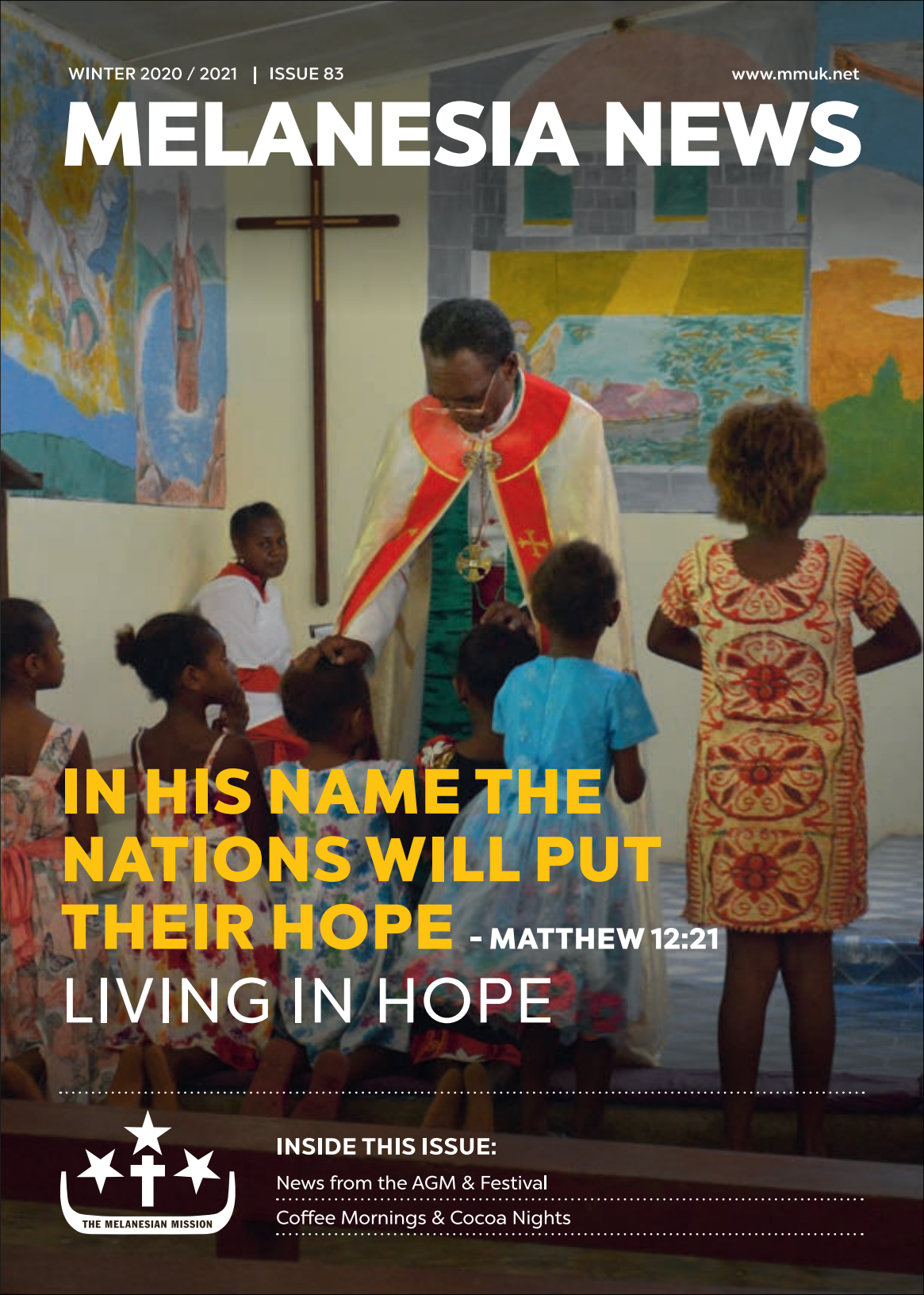


MELANESIA NEWS



**IN HIS NAME THE
NATIONS WILL PUT
THEIR HOPE** - MATTHEW 12:21
LIVING IN HOPE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the AGM & Festival

Coffee Mornings & Cocoa Nights

LIVING IN HOPE

The biblical understanding of hope is not just wishful thinking about the future but a confident expectation about things that are unclear and unknown.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected all our lives these past months. Here in the UK we have lamented lost lives, jobs and livelihoods, the isolation of the elderly and vulnerable, the separation of families and friends. Yet we have also had reason to be thankful: for the way communities have pulled together; for the care, acts of kindness and good neighbouring; many, too, are grateful for the Government's

Furlough Scheme that has saved their livelihoods and jobs.

Our brothers and sisters in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are also living under the shadow of the pandemic, in different ways to us. A reduction of international vessels with supplies meaning a shortage of goods; boats with imported goods not running to schedule, concerns about the ability of the nation's health services coping with those badly affected by Coronavirus and now the first cases of the virus being recently reported in Honiara.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia, however, is continuing to live and respond hopefully in challenging times. In this edition of Melanesia News we have:

- Archbishop Leonard's address to the MMUK AGM, with plans to establish and support health clinics, and we hear how the Southern Cross has been refurbished and is back on mission. A powerful symbol of hope and unity for the islands, it is encouraging to hear that this mission flagship will continue to share the Gospel and strengthen church family relationships across each diocese and the whole Province.
- There is news of Bishop Willie Tungale's installation as Bishop of Temotu and details of his consecration of church buildings, ordination of priests and confirmation of nearly 1,000 candidates in his first 10 months of his episcopacy.
- An account by Tagolyn Kabekabe of the effects of climate change on the diet and health of Melanesians.
- Rev Bobby Chuchini gives an introduction to life during COVID in his new post as Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers.



- We hear more of Bishop Willie Pwaisiho's life story where he praises God for his teachers in 'taming' him (not an easy task, I suspect...) and we see how his mentor, The Very Reverend Desmond Probeta, had a big influence on Willie becoming a priest rather than a policeman.

