

2024 - 2025

# Annual Report



The  
Melanesian  
Mission

Prayer, People, Giving



Bishop Sam visiting the Sisters of the Church with his daughter Martha in 2024

## CHAIR'S REPORT 2024-2025

What an encouraging report this is to read! It is a joy that after the disruption of Covid, the rhythm of regular visits to and from Melanesia has been re-established. And the fruit of that contact and pastoral engagement between the UK and in Melanesia is clear from what you will read here.

Of course, other challenges have afflicted our sisters and brothers since Covid, with so many contending still with the aftermath of the earthquakes last December in Vanuatu. As the Southern Cross was deployed to deliver relief, it was good we were able to support the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu (ACoMV) with its vital relief efforts through prayer and by sending over £12,000 from emergency funds and a special appeal to our supporters. Thank you for your generosity in giving and for your faithfulness in prayer.

We were all so sad to learn of the death of The Right Reverend Sir David Vunagi GCMG, KstJ in March. Bishop Willie represented the Melanesian Mission UK at the funeral and after a lifetime of service to ACoM and to the Solomon Islands, latterly of course as its Governor General, we continue to give thanks for the life and ministry of Archbishop David and pray for Lady Mary and the family in their grief.

Yet amid crisis and loss, ACoM continues to grow. In the autumn, the Diocese of South Malaita and Sikaiana was inaugurated, with The Right Reverend Rickson Maomaoru elected as the first Bishop. And, of course, 2025 is the year we celebrate 50 years of the independent Province of Melanesia! These celebrations overlapped with the beginning of a programme of events throughout the province marking the Centenary of the Melanesia Brotherhood. It is a joy that several trustees



and MMUK supporters will be travelling to Tabalia, joining Richard Carter who is leading a retreat for the Brotherhood ahead of the main celebrations on the feast of St Simon and St Jude.

Throughout the year the Melanesian Mission UK has deepened its educational mission through our partnerships between schools in the UK and in Melanesia, with a particular highlight for pupils and staff across Devon and Cheshire being the chance to welcome Melanesian bishops and members of religious orders to their schools. As you will read, we have also continued to respond to requests for support from the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM), its four religious orders, and the Mothers' Union in the region, and we look forward to broadening and deepening that support in the year to come, not least as we stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers as they strive to witness for justice and peace in the face of climate change and environmental destruction, gender inequality and obstacles to access to education. It is a privilege to work as partners, advocates, and companions in these shared concerns.

There is then much to celebrate and much to look forward to. Thank you for joining us in this partnership which means so much

to us all. May we continue to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom in Melanesia, and may the Lord continue to bless his Church in the Anglican Province of Melanesia. Here's to the next 50 years of mission and ministry!

+Sam Corley  
Chair of Trustees



# End of Year Accounts

The charity's accounts for 2024 – 2025 were independently inspected by Westcotts Accountants and accepted by the Trustees of MMUK in September 2025. For a full copy of the accounts, please visit the charity's website [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net)

MMUK's missions are funded through the income of ethical investments managed by CCLA, regular donations from parishes and individuals, one off donations, grants and legacies.

In the year to 31st March 2025, the charity's income was £162,581 (£157,937 in 2024)

## Income 2024 - 2025

- Appeals & Donations**  
£45,898
- Legacies**  
£0
- Investment Income**  
£116,683



In the year to 31st March 2025, the charity's expenditure was £169,744 (£169,918 in 2024)

## Expenditure 2024 - 2025

- Office & Governance: including compliance, fees, publicity**  
£22,444
- Grants to ACoM (including core grant of £39,000) and to other church institutions**  
£86,340
- Staff: for two part-time staff**  
£60,960



# Equipping the Church: Responding to Needs Across Melanesia

Every year, the Melanesian Mission UK (MMUK) provides the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) with a guaranteed £39,000 grant to spend as it sees fit, enabling the Church to respond quickly to pressing local priorities across Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia. Beyond this core funding, MMUK listens attentively to additional requests from ACoM, sometimes reaching out to supporters across the UK, and other times working in partnership with mission agencies or NGOs to respond. These needs vary: some require financial backing, others call for equipment, technical expertise, or training. While MMUK cannot meet every request, due to limited capacity and resources, the generosity of supporters this year has made these valuable contributions possible.

