTS

We are delighted to announce that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office through the British High Commission in Honiara, has awarded a grant for two UK teachers to deliver Human Rights Teacher Training to teachers at the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) schools.

Christine Calderwood from Devon visited the Solomon Islands in 2013 as the School Champion for the Kings School, partnered with the Norman Palmer School. Realising that Human Rights was not taught in schools, Christine came back to the UK to see what she could do.

A grant to deliver teacher training was awarded in May and since then Christine and fellow teacher Clem Noble have been researching and putting together a ten-week course for teachers in ACoM's Secondary Schools. During a five-day workshop in November, Christine and Clem trained two Human Rights Champions from each ACoM Secondary School in the Solomon Islands. It is hoped that the Solomon Islands Government will see this training and its impact, and will want it to become part of the country's national curriculum in all schools.

Many thanks to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and donors in the UK for funding this ground breaking project.

Future funding will be sought to continue to support these newly trained Human Rights Champions, and to deliver this training in Vanuatu, within the religious orders and the Mothers' Union.

Lord Jesus,

*you came to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,*

*insight to the blind and freedom to the
oppressed.*

*We pray that the teachers being gifted,
skilled and blessed by you, will promote
justice and human rights in these islands.*

*Enable us to see your image in each
person and to nurture individuals with
great respect. Help us to channel your
love and hope to all people.*

*We ask this through your Son's name,
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Two schools in the UK have begun to form School Partnerships with two ACoM Schools through MMUK. St John's Church of England Primary School in Wellington, in Bath and Wells Diocese, is linking with Pauma Primary School in the Diocese of Hanuato'o. Payhembury Church of England Primary School in Exeter Diocese is being twinned with the Primary School Extension at Selwyn College. The links have begun with the schools exchanging pictures and

photographs, and it is hoped that it will develop into shared curriculum and learning activities.

Revd Cate Edmonds has devised a Melanesian Prayer Spaces resource for schools and church groups. These prayer boxes contain a number of reflective, interactive activities on Melanesian life and spirituality, religious ceremonies and care of creation. They are available to borrow from the charity and from Chester and Exeter Dioceses.



SMALL COMMUNITY ON A BIG SEA

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Chris Trott, remembers with fondness his time as British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Nauru, and a trip on the Southern Cross.

Until August of this year I was representing the British Government in this part of the South Pacific, and looked after the interests of British citizens living, working or just passing through here. Over my career as a diplomat I have learnt to value opportunities to get away from the capital city, to spend time getting to know the people in the provinces of countries in which I have been working. These opportunities are sadly few and far between, so, when an opportunity arises, sometimes unexpectedly, I have learnt to grab it with both hands, and not to let go.

This happened recently to me in Honiara, the heart of what you know as Melanesia, and in a way, it felt like the completion of one of life's circles. I grew up in the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Blechingley in Surrey. Living in the same parish was an elderly lady, Miss Kay Loring, who had spent her life raising money for the Melanesian Mission – and we had regularly prayed for the work of the Mission, although few of us had a clear understanding of its Ministry.

When I was appointed to this role, I was excited to finally find out more about the Mission's work, and was even more thrilled to discover I would be in Honiara for the enthronement of a new Archbishop. In my exchanges with Katie Drew at MMUK I heard about a delegation from MMUK attending the Archbishop's instalment and then travelling around the archipelago on the Church's ship, the Southern Cross, with a film crew documenting the impact of climate change and visiting schools supported by the Church. Without hesitating I asked if there would be room on the ship for me, since travel to most of this country is impossible, as the network of small island airports is not extensive, and the service can be a bit hit and miss.

On the morning after the enthronement of Archbishop George, I found myself at the Honiara port, standing at the gang-plank of one of the most majestic ships I have ever seen. She is old, but she is very well looked after and her crew were extraordinarily welcoming. I found myself assigned to the 'Bishop's Cabin' which,



true to its name, I was sharing with a British Bishop, Bishop Mark, Bishop of Shrewsbury. I was excited as we pulled away from Honiara, looking forward to the voyage ahead of us. But I still did not realise what a treat was in store for me. Nor did I yet realise what an important lifeline the ship, I was travelling on, was for the Anglican Church and its scattered congregations in Melanesia.

Over a period of five days we had a series of extraordinarily uplifting experiences, meeting the most amazing people, each facing up to life's challenges in their own way. We were received on beaches by warriors, armed with spears, dressed in camouflage and face paint (increasing my admiration for those early missionaries who would have faced the same welcome party, but without knowing whether their intention was hostile or not), and then by choirs who marched us to their church, their village meeting place or their school hall for a formal welcome reception.