- The CSM Chapel Appeal has been launched. The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia are building a new chapel that will withstand high winds and bad weather. UK Associates of CSM are pledging to raise £15,000 of the £84,000 required. Please support this venture as generously as you can.
- The Venerable Mike Gilbertson reports on the unveiling in Chester Cathedral of an icon to the Martyred Melanesian Brothers.
- Katie Drew reports on our recent online MMUK AGM and Festival which attracted over 70 attendees including participants from Australia, the Solomon Islands and Fiji.
- And finally we launch our online 'Coffee Mornings and Cocoa Nights', with guest speakers from Melanesia and the UK. These planned events will keep supporters informed about issues, help us learn about particular topics and give time to reflect on how we may best respond.

The hope we share as followers of Jesus Christ, is not that challenges and dangers will be removed. Our hope is in Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead – evil defeated and the new creation launched. God acting to redeem, restore and renew his creation beckons us to participate in this Mission - transforming communities, reconciling the divided, sharing the Gospel, caring for the environment - preparing for the kingdom of God.

In Melanesia and UK, may God continue to guide his Church in living out this hope.

+Mark Rylands - Chair of MMUK

ARCHBISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Most Revd Leonard Dawea, Archbishop of Melanesia, gave this address at the charity's AGM in September.

First I convey greetings to you from the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the Council of bishops, clergy, administrators and general laity. Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father.

Appreciation - At the outset let me on behalf of ACoM convey to you our deepest acknowledgement for your unwavering support to Melanesia, for all that we do together as mission partners, and that includes moral and spiritual support. On our side this partnership is so valuable, one that we embrace to heart, a partnership that has lived through centuries. It grows stronger with the new emerging issues affecting us.

I particularly want to convey our heartfelt appreciation and thank you for supporting us after cyclone Harold earlier this year. The diocese of Vanuatu, which was mostly affected, is gradually coming back to normal, although Bishop James' home and the diocesan office are still in temporary residence.

I particularly want to offer words of acknowledgement and thanks to Andrew Cartwright for being a trustee of MMUK for the past years. Thank you Andrew. I understand that Canon Jane Brooke will succeed him, and I welcome and congratulate her on her appointment. Having met and talked with Canon Jane, I see she has a growing love and passion for Melanesia.

COVID-19 - As we speak, the two countries maintain their COVID-19 free status, however nobody can be certain about what tomorrow brings. (MMUK update - in October repatriated students from the Philippines tested positive for COVID-19 on arrival and during quarantine in Honiara.) There are now cases as close as Bougainville, making Solomon Islands vulnerable as a high-risk

nation. Even with the COVID-19 free status, both countries are feeling socio-economic impacts. More and more employees are losing their jobs as a result of the scale down of most private companies and government ministries. While life in Honiara appears normal, there is growing unemployment. We are praying that your scientists will quickly provide a vaccine.

Worship life throughout the province remains the same, but with ongoing awareness and preventive measures in churches and other related gatherings. Lately the Council of Bishops agreed a paper outlining possible changes to worship in the event that COVID-19 enters our countries. You know too well, how we Melanesians look to faith; it is what our people still hold on to. That said, we educate our people to be careful and that our faith should lead people to act with responsibility.

Climate Change - In recent years, this has topped the chart of issues, until COVID-19 interrupted our attention. Through the grace and love of God, it will cease in time. However, climate change issues will persist and our partnership on this issue should continue its momentum, if not further improve it. We are well ahead with our response, for example, the setting up of the church observatory project on Malaita and Guadalcanal to provide scientific data. At this stage it is too early to have any tangible results from the observatory, because of inconsistent data collection due to the COVID public state of emergency and cyclone Harold. We trust our combined effort on this project will continue to bear fruit.

Southern Cross



ACoM - I have some updates for you on ACoM administration and leadership. Bishop Alfred of Hanuato'o diocese, officially retired on 15 August, and Bishop Nathan Tome of the diocese of Guadalcanal had his liturgical farewell on 20 September, being Bishop Patteson day. The diocese of Ysabel has given Bishop Ellison an extension of five years in office after his 60th birthday this year.



Bishop Nathan at his retirement service with Archbishop Leonard

Having served two terms, I am delighted to inform MMUK that Dr Abraham Hauriasi, the General Secretary of ACoM, has agreed to serve another term of five years. We all appreciate the huge impact Abraham, through his sound knowledge and experience, humility, and thoughtfulness, has contributed to ACoM efficiency in administration, operation, and the training of green hands for finance.

The Southern Cross - After almost a year of huge refurbishment work, ACoM's mission flagship the Southern Cross is now back on mission. According to our finance manager the refurbishment cost around 2 million Solomon dollars. We render massive appreciation and acknowledgement to MMTB in Auckland, for facilitating resources for the renovation. We hope she can further serve ACoM mission for some more years, after which a new and bigger vessel can be considered.

ACoM PHQ - Since relocating the Provincial Office by the main street of Honiara in 2019, actual work on the new complex has not yet started. That said, a committee consisting of PHQ staff has been set up to oversee the initial planning stages. It is going to be a huge project, so we are concerned about securing maximum funds to ensure that initial plans are fulfilled. It is hoped that this project will begin next year.

ACoM health ministry - In the early years, health ministry was a vital part of our mission. It lost its grip, probably when the government of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu started improving their health services. Now there is a huge realisation for the need to re-engage in this ministry, most probably on a higher

level. To that end a resolution was made in the 2018 General Synod in Port Vila to revive ACoM's health ministry. Sadly only two ACoM clinics survive at present, the Epiphany clinic at Fauabu on Malaita, and the St. Clare clinic at Taroaniara on Gela. Unfortunately both clinics are now in a dilapidated state.