**Safety at Sea:** Responding to a direct request from the Bishop of Hanuatoó, MMUK funded **12 life jackets** (£485) for mission journeys across treacherous waters, supporting clergy and lay leaders who often travel long distances by boat to reach remote communities.

**Women on the Frontline:** MMUK contributed **£2,000 towards transport costs** for bishops' and clergy wives attending leadership and empowerment training in Solomon Islands, part of the Women on the Frontline initiative led by Mrs Caroline Welby.

**Environment Observatories:** With the growing impact of climate change on island communities, MMUK increased its annual contribution to the **Environment Observatories project**, enabling staff to travel to new sites and cover rising operational costs (**£3,600**). These observatories empower communities to collect environmental data and plan adaptation strategies.

**Sewing Machine Workshops:** The charity continued to support **sewing workshops in Solomons**, gathering donated machines and funds for maintenance and shipping—equipping women with practical skills that offer income opportunities and independence.

These stories of practical compassion and faithful partnership are only possible through your prayers, generosity, and continued support. Thank you for walking with MMUK in its mission to serve ACoM through prayer, people and giving.

# Faith in Action 2024 - 2025

A year of spiritual growth, leadership, and shared mission - from the Southern Cross commissioning and earthquake relief in Vanuatu to vibrant youth gatherings, training for women leaders, and MMUK's continued support across Melanesia.

## April

ACoM celebrated the commissioning of the tenth Southern Cross, a vital mission ship that later played a key role in delivering relief after the Vanuatu earthquake in December.

## May

Mothers' Union in Honiara were honoured to host the farewell visit of the Worldwide MU President, Mrs. Sheran Harper. The week-long visit included a training and retreat program, designed to empower and inspire local Mothers' Union leaders and members.

## June

MMUK pilgrims completed the 44-mile St Hilda's Way in North Yorkshire, raising £2,900 through prayer and sponsorship to support ACoM's gender justice initiatives led by CSM and CSC.



## July

Archbishop Leonard spent time in the UK on retreat, studying and meeting friends and supporters.



## August

ACoM Vanuatu and New Caledonia opened its 2nd Youth Convention with a vibrant welcome at Saint Patrick's College, Ambae, bringing together over 600 young people from the two dioceses.

## September

Women on the Frontline, led by Mrs Caroline Welby, held its second course in Solomons for the wives of bishops and clergy, equipping women leaders across the Anglican Communion to advance peace, justice, and community development. MMUK was delighted to contribute £2,000 towards travel costs, enabling wider participation in this impactful training.

MMUK held its AGM and Festival Day at Chapel of St Michael's Within, Bath, and elected four new trustees.



## October

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia concluded their Chapter meeting by electing a new Head Sister, Everil Manakako from the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal and Assistant Head Sister Mary Maesiala from Malaita. UK Associates to CSM sent £3,000 during the year to fund Sisters and Novices lunches.

## November

ACoM celebrated the inauguration of its tenth diocese—Southern Malaita and Sikaiana, with the Rt Revd Rickson Maomaoru, formerly Assistant Bishop of Malaita, becoming its first diocesan bishop.

Bishops Benedict and Arthur attended the new bishops' course in Canterbury before being hosted by MMUK for visits to supporting dioceses and meetings with Trustees. MMUK also welcomed ACoM's Mission Secretary Fr Nelson Bako and Br Augustine MBH, enabling them to connect with supporters and friends across the UK.



## December

Two earthquakes near Port Vila in Vanuatu, measuring 7.3 and 5.5, caused widespread destruction, leaving 14 dead, including one Anglican priest, over 2,000 injured, and more than 80,000 people, half of them children, in urgent need of humanitarian support. MMUK immediately launched an emergency appeal and was able to send over £12,000 from donations and emergency funds.

## January

ACoM celebrated 50 years as an independent Province, with extended



celebrations held for June 2025.

The Southern Cross mission ship travelled to Port Vila to deliver aid to the victims of the December earthquake.

## February

Lent reflections were led by the Rt Revd Willie Pwaisiho, and recorded in ACoM's media studio in Honiara. Through six Lenten reflections, Bishop Willie explored the themes of ash, light, nature, worship, sacraments, and life, revealing how God speaks through the rhythms and symbols of Melanesian spirituality.