The warmth of these welcomes was overwhelming – based as it was on our

shared humanity and our shared faith. These communities were all genuinely pleased to see the Southern Cross and its passengers, reminding them of their links to the outside world even, if their communities must feel very isolated for much of the time. And as our journey continued I came to understand the symbolic and spiritual importance of this beautiful ship – she represents for many members of the church, their only link with the outside world, the only way they would ever see their bishop – a reminder that they are part of a wider congregation. But she is more than that – as we developed our routine of prayers at the beginning and the end of each day we, the crew and passengers, began to feel like a small community of our own. And I felt truly honoured to have been able to share in this sense of community as we travelled around this beautiful country.

Thank you MMUK for your welcome – I am most sincerely grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to go on such a wonderful (physical and spiritual) journey in Melanesia. I now know why Miss Kay Loring was so passionate for your work.

PRAYER DIARY

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 and Revd George Elo, the Secretary of the Melanesian Board of Mission.

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 newly installed Bishop Leonard Dawea, 5th Bishop of this Diocese. 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

For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia. We give thanks for their work with unemployed young men.

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 unscrupulous mining and logging.

Wednesday

For the Diocese of Ysabel, Bishop Ellison Quity and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters at Jejevo, Buala.

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

Thursday

For the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia, Bishop James Ligo and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo.

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

Friday

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and their work with women throughout the islands. For Head Sister Annie and Assistant Head Sister Jessy. For the new Household in Vanuatu.

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

Saturday

The Diocese of Malaita, Diocesan Bishop Sam Sahu and Assistant Bishop Alfred Hou. For the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters at Auki.

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

...please pray

Sunday

For the Rt 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 know and respect each other.

For the Church's outreach work in hospitals, prisons, 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 Davidson Nwaeramo, and all who minister and worship there.

Tuesday

For the Sisters of the Community of the Church and for Sr Veronica as she takes up the position of Provincial Sister for the Solomon Islands Pacific Region.

For the on-going work of the Christian Care Centre and the 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 Patteson 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, teaching income generation skills, savings clubs and the Positive Parenting Programme. For Mary Vunagi MU President, diocesan workers and volunteers.

Friday

For the Melanesian Brotherhood, the Brothers, Novices and Aspirants in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, Philippines and Canada. 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.

Saturday

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

For closer Diocesan Links bringing Christians around the globe together in Christian Unity. For all those called to be Missionaries in the past, now and in the future.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PATTESON

I was invited by Reverend Cate Edmonds to visit her Parish in Devon after the MMUK AGM in September. On the train to Feniton with the others who came for the meeting, our group was enlivened by the Drew's children (Lara and Erin) having fun with the Reverend Simon Franklin. They were quite entertaining and shortened the journey for us after a long day. It reminded me that the younger generation need to be part of this charity, because they bring tremendous joy and their experience will secure the future of MMUK.

Reverend Simon asked me what I would be doing on Sunday. Full of enthusiasm I explained that I was presiding and preaching at Alfington at 9am and preaching at Feniton at 11am. Simon went on to warn me to take plenty of tissues to Alfington! Apparently, Bishop Patteson when he preached his first sermon there during his curacy, broke down in tears at the door, and now they believe that any visitor there will do the

same at the door after the service. I thought he was teasing me.

However, for me coming originally from Melanesia, standing at the Prayer Desk preparing the readings and the hymns, I could feel tears running down my cheeks. I felt very humbled to be on the very ground where Bishop Patteson was equipped and prepared by God for his future mission and ministry, as the first Bishop in Melanesia and later brutally martyred there. He responded to God's call with love and compassion for the people of the Solomon Islands. Without his faith and love grounded in God, we would not be what we are today.

The Gospel reading chosen for that morning was Luke 8: 2: 'My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and obey it' and Hebrews: 4: 12: - 'The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together'.

In my preaching that morning in both churches, I spoke about Bishop Patteson's personal relationship with God. His faith and love for the Lord was demonstrated in what he did for Melanesia. He left his comfortable home and cosy life and took on the most challenging and costly life that anyone could dream of. Bishop Patteson met the challenges with determination, courage, resilience and love, firmly grounded in God.





Sr Veronica with Revd Cate Edmonds and some members of the congregation at St Andrew's, Feniton

In our time, Jesus calls us to follow him. How are we to respond to His invitation? Are we going to accept the call of Christ by taking a risk like Patteson, or ignore it and never grow in our love and knowledge of Christ? The faith we follow is about risk taking, and God will lead us where he chooses.

As Christians, we need to leave behind our own interests and comforts and think of others who are less fortunate than ourselves. We need to allow Christ to transform and renew our lives.

I wish to thank Revd Cate and our Executive Officer Katie Drew for organising my visit to Devon and more especially to commemorate Bishop John Coleridge Patteson.

- Sr Veronica CSC

As we go to press, it has been announced that Sr Veronica has been elected as the next Provincial Sister for the Solomon Island Pacific Province. Sr Veronica will return to the Solomons to take up the post in the new year.