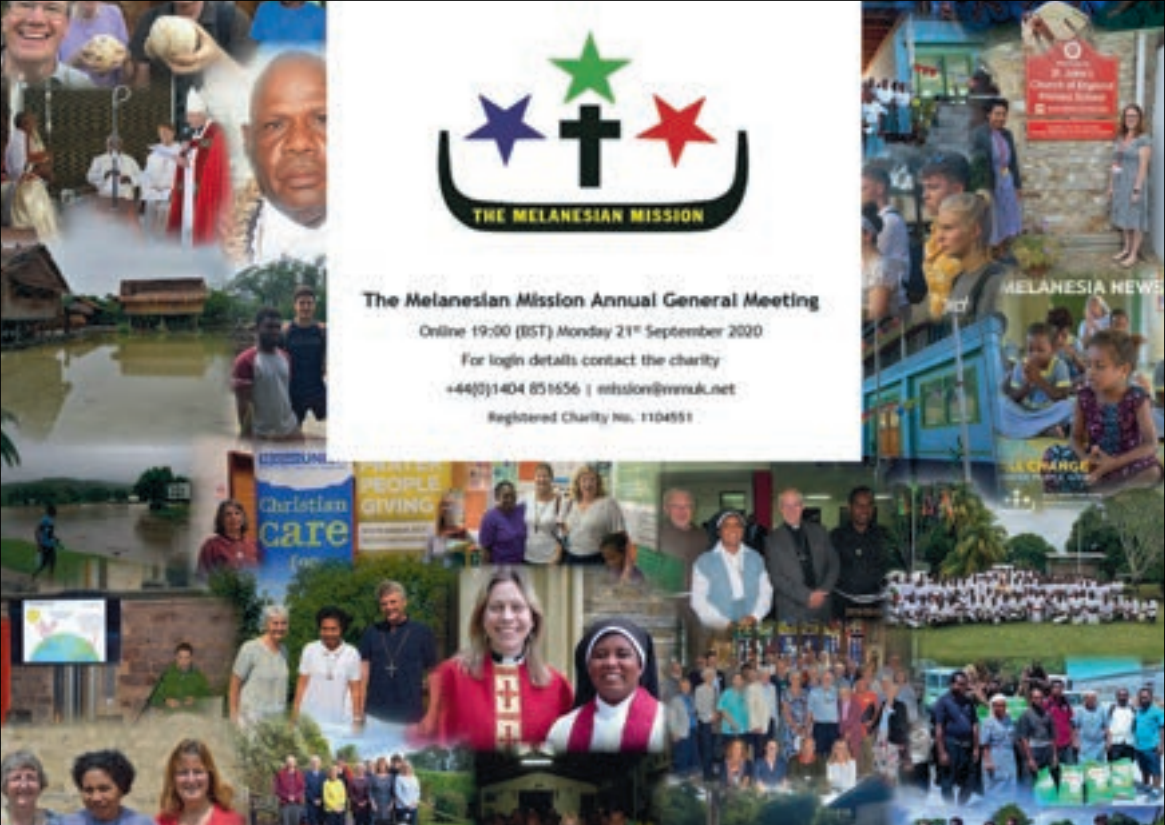
With those brief remarks, I wish you all God's blessing on your work and our partnership for the Kingdom of God. It is good to talk to you. Though we missed out a lot on face-to-face communication, may I assure you that ACoM holds you and your families and the work you do to heart, most especially during this time of extraordinary uncertainty and fear.

May God bless all the trustees, supporters, your families, and our partnership in mission. Thank you.

++Leonard Dawea, Archbishop of Melanesia



To watch the full address visit our website <http://www.mmuk.net/news/archbishop-of-melanesias-agm-festival-2020-address/>



2020 ONLINE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Monday 21st September, the Melanesian Mission held its first online AGM and Festival, with over 70 attendees from across the UK, Australia and Melanesia. The event would have taken place in London in July with all the Bishops from Melanesia, just before their attendance at the Lambeth Conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and postponed Lambeth Conference, plans were changed and the event went online.

The evening began with worship led by trustees Canon Daphne Jordan from the Diocese of Blackburn and the Ven Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester. A recording of the congregation at Tabalia singing the Lord

is My Shepherd (Psalm 23) hymn was played, and the collect for Pattenon Day read.

At the Annual General Meeting, the charity presented and approved the accounts from 2019 – 2020, appointed Thomas Westcott Accountants as independent examiners for 2020 – 2021 and approved the review of the year.

The Ven Mike Gilbertson was re-elected as a Trustee for three years, and Canon Jane Brooke from Chester Cathedral was elected as trustee for three years. Mr Andrew Cartwright stepped down as trustee and was thanked for his many years of service.

At the festival there were presentations from MMUK trustee Kate Pwaisiho on 'village life and climate change' and from Sam Rylands who stayed with the Melanesian Brothers in March. There was also an opportunity to hear from Revd Sr Veronica CSC, joining the meeting from Honiara, and Revd Br Nelson MBH who is training in Fiji. In a pre-recorded address, the Archbishop of Melanesia thanked members for their 'unwavering support to Melanesia'.

The Archbishop went on to speak about the current COVID-19 situation in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the importance of climate research in the region and his church's priorities for mission, including the reintroduction of 'health ministry'.

The Rt Revd Mark Rylands, Chair of MMUK, finished the evening by sharing the charity's priorities for the year ahead, recognising that events and visits in both directions will probably be impossible. The charity will continue to facilitate climate change research, review how it communicates with supporters, and create more online resources and events.



If you would like to help the charity improve how it communicates with you, please request and complete our questionnaire. The charity wants to provide friends and new supporters with accessible resources, news and information, in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way. Please do have your say.

WANT TO RECEIVE MORE REGULAR NEWS FROM MELANESIA AND MMUK?