The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo, Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, visited schools and the religious orders in Solomon Islands.

## March

The Rt Revd Sir David Vunagi GCMG, KstJ, died after a lifetime of service to ACoM, education and latterly to Solomon Islands as its Governor General.



ACoM rolls out the 'Safe Church' training for the religious orders, as part of ACoM commitment to safeguarding.

To read more about these moments of faith, resilience, and shared mission, visit [www.acom.org.sb](http://www.acom.org.sb) and [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net). We invite you to pray for the people and ministries of Melanesia, and to sign up for MMUK's newsletter to walk alongside this work through your generosity and intercession.



## Eathquake Appeal

Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal December 2024 – March 2025

On December 17, twin earthquakes near Port Vila—measuring 7.3 and 5.5—triggered landslides and extensive damage. Fourteen lives were lost, including an Anglican priest, over 2,000 were injured, and more than 80,000 people, half of them children, were left in critical need of humanitarian support.

ACoMV responded swiftly through its diocesan networks, identifying the most vulnerable and coordinating immediate aid. With support from MMUK and other donors, the Southern Cross mission ship was deployed from Solomon Islands, delivering essential food, water, and supplies to remote communities.

As most international aid agencies have now left, ACoMV remains embedded in every community, continuing to offer practical support, pastoral care, and spiritual hope, and updating their procedures in readiness for future disasters.

MMUK warmly acknowledges the prayerful generosity and compassion shown by supporters following these devastating earthquakes in Vanuatu. Thanks to your incredible response, we surpassed our £10,000 fundraising goal—sending over £12,000 in donations and emergency funds to support the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu (ACoMV) with its vital relief efforts.







## Learning Together, Growing in Faith

Over the past 12 months, the Melanesian Mission UK has deepened its educational mission through vibrant partnerships between schools in the UK and the Anglican Church of Melanesia. These relationships go far beyond shared resources, they are rooted in personal contact, mutual respect, and the joy of learning together. True friendships between communities, cultures, and children have blossomed through shared experience and prayerful exchange.

As part of its commitment to creating safe and inclusive learning environments, MMUK was a major funder in the construction of a new girls' dormitory at St Stephen's Pamua. The facility will provide secure boarding accommodation for the school's growing number of female pupils, supporting their education and wellbeing.

### Visits That Build Bridges

This year, MMUK facilitated visits by Melanesian bishops and members of religious orders to schools across Cheshire and Devon. Pupils welcomed their guests with warmth and curiosity, engaging with the Church's vibrant life and mission in Melanesia. These encounters ignited cross-cultural understanding and created lasting classroom connections that span the globe.



Girls' dormitory under construction at St Stephen's Pamua

In return, MMUK Executive Director Katie Drew and other visitors spent time in schools across Solomon Islands, strengthening ties and supporting educational initiatives. One highlight was the delivery of training on science and faith, led by Jen Stratford from Chester Cathedral, which offered fresh insight and encouragement to local teachers.

MMUK was delighted to be named Charity of the Year by Exeter University's Chapel community and was invited to deliver talks on climate change, faith, and education in Melanesia, further strengthening engagement between UK students and Melanesian communities.

## Resources that Foster Faith & Learning

MMUK continued to grow its portfolio of educational resources, supporting school engagement and Religious Education in both the UK and Melanesia:

- A Christian Values book, co-authored by pupils in both regions, was launched and is being prepared for distribution to partner schools.
- Revamped Prayer Boxes and "A Day in the Life" activities helped pupils explore Melanesian spirituality in hands-on, meaningful ways.
- New Bishop Patteson resources, including an act of worship tailored for UK schools, are in development.
- The UK schools termly newsletter continued to share stories, reflections, and classroom-ready materials with educators.

In addition, MMUK expanded access to its Environment Observatory programme, helping Melanesian and UK students explore climate change and Pacific resilience through a faith-informed lens.



## Responding to Requests and Planning Ahead

ACoM's educational support spans all levels—pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, and the emerging university in Melanesia. This longstanding partnership reflects a shared belief in education as a pillar of faith, empowerment, and opportunity. At its 2024 Annual General Meeting, MMUK appointed a second trustee with responsibility for education, strengthening oversight as ACoM expands its learning provision.