God of Community,

We give you thanks that you meet us as we journey together as your people; we thank you for those whom you call to live and work in your attentive presence.

In our prayer, we hold before you our Sister, Veronica, now elected as Provincial Sister in Melanesia for Community of the Sisters of the Church.

Prepare her, we pray, with the gifts of wise leadership for the tasks which lie before her.

Amidst all the pressures and expectations which she will face, nurture her in the close fellowship of your being and grant her a new confidence in your continual presence.

This we ask in the love of Jesus Christ Who came to share our life, that we may know you in fellowship, one with another.

Amen

NEWS IN BRIEF

We are delighted that Archbishop George and his wife June will be visiting the UK in September 2017 to meet with supporters and visit schools and dioceses.



In January 2017 Bishops Ellison and Leonard will be in Canterbury to attend the Bishops in the Early Year of Episcopal Ministry course.

The Melanesian Brotherhood admitted 43 novices as Brothers and Br Christom Aujare was ordained Deacon on the Feast of St Simon and St Jude in October.

More than 6,000 people attended the consecration and installation of the Reverend Father Leonard Dawea as the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Temotu at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Lata, Santa Cruz, in September. Among the international guests was the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester and MMUK Trustee and Secretary to the UK Companions, Mrs Barbara Molyneux.

At the Charity's AGM in September, Bishop Nigel Stock stepped down as Trustee and Chair of the Melanesian Mission. The Rt. Revd Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury was elected his successor. Revd Richard Carter stepped down as Trustee, on becoming the Archbishop of Melanesia's UK Commissary. Canon John Pinder was elected his successor. Mrs Sue Clayton was re-elected as Honorary Treasurer for a term of one year, and Mrs Barbara Molyneux was re-elected as Trustee representing Chester Diocese for a further two years.

One of the renowned Anglican Church of Melanesia schools, Saint Nicholas College, celebrated its 31st anniversary for Kindergarten, 30 years for Primary and 20 years of Secondary education in September.

The school was originally founded by the Community of the Sisters of the Church by the late Sr Helen Jane, one of the first three Sisters who brought the Community to the Solomon Islands. The Kindergarten began

NEWS IN BRIEF

at St Barnabas Cathedral's Hall by Sr Helen Jane with the help of the Mothers' Union members Alice Kavao and Dora Ho'ota.

The Melanesian Mission has awarded the Mothers' Union a grant of £1,000 to expand its Positive Parenting Programme.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia's Provincial Disaster Committee has handed over eight water tanks to the Diocese of Central Melanesia (DOCM) disaster committee, using funds received from overseas donors including MMUK.

Thanks to a donation from St Andrew's Parish Church, in Ham, the long awaited Pamua School Girls Sanitation project will begin in February 2017. Many thanks to Sr Veronica's parish for enabling this project to happen.

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Heswall held an Environment day in October. Bishop Willie Pwaisiho recalled his recent visit and filming in Melanesia and the impact of climate change on communities there.

The charity's new website has been launched and we hope it will provide supporters with more news, resources and prayer points. Please let us know what you think: www.mmuk.net

We also hope you like our redesigned magazine and logo.



At the Community of the Sisters of the Church's Provincial Chapter at TNK in September, Catherine Tawai, Neslyn, Shirley, Margaret, Sophia and Ellen became Junior Sisters.



MAKING THE LINKS



Mike and Jenny Gilbertson made their first visit to the Solomon Islands earlier this year. Mike is the Archdeacon of Chester and Jenny is a Reader and the Vice President of the Mothers' Union in Chester Diocese.

Our visit coincided with the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Melanesia, George Takeli, in a magnificent service at the Cathedral of St Barnabas in Honiara, with a great Melanesian mix of formal liturgy and exuberant traditional dancing. We were also present for the annual commemoration of the seven martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood at Tabalia, and the St Mark's Day patronal service, at which Mike had the privilege of preaching.

Jenny stayed for three nights with the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia at Verana'aso, and was deeply impressed by the commitment and warmth of the sisters as well the humbling way in which they manage with so few resources. She also took greetings from the Mothers' Union in Chester to the Mothers' Union in Melanesia, and saw at first hand some of the tremendous work they do in mission and ministry. Mike spent two days teaching clergy, including students at Bishop Patteson Theological College at Kohimarama and clergy from the Diocese of Central Melanesia.

Several schools in Melanesia have links with schools in the UK, and it was a joy to visit some of these, including St Francis Primary School at Vaturanga, which is partnered with two church

primary schools at Frodsham and Warmingham, in the Diocese of Chester. All the children in the two partner schools had written letters or drawn pictures and we were able to present these to the staff.