Subscribe (and unsubscribe at any time) to our regular email newsletter

www.mmuk.net/subscribe

You can watch recordings from the evening here

- The Archbishop of Melanesia's Address <http://www.mmuk.net/news/archbishop-of-melanesias-agm-festival-2020-address/>
- Hymn – The Lord is My Shepherd <https://youtu.be/0Sv8ijQNQBQ>

Here you can read more from our AGM Guest Speakers

- An Article by Kate Pwaisiho on her visit home to the Solomon Islands <http://www.mmuk.net/news/village-sharing/>
- An Article by Sam Rylands in our Summer 2020 Magazine on his time spent with the Melanesian Brothers www.mmuk.net/magazines

NEWS IN BRIEF



Ysabel Synod

Many thanks for the donations which continue to come in for the Emergency Appeal launched earlier this year following cyclone Harold and after COVID restrictions started taking their toll on local communities in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. To date the appeal has raised **£27,200**

The charity is producing a 2021 calendar to bring a little of Melanesia into your homes next year. Contact the charity for details. 



The Melanesian Brotherhood household at Shepparton, Wangaratta Diocese which was established two years ago has now closed. Brothers Kelliot Betu, Matthias Tovotasi and Abaijah Mark are moving to Townsville, Queensland to set up a new household. Please pray for the Brothers' mission in Australia.

The Dioceses of Ysabel and Guadalcanal have held their Diocesan Synods while others have postponed theirs due to COVID restrictions. Reports from the synods and the retirement celebrations for Bishops Nathan and Alfred, can be found on our website www.mmuk.net/news

Bishop Rickson Maomaoru, Bishop Protector of the Society of St Francis in Melanesia has dedicated the new altar at Patteson House Chapel in Honiara. At La Verna Friary, Hautabu on St. Francis' Stigmata in September, the community admitted 13 aspirants as postulants and three novices.



With great sadness we learnt of the passing of two Melanesian Brothers. Brother Mostyn from Tholana Village, Ysabel died on 20th September. Br Mostyn was admitted as a professed Brother in October 2018, and his funeral at Tabalia was officiated by the Father of Brotherhood His Grace Archbishop Leonard Dawea. Brother Joshua Siwawata died on the 18th October at the MBH Section Head Quarters, Sirisiri in Dogura Diocese, Milne Bay Province. Br Joshua served more than 30 years in Brotherhood, joining in 1980 as a Novice.

Margaret Ayers died peacefully on 5th October 2020, aged 86. Dearly loved wife of the late Brian who died in 2019 - <http://www.mmuk.net/news/brian-ayers/>

Brian Macdonald-Milne writes, "Margaret was always at her husband's side and twice came to help the Church through his work at the marine workshops at Taroaniara. They were both always very friendly and welcoming, and I greatly admired the contribution that they made to the life of the Diocese of Melanesia."

In September two men working for an aid agency which helps dispose of unexploded WWII bombs were killed in an explosion in Honiara. Stephen Atkinson from the UK and Australian Trent Lee were employees of Norwegian People's Aid.



When you shop online at Amazon, you can support the Melanesian Mission at the same time.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support a charity of your choice every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Melanesian Mission. So in future buying your books here in the UK could also help us buy books for the religious orders and church schools in Melanesia.





MY MISSION PRIORITY

Willie Tungale, Bishop of Temotu

I was ordained priest on 25 July 1999 having completed my studies at Kohimarama. From 2002 to 2004 I did my bachelor degree at the University of Auckland. After 20 years of ministry mostly in the diocese of Temotu, I was elected to be the sixth bishop of the diocese and was consecrated on 16 February 2020.

Most of the work I have done so far in the churches and communities has been confirmation of children and to date about 650 candidates had been confirmed. Also, I have consecrated four churches and ordained three deacons to the priesthood. My first proper tour around the diocese will begin at Nukapu on 22 September 2020 and I am looking forward to confirming more children and hope the number of candidates will reach 1,000 or even more.



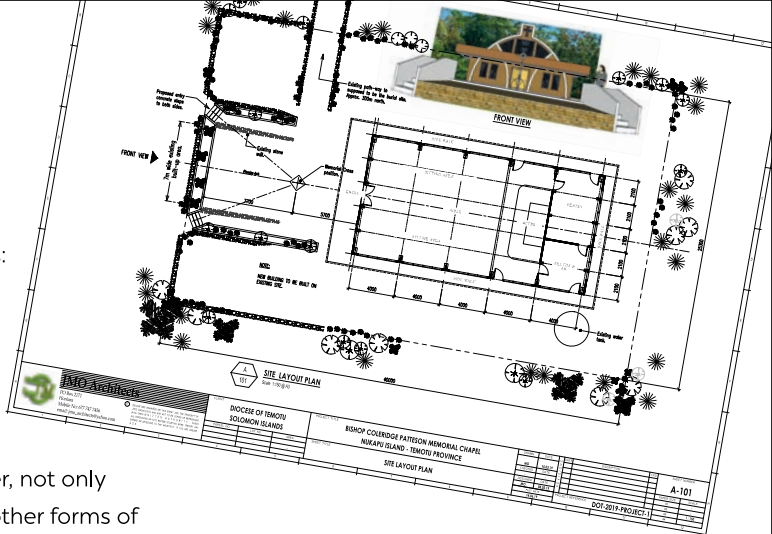
Bishop Patteson
by kind permission of Lambeth Palace

My Mission Priority is based on my vision and plan for the diocese which was contained in my speech during my consecration. It is: PARTICIPATING TOGETHER IN CHURCH MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT. This theme calls for all Anglican adherents in the diocese to work together, not only in mission work but also in other forms of development in all walks of life, be it health, agriculture, building infrastructure, etc.

One of the first tasks is to renovate all the main diocesan buildings namely, the diocesan office, the diocesan secretary's residence and the Mothers' Union transit rest house. Apart from that, I am optimistic to work on building a Bishop

Patteson memorial church on Nukapu and construction work will begin as soon as funds are available. I really need your support if you can be of some help. All the buildings that require renovation are over 30 years old. These projects are planned to be completed by 2023.