In response to requests from Melanesian schools, MMUK is now collecting second-hand phonics books to boost literacy outcomes. The Learning for Life appeal, running until the end of 2025, will raise funds for ACoM's schools, Rural Training Centres, and the new university—including fixtures for the girls' dormitory at Pamua.

Looking ahead, MMUK hopes to recruit UK teachers for short-term placements and workshops in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Grant support is available, and expressions of interest are warmly welcomed.

Through prayer, people, and giving, friendships have flourished, between classrooms, churches, and cultures. MMUK offers heartfelt thanks to every school, pupil, teacher, and supporter who has helped grow faith and learning across the globe.

# Prayer Diary

## Week 1

### Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia and all staff at the Provincial Headquarters in Honiara, as preparations begin to appoint a new General Secretary to begin work in January 2026.

Lift up the New Zealand Trust Board and its directors, as they continue to support the mission and ministry of the Church in Melanesia.

### Monday

Give thanks for the Diocese of Temotu, Bishop Patteson Nibeo, and the staff based at the diocesan offices in Lata.

Pray for the Revd Bobby Chuchuni, chaplain to seafarers, as he ministers to crews and passengers through prayer and pastoral care.

### Tuesday

Remember the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, and their outreach to women across the islands. Hold in prayer Head Sister Everil and Assistant Head Sister Mary. Give thanks for the prayerful support of their Associates in Melanesia, Australia, and the UK.

### Wednesday

Pray for the Diocese of Ysabel, its newly appointed Bishop Christopher Hope Fihu, and the staff serving from Jejevo, Buala.

Give thanks for ACoM's Communications Department and the church radio station led by Aldrin Peloko.

### Thursday

Lift up the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia, Bishop James Tama, and the diocesan team working in Luganville, on the island of Santo.

Pray for those affected by non-communicable diseases in Melanesia, and for community programmes promoting healthier lifestyles.

### Friday

For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia and for their work on environmental justice.

For communities affected by climate change and for the work ACoM is undertaking in monitoring weather patterns, coastal erosion, and other environmental changes.

### Saturday

Hold the Diocese of Malaita and Bishop Michael Sau Bebeu in prayer, and also the Diocese of Southern Malaita and Sikaiana, with Bishop Rickson George Maomaoru.

Pray for all those involved in faith-based education—from teachers and pupils to rural training centres, theological colleges, and John Coleridge Patteson University.

## Week 2

### Sunday

Pray for Archbishop Leonard Dawea and his staff in the Diocese of Central Melanesia, including Assistant Bishop Othnielson Gamutu.

Lift up Fr Nelson Bako, Mission Secretary, and the Mission and Evangelism team.

### Monday

Remember the Diocese of Guadalcanal and Bishop Benedict Loe. Pray for the completion of their long-anticipated diocesan offices.

Pray for the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas in Honiara, as they prepare to welcome a new Dean.

### Tuesday

Give thanks for the ministry of the Sisters of the Church, and for Revd Sr Veronica, Provincial Sister for Solomon Islands Pacific Region. Pray for their work among families near TNK and their gift of retreat hospitality.

Lift up the Christian Care Centres on Guadalcanal, Malaita, and Temotu, and the Sisters' efforts to address gender based violence.

### Wednesday

Pray for the Diocese of Central Solomons, Bishop Steven Koete, and the staff at the headquarters in Tulagi.

Ask for God's blessing on ACoM's shipyard at Taroaniara and for all who travel the seas for work and ministry. Pray for success in securing a new Southern Cross mission vessel.

### Thursday

Hold the Diocese of Banks and Torres in prayer, along with Bishop Anthony Ling and the 55 clergy serving this remote region from their base in Sola.

Celebrate the work of the Mothers' Union, its sewing workshops, literacy programmes, couples counselling, Girls Friendly Society, savings clubs, and Positive Parenting training.

### Friday

Give thanks for the Melanesian Brotherhood in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, the Philippines, and Australia in its 100th year of formation.

Lift up ACoM schools, their chaplains, teachers, and pupils, and for growing school partnerships between Melanesia and the UK.

### Saturday

Pray for the Diocese of Hanuato'o, Bishop Arthur Stanley Abui, and the 15 parishes and 32 priests who serve faithfully.