While we were at Tabalia, we saw Jeffrey Takina and Nelson Bako, both of whom we had met when they studied theology at the University of Chester as part of the link. As many supporters of MMUK will testify, these personal links are at the core of our partnership. Since our return, we have heard the great news that Leonard Dawea, another brother who came to study theology in Chester, has become the Bishop of Temotu.

We have come back inspired to work to develop the link between the Diocese of Chester and the Province of Melanesia in the future. We are already exploring ways of strengthening the schools' links, and to increase awareness of and support for the wonderful work of the religious orders in Melanesia, and we look forward to playing our part in fostering these partnerships in the future. We both felt that we had learned a great deal from our brothers and sisters in the Solomons, and would love to return if the opportunity arises.

MEMBERSHIP

Keep up to date with news, events and prayer points from the Anglican Church of Melanesia and from the Melanesian Mission, by completing and returning this form to the address at the bottom of page 18.

Membership of The Melanesian Mission is open to any individual, church or organisation interested in promoting the work of the Charity. Only registered Members can vote at the AGM and elect the Charity's Trustees.

There is no subscription for membership, though it is hoped that members will support the work of the charity, with prayer and giving. The Mission is required to keep an up-to-date register of all its members.

I / We

wish to register as a member(s) of the Melanesian Mission for 2016/17

Address:

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All magazines since 2014 are available to view and download from the charity's website. To reduce costs, printed copies of the magazine will only be sent to those Members requesting one.

I require printed copies of Melanesia News for my parish

Please send me more information on:

Prayer Support

Personal Giving

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Collection Boxes

Holding a Fundraising Event

Organising a Melanesia Display / Talk

School Partnerships

Volunteering in Melanesia

Resources Available:

Leaflets

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Prayer and Reflective Materials

You can sign up for the Charity's email newsletter and follow the charity on Facebook and Twitter.

Turn over
for Gift Aid



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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:** katie.drew@mmuk.net **Web:** www.mmuk.net



of

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

MMUK Archivist Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne recounts the story of the Southern Cross

The Melanesian Mission was originally founded in 1849 by Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, as an outreach from his New Zealand diocese into the islands of Melanesia. He was determined to obtain a sea-going vessel for the long voyages involved, and fortunately he had many supportive friends in England, especially at Eton College. He paid a special visit back to England, and was able to make all the arrangements for the building of the vessel, which he named the "Southern Cross", after the constellation of stars so often visible in the southern hemisphere.

The vessel was not ready for his return voyage, but arrived in New Zealand not long after his return there with a new missionary priest John Coleridge Patteson. His friends went on supporting his work through a special body called the Eton Association, a precursor of the present Melanesian Mission in the UK.

Since the arrival of the first Southern Cross, there have been a succession of ships of this name, some built in England and some in more recent times at Ballena in Queensland. Originally the ship had to return to New Zealand to be serviced, but after the Second World War a marine workshop at Taroaniara

on Gela was established, which still helps to keep the ship running today.

There have been many mishaps over the years. Before I arrived in Melanesia in 1964, the Southern Cross had hit a reef off the coast of Guadalcanal and had to be abandoned, although no lives were lost. On another occasion, the then Southern Cross was blown onto the beach at Maravovo on Guadalcanal soon after she had arrived in the islands. Another had been wrecked before it reached the islands to which it was heading for the first time.

The running, repair, and replacement (when necessary) of the ship had been the most expensive item in the Province's budget, and gradually the size of successive ships of the name have been reduced. Her main aim continues to be taking the bishops and other church officers on their necessary tours, carrying supplies to church institutions, taking people to large church events, and to be available in emergencies, such as after the recent devastating Cyclone Pam. The ship is essential to the work and Mission of the church today.



**SOUTHERN
CROSS**

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

The Anglican Church of Melanesia is focused on mission. Through the spreading of the word of God and sharing their faith through their actions, the Anglican Church across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia continues to grow. To resource the work amongst young and old, men and women, rural and urban communities, the church needs funds to carry out its mission work.



All donations given to the Melanesian Mission in the UK go directly to the Anglican Church of Melanesia. All the administrative costs of the Mission are covered by income from historical investments.

Each year around £40,000 is sent as a grant to enable the Anglican Church of Melanesia to help meet its priorities for mission. This money comes from individuals, churches and schools. The money is sent in this way, to enable the church to set budgets and plan its work each year.

In addition to the grant, further money for specific projects is sent when available. This ranges from, funding training courses, ensuring clean water supplies, scholarships, resources for libraries, and emergency funding during times of disaster.

When requested by the Anglican Church of Melanesia, volunteers are sent to the region to help with programmes and training. These placements can range from a couple of weeks, to much longer periods of time. The Charity also facilitates visits both ways, to ensure a continuation of Christian fellowship, joint learning and understanding between the UK and Melanesia.

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Please contact the Charity for more information on its activities, sign up for the Charity's email newsletter and follow the charity on Facebook and Twitter.
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