+Willie Tungale, Bishop of Temotu



We look forward to meeting Bishop Willie when COVID restrictions are lifted and a visit to the UK is safe and possible.

During this pandemic the Bishop asks us to pray –

Loving and compassionate Lord Jesus, we foretaste your glory.
 We pray for nations worldwide, especially those affected by COVID-19.
 Give knowledge, wisdom and confidence to those who tirelessly strive for a cure.

And as we face uncertainties, may your Holy Spirit intervene,
 so those in fear shall have peace, those who are hopeless find hope,
 and those in doubt shall have their faith renewed.

Lord Jesus, who never fails, in you there is mercy and life in all its fullness.
 You who lives and rules with the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

Amen

PRAYER DIARY

WEEK 1

Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all the staff at the Provincial Head Office in Honiara, that they may be protected from COVID-19. 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, and for finding new ways of working during this pandemic.

Monday

For the Diocese of Temotu and for Bishop Willie Tungale and all the staff working at the Headquarters at Lata.

For the new 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 rebuild their chapel at Verana'aso.

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 as they recover and rebuild after cyclone Harold.

For communities living with the legacy of WWII and the NGO's working to disarm unexploded bombs in 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 greater care of creation and give thanks for the life and inspiration of St Francis.

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

Saturday

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

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



WEEK 2

Sunday

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

For ACoM's Mission Secretary Fr Nigel Kelaepa, 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, as they prepare to elect a new bishop. Pray for the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas, Honiara, and for Dean Philip Rongotha, and all who minister and worship there.

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

Tuesday

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

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

Wednesday

For the diocese of Central Solomons, 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 and the Book Shop in Honiara.

Thursday

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

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

Friday

For the Melanesian Brotherhood in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, Philippines and Canada and 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, in vacancy as they discern who their new bishop should be.

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.



CLIMATE CHANGE

– unforeseen effects on diet and health

The impacts of climate change can be surprisingly far reaching, affecting families in unexpected and complex ways. Here, Tagolyn Kabekabe, the Anglican Alliance’s Pacific facilitator, talks about some of these impacts in Solomon Islands, describing a chain of consequences that include a change in the types of diseases affecting communities.

The whole of the Pacific is affected by rising sea levels but it is worst for the low-lying islands. We have had instances when a spring tide has washed through the islands taking everything with it, including chickens and pigs. It washes through the kitchens taking the pots, the pans, everything into the sea. These are phenomena that people are now experiencing, which they say never happened in the past. They used to have high tides, but they know it was only half a metre – but that has changed so much in the last 15 years.

When we have this rising sea level and unusual high tides and things like that, they actually destroy whatever crop is grown, not

necessarily just along the beach or coastline, but also inland. A lot of people plant swamp taro and this needs a certain salinity to be able to grow well and produce tubers. But when you have extra salt it disturbs the level of salinity. It becomes too salty and it affects the crop. It rots the tubers and in the long run it kills off everything. This affects not only the current harvest but also the ability of people to replant the following season. Too much salt in the soil also affects the growing of bananas, bread fruit, even coconuts. A certain level of salt is suitable for these plants but too much kills them.

Our rainfall patterns have changed too, in two major ways. One is that we don’t get the rains when we expect them and the second is that when we get the rain it is too much or maybe too little. The unusual rain pattern also affects crops. Too much rainwater disturbs the balance. So it is both ways, and these are things our people have no control over. We cannot control sea level rise and we cannot control how much rain falls onto the crops.

Our people cannot protect themselves from these things and so the people simply go with what happens.

Swamp taro is the staple food of these islanders. As swamp taro has declined due to increasing soil salinity, the diet of the community has changed drastically. People start to depend on imported foods such as rice, flour, noodles, sugar, tea, and canned meat and fish. And for these, people are dependent on supply boats. There is a time known as the 'time of hunger' when the boats that bring imported foods, medicines, etc, do not follow the monthly schedules and this is a very common occurrence, especially when it is not bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber) season. People then, for a month or more, eat only fish and coconuts, which greatly affects their wellbeing especially young children. Malnutrition then becomes an ever-increasing issue among children, and under-nutrition among adults.

The change from a very traditional concentrated and nutritious diet to a foreign and less nutritious one has resulted in many problems for the islanders. Traditionally, our people are very healthy but now we are seeing increased levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases. There is an increase in diabetes and high blood pressure, diseases that we did not know of in the past. These problems are further compounded by the lack of basic medicines, diagnostic equipment, technicians and qualified medical staff in rural areas, resulting in patients not knowing their condition and so succumbing to disease. The fact that rural health facilities lack trained nurses, means referrals of patients is virtually non-existent and many people do not have the money to pay for the boat fares to Honiara because of their limited resources. In these situations, people die of treatable diseases in the islands.



Canteen in Honiara stocked with imported food

The forced change in diet affects families in other ways too. For our very rural people who are subsistence farmers and who live off the land, it is a struggle to be able to buy rice, which means that what little crops they have, they have to sell or, if they have children who are working in towns and cities, they depend on them. That is one of the patterns we are now experiencing that our families who live in the villages now depend on the children who are working and earning money to actually supply the rice for them. And this puts a strain on our community.

Tagolyn Tabekabe, Anglican Alliance Facilitator for the Pacific



Central Market Honiara

Find resources on the care of creation and more information on how the Anglican Church of Melanesia is responding to climate change on our website www.mmuk.net

APPEAL FOR NEW CSM CHAPEL



5,000 bricks made for the foundations
& supporting walls

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia (CSM) is an order of women in the Anglican Communion. They train young women for ministry and mission and provide teaching, pastoral and social care plus prison ministry. They also give essential support to survivors of domestic abuse at the Christian Care Centre. The current chapel at Verana'aso, was rebuilt after extensive damage during WWII. Years of cyclones and tropical rain have damaged its corrugated iron and palm leaf structure, leaving it no longer safe for worship. This forces the sisters and novices to meet for prayer in the community dining room and dormitories. You can find out more about the community by watching our short film on our website www.mmuk.net/films

The community is raising money to build a new modern chapel, able to withstand high winds and bad weather. Architectural plans have been commissioned but the £84,000 building work is too expensive for the community alone. The Sisters have already raised £46,000 through local and international donations but they need our help if they are to realise their goal.