Ask for deeper diocesan links and unity among Christians around the world. Give thanks for missionaries past and present, and for all who offer their lives in service to God's call.



Bishops Benedict & Arthur on a school visit



Trustee Colin Butler with Br Augustine & Fr Nelson

# Visits That Enrich and Inspire

Throughout the year, MMUK has welcomed a number of distinguished visitors from Melanesia, including the Archbishop of Melanesia on retreat and study leave, two bishops attending the New Bishops Course at Canterbury, as well as members of religious communities and ACoM staff. These visits offer invaluable opportunities for supporters, donors, and pupils in our school partnerships to hear directly from our Melanesian brothers and sisters—strengthening bonds of faith, friendship, and mission.

One such visit took place in late 2024, when Fr Nelson Bako, Mission Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, joined us for an extended six-week itinerary across the UK—his first extended UK visit since studying at Chester University nearly two decades ago. Accompanied by Br Augustine Fisher Paekeni of the Melanesian Brotherhood, the pair brought fresh perspective and joyful fellowship to longstanding connections with dioceses, churches, and schools.

*“It was a profound learning opportunity,” Fr Nelson shared, “deepening my understanding of the historical ties between ACoM and the Church of England, and offering a new insight into how these relationships continue to evolve in response to faith, justice, and local witness.”*

Fr Nelson’s programme included:

- Joining USPG at the Being Made Whole conference in Swanwick
- Reconnecting with mission partners in Chester Diocese, including a visit to Fr Nelson’s former university
- Visiting linked schools in the Diocese of Exeter, where worship and shared prayer showcased Christian unity across cultures
- Spending time at parish churches to explore liturgy, local mission, and hospitality

- Participating in a homeless outreach project and visiting St Margaret’s Girls’ School in London
- Discovering the Melanesian archives at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and preaching at evensong in the chapel
- Reflecting and worshipping at St Martin-in-the-Fields, where Fr Nelson was formally welcomed into the Nazareth Community and took part in the public nativity play at Trafalgar Square

Throughout the visit, the depth of connection and generosity experienced was striking. As Fr Nelson noted, “To be a witness of Christ, one only needs to be present.” His reflections remind us that evangelism begins with relationship—with being attentive, available, and faithful in the everyday.

MMUK is deeply thankful to all who hosted, welcomed, and supported this visit and the other visits throughout the year. The spiritual and cultural gifts Fr Nelson and Brother Augustine brought were a blessing to all.

Face-to-face encounters like these continue to shape global mission, nurture discipleship, and open doors to new generations of shared ministry. MMUK remains committed to supporting future visits and opportunities for fellowship between the UK and Melanesia. For news of visits to the UK follow the charity on social media and sign up for the regular email newsletter.



## A Curate's Reflection on a Solomon Islands Placement

Since the relaunch of placements in 2023 after the COVID pandemic, MMUK has overseen a record number of placements in 2024 – 2025.

In June 2024, MMUK facilitated a two-week placement for Revd Angela Sheard, curate at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, as part of its deepening engagement with Melanesian religious communities.

Angela's journey took her to three communities on Guadalcanal: the Sisters of the Church, the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, and the Melanesian Brotherhood. Immersed in their daily rhythms of prayer and work, she shared meals, joined in worship, and taught—and learnt—songs and dances. A highlight, she recalls, was performing an old S Club 7 routine in exchange for traditional Melanesian dances.

Everywhere she went, Angela was met with radical generosity and welcome: “People gave so much, even when they had so little. It felt like a spiritual practice—an extension of their lives of prayer and hospitality.” Angela's experiences challenged her to reflect on how UK churches might offer deeper welcome to strangers in their midst, despite different cultural contexts.

She was also struck by the spaciousness of life in Melanesia—slower, more flexible, grounded in presence rather than productivity. “I stayed in communities built around rhythms of prayer designed to leave space for God,” she writes. “Even outside those walls, time was fluid. Meetings finished ‘when we run out of things to talk about.’” While industrialisation and smartphones are reshaping this rhythm, Angela was reminded how important it is, even within religious life, to protect space for silence, waiting, and wonder.

Her placement also brought her face-to-face with the deep poverty affecting many families across Melanesia. Stories of loss from preventable illness, interrupted schooling, and post-conflict trauma were common. “These communities often live with no electricity, sanitation, or access to medication. We must not romanticise this,” she writes, “but acknowledge the grave injustice and the pressing need for social and economic development.”