Please support the UK Associates of CSM in their appeal to raise £15,000 towards this construction project. Your donation will go towards the construction of a safe and modern chapel, which will serve the next generation of sisters and ensure that Anglican religious community life in Melanesia will continue to thrive.



HOW TO DONATE



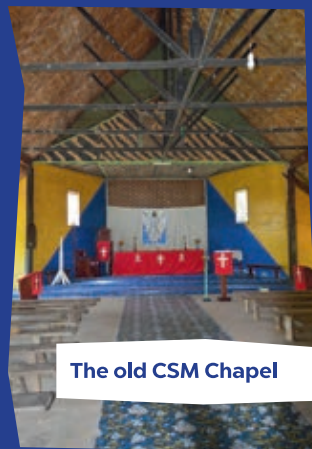
There are a number of ways you can give to the UK Associates' CSM Chapel Appeal:

ONLINE:

VISIT www.mmuk.net/donate AND

GIVE ONLINE USING MMUK'S FACEBOOK OR VIRGIN MONEY GIVING PAGES.

facebook *Donate*



The old CSM Chapel

BANK TRANSFER:

PHONE 01404 851656 OR EMAIL MISSION@MMUK.NET FOR BANK DETAILS.

BY CHEQUE:

PAYABLE TO THE MELANESIAN MISSION.

POST CHEQUES TO:

THE MELANESIAN MISSION, 21 THE BURLANDS, FENITON, HONITON, EX14 3UN.
PLEASE USE THE REFERENCE 'CSM CHAPEL'.

TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION PLEASE EMAIL mission@mmuk.net FOR A GIFT AID FORM.

***THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF MELANESIA***

Latest news from the Community

The CSM general conference was held on 14 September and the associates conference on 16 September. On the 17 September 2020, the official members of the CSM re-elected Sr Annie Alaha as Head Sister and elected Sr Alice Wale as Assistant Head Sister.

This year the community has 62 novices in training and five staff teaching. Alongside Biblical courses, novices undergo training in home skills such as, cooking and floral arts. Three sisters continue to do their theological studies, one in Tasia Manwadrakol College in Ysabel and the other two at St Nicholas distance flexible learning.

FROM COCONUT TO COMPUTER

Chapter 3

Bishop Willie hears his calling

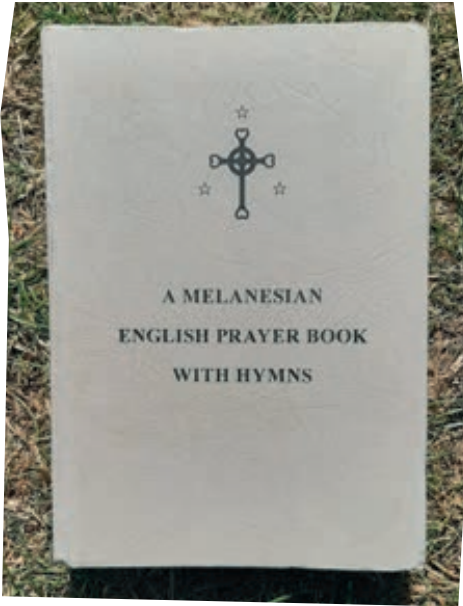
At Selwyn College towards the end of 1970, those of us who wanted to leave school had to look for possible employment, either with the government or the church. I could not make up my mind, so I decided to sit for a place at the theological school for priests and to have an interview at a police training school. I was accepted to join the police training school as a recruit for the new intake in 1971. I think my reason for considering the police force, was mainly for the money as it was the highest paid work in the country. However, God had His own plans for me. Waiting at the entrance of the police training school as we came out, who was there to meet us? It was our Pawa school headmaster the Very Revd Desmond Probeta, who had become the dean of St Barnabas Cathedral in 1969. He enquired what we were doing, and I told him we had been to the police training school for an interview and we were all accepted for the next year. He immediately said, 'Of course they will accept boys from Pawa, Selwyn College, Alangaula, Maravovo because we have the best characters in the country.'

God spoke to me again through Desmond, who said: 'The others may go forward to the police next year, but you are going to the theological college for priesthood training.' I replied, 'But I do not want to go to theological college as I passed the entrance exams for the police, Father.' His reply was: 'Go back to



school and write a withdrawal letter to the police training school.' That was my turning point.

At Christmas 1970 when playing football, I suffered a compound fracture in South Malaita. Luckily there was a government vessel doing her 'round the islands trip', delivering mail and paying the teachers and nurses. It took three days to reach the hospital. I was in great pain with no pain killers for three days and nights. I prayed for a miracle and God sent me Fr Samuel Suunorua from Maramasike who came on board and prayed and laid his hands on me. That night I slept like a log - my first experience of the power of God in my life.



After spending the first week in Kilu'ufi hospital I was transferred to the Referral hospital in the capital Honiara for an operation to set my compound fractured leg. I am most grateful to Mr Cross who skilfully did the operation and cared for me until I was able to use my right leg again. While I was in hospital, I was visited by the Diocesan Bishop John Wallace Chisholm, who knew me from my time as the Head Boy at Selwyn College, Archdeacon Harry Reynolds, who was my spiritual director and also the Franciscan Brothers and the Sisters of the Church. It was very comforting to have people of such high positions and true servants of God, visiting and praying for me whilst I was in hospital.

In 1971 the first semester at Kohimarama Theological College was just about to begin, and I was still in hospital. Fr Eric Jones wanted me out of hospital to start my class, so he agreed with Mr Cross that he would bring me once a week to attend his clinic, so it was on those terms that Mr Cross agreed to let me go to college. West of Honiara at that time, there were no good bridges to cross the big rivers at all, so trucks had to sit for hours, waiting

for the water to recede in order to make a crossing possible. Some nights we had to sleep at Auriligo RC School. There were no mobile phones like we have today and no way of communicating with the people who were waiting for us. We could only wait in prayer and hope for the best.

I am most grateful to my tutors, Eric and Muriel Jones, George and Nonie Connor, Paul Moore, Jim Draper, Jim and Elizabeth Blades, Robert Hagesi, Harry Tevi, Brian McDonald-Milne, Phyllis Hoare, John and Yvonne Ayling, and Heather Edgar. These mighty men and women of God helped me find God and His plans for my life in His Kingdom. And I salute them all for their hard work in taming me to be what I am. If I have succeeded, I thank them, but if I have failed it is of my own doing.



College life was around prayer, study and work, everything had to be done in balance. We were taught to do things on our own as preparation for our life out there in the wider world with no one to supervise us. There were no written rules but all of us were expected to be present at Chapel three times every day as well as classes and community duties around the college.

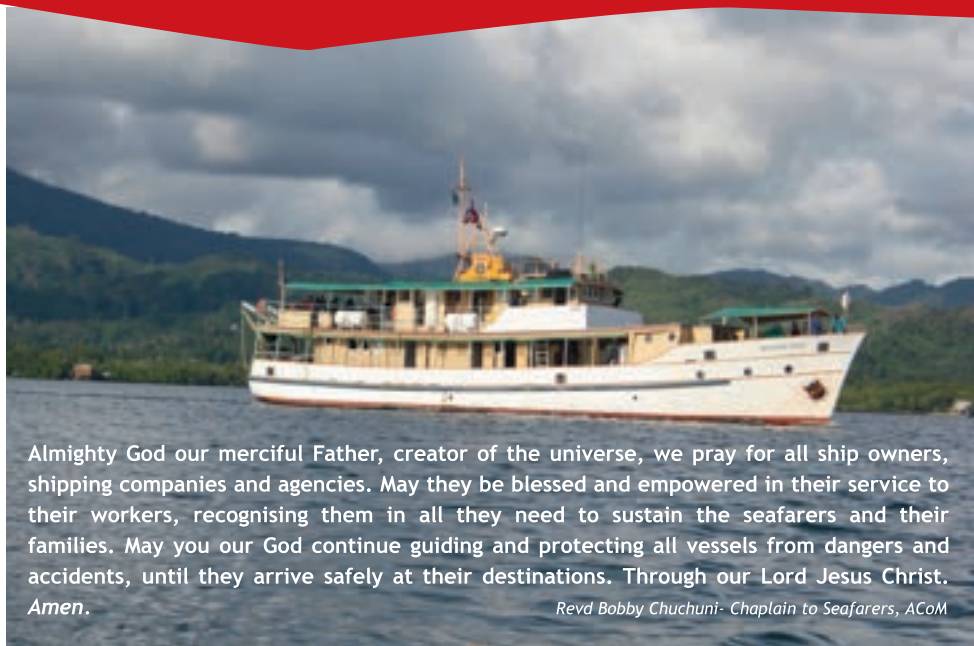
+Willie Alaha Pwaisiho

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

VISITING, PRAYING & SHARING

The new chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers introduces us to his work

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Almighty God our merciful Father, creator of the universe, we pray for all ship owners, shipping companies and agencies. May they be blessed and empowered in their service to their workers, recognising them in all they need to sustain the seafarers and their families. May you our God continue guiding and protecting all vessels from dangers and accidents, until they arrive safely at their destinations. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Revd Bobby Chuchuni- Chaplain to Seafarers, ACoM

Hi, my name is Rev Bobby Chuchuni. I am currently the chaplain to seafarers, Honiara international seaport.

Upon taking up my Mission to Seafarers (MTS) duties in January this year, maintaining pastoral duties was my priority. My first immediate task was providing pastoral care to a Chinese national working on board the cargo vessel 'Uni Harmony'

who was receiving medical assistance at the National Referral Hospital, Honiara, with a fractured limb. The office of the MTS, with the minimum resource we have, supplied the seafarer with newspapers and fruit during his healing process.

Pastoral ship visiting was ongoing on domestic and international vessels. Since early March this year the MTS has been



Fr Bobby when he was Assistant Chaplain at Selwyn College

through a challenging situation with the impact of COVID-19. The Solomon Islands government ordered a mass repatriation of all citizens from Honiara to their home islands. In that exercise, the MV Taimareho, owned by the West Areare constituency carrying more than 700 passengers, was caught up in tropical cyclone Harold. We lost 27 people at sea when the ferry nearly capsized. The 27 people who fell off the boat all died and only six dead bodies were recovered. An investigation was carried out on the tragedy. The MTS is organising trauma counselling for the sailors.

I am currently working on securing land for our two MTS centres, at Noro fishing industrial town and Honiara. The development of these centres will provide required services for sailors.