And yet, she notes, the spiritual response from Melanesian Christians was profound. “Their faithfulness in hardship made me reflect on my own dependence on God. They know they need God for absolutely everything.” Angela recalled a Zimbabwean minister who once told her, “When you need food, you go to the shop. When we need food, we pray.”

Angela’s placement, organised and supported by MMUK, is a powerful example of how cross-cultural exchange enriches both visitors and host communities. Her reflections reaffirm MMUK’s belief that partnership with Melanesia is not just about service, but about mutual transformation.

As Angela concludes, “We need our siblings in the Church of Melanesia to remind us of this wisdom—in love—as we continue to nurture this precious relationship between our churches and nations.”



### Are You Called to Melanesia?

MMUK is expanding its placements programme to offer more opportunities, ranging from two weeks to 8–12 months. Whether you’re exploring a sabbatical, seeking spiritual renewal on retreat, or feel drawn to serve alongside Melanesian communities, we invite you to consider spending time in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

These placements provide a chance to live the rhythm of prayer and service, to learn from vibrant Melanesian faith traditions, and to offer your skills—be it in teaching, ministry, music, communication, or pastoral care—in a deeply relational setting.

If you sense a calling to grow in faith and solidarity with the Anglican Church of Melanesia, get in touch with MMUK to learn more about available opportunities and potential funding support.



# Mission-Shaped Climate Action: The Church of Melanesia's Environmental Witness

In 2020, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) launched a courageous initiative, helping local communities to establish climate observatories. Supported by MMUK, the project equips clergy and lay leaders, named Green Apostles, to track environmental change across Solomon Islands, offering both practical data and profound witness.

Now operating in 14 sites in Solomons, and with a full time Project Manager, the observatories measure daily rainfall, temperature, water levels, and shoreline erosion. But their real impact goes far beyond numbers.

This year, we've seen the project evolve from a scientific exercise into a mission-shaped tool for education, adaptation, and theological reflection. Communities are now engaging in meaningful conversations about climate change, relocation, food security, and resilience.

Challenges remain. Data collection has at times been inconsistent, and staff capacity limits database development and analysis. Travel to remote sites is costly and weather dependent. Yet these obstacles have shaped a renewed focus: empowering communities to reflect, adapt, and respond from within.

Looking ahead, ACoM hopes to expand to more sites in Solomons, start in Vanuatu and develop further resources, including a Theology of Creation course for clergy and a Climate Change handbook for religious orders and Mothers' Union to take out on missions to remote communities. Funding is needed to support these dreams, but the spirit of the project remains strong.

To our supporters: thank you. Your prayers, funding, and advocacy have helped transform rain gauges into tools of resilience, and shoreline markers into beacons of hope. The Anglican Church of Melanesia stands ready rooted in faith, equipped with knowledge, and committed to creation.



St Nicholas College students & teacher with Freda Fakka (far right) ACoM's Environment Observatories Project Manager.

# Climate Change Impacts in Melanesia



**Coastal erosion:** Shorelines are retreating, with land loss and saltwater intrusion affecting homes, gardens, schools and churches



Environment Observatory at SSF HQ



**Rising temperatures:** Warmer air and sea temperatures, threaten coral reefs and increase cyclone risk.



**Flooding & drought:** Rainfall is increasingly erratic, causing both floods and dry spells.



**Displacement:** Communities are relocating due to environmental damage, facing land rights challenges.



**Food & Water insecurity:** Crop failures and water shortages are harming nutrition, health and education.

MMUK is deeply grateful to the University of Exeter's Chapel community for naming its Environment Observatories programme as their Charity of the Year for 2024-2025. Through a series of events held across the year, including two speaking engagements, displays and a fête, the community raised over £1,100 to support vital climate resilience work in Melanesia.

Donations have also been received following parish talks through the year. Many thanks to all those who have supported this mission.



# A Sacred Journey for Gender Justice

In June 2024 MMUK supporters, trustees and staff made their annual pilgrimage, this year walking St Hilda's Way from Hinderwell to Whitby. Walking the 44-mile route over five days, the pilgrims prayed for the ministry to women in Melanesia. Many girls don