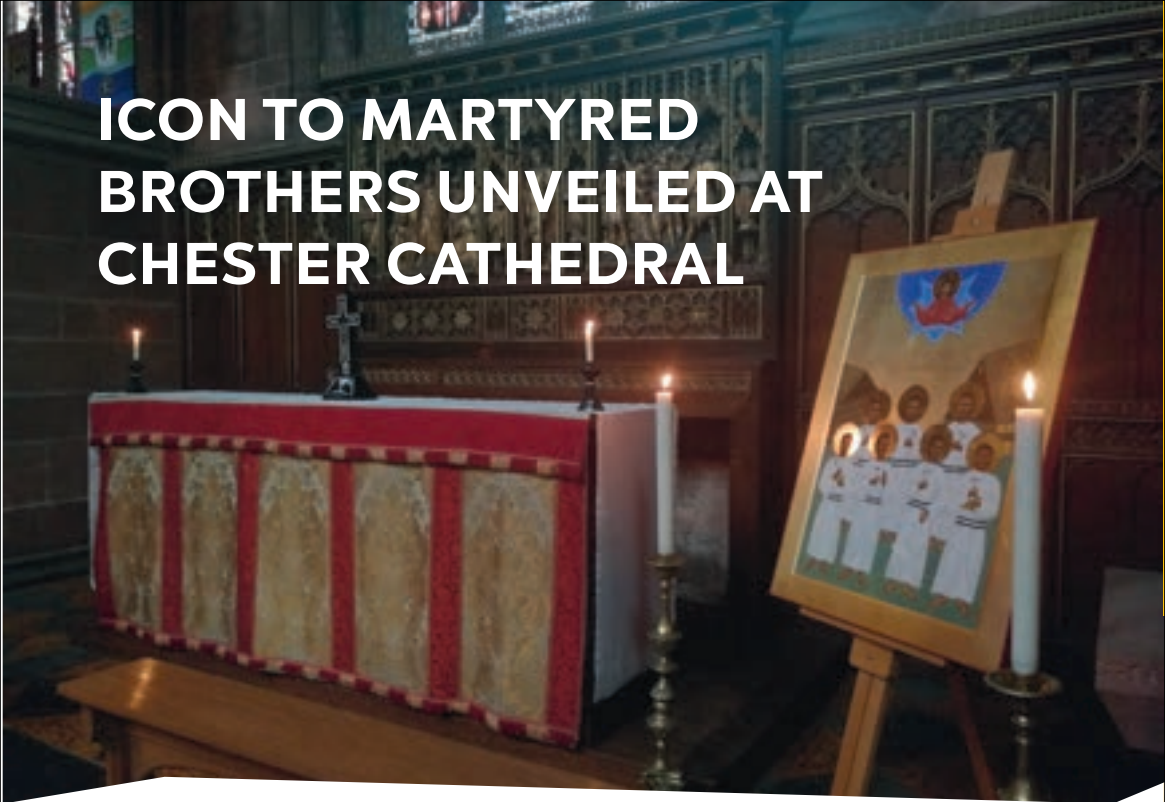
The MTS is greatly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 preparedness plan, although we are still COVID free. (This changed after writing, with repatriated students from the Philippines, testing positive for COVID in October.) Currently boarding is restricted for international ships. Travel is only possible on domestic vessels.

Visiting, praying and sharing is my daily responsibility and lately there was a challenge with the MTS seven year-old vehicle which is now experiencing weekly mechanical failure, needing regular weekly maintenance. This is costly for the mission. I am anticipating a new van to ease my mission for the seafarers, but I don't know who will come to the rescue.

*Rev Bobby Chuchuni –
ACoM's chaplain to seafarers*



ICON TO MARTYRED BROTHERS UNVEILED AT CHESTER CATHEDRAL



The martyrdom of seven Melanesian Brothers in 2003 sent shockwaves through the world church. Attempting to make peace in a violent conflict on the island of Guadalcanal, Brothers Nathaniel Sado, Robin Lindsay, Francis Tofi, Alfred Hill, Ini Paratabatu, Patteson Gatu, and Tony Sirihi were brutally killed. Today, we still remember their sacrifice and reflect on what their example teaches us about Christian discipleship in the modern world.

Chester Cathedral has re-dedicated one of its chapels to commemorate the lives and examples of Christian martyrs down the centuries. In recognition of the long-standing link between the Diocese of Chester and the Anglican Church of Melanesia, an icon of the seven brothers has been installed in the chapel, together with an altar cross made by the brothers themselves. The icon was painted by the Revd Christopher Perrins and funded by local Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood.

The icon was received at Chester Cathedral in September, with a short service of prayer and blessing.

Ven Mike Gilbertson - Archdeacon of Chester & MMUK trustee





COFFEE MORNINGS COCOA NIGHTS



Following feedback from the charity's first online AGM, MMUK will be hosting regular online supporter coffee mornings & cocoa nights, with guest speakers from Melanesia and the UK. Some events will run in the mornings and others in the evenings, ensuring as many people as possible can join.

There will be an opportunity to discuss and learn more about a particular topic or issue, and time to reflect on what our response might be in our own lives.

These events are about enabling and growing our Christian fellowship with our Melanesian friends. While we cannot hold physical events, travel or receive guests from Melanesia, we can still gather together, to discuss and discern what God is calling us to do.

To reflect the mission of ACoM, topics will include:

- **The religious orders**
- **Health ministry**
- **Care of creation**
- **Prison / school chaplaincy**
- **Running a parish**
- **The Mothers' Union**
- **Human rights**
- **Women / youth ministry**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Prayer life**

If you are interested in joining one of these events, or you have an idea for a topic, please contact the charity.

See back page for contact details.

We are delighted to announce that the charity's President, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, will be attending our 2021 AGM & Festival Day at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 18th September, circumstances permitting.

More details on this special event will be announced in the new year.

Archbishop Justin with members of the four Anglican Religious orders.



Credit: by kind permission of Lambeth Palace

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. Stay safe.



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Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia –

*Almighty God, for you the islands wait,
send down your blessings on the Church of Melanesia,
on the bishops, priests and deacons, the brothers, sisters, catechists,
on the doctors, nurses and all workers with the sick,
on the teachers and the pupils in our colleges and schools,
on the crews of our ships, and on those who work in our offices,
workshops and printing press.*

*Guide them Lord in all difficult times, keep them safe in all dangers,
strengthen them in all troubles, and give them such sure trust in you
that they may serve you without fear.*

Amen

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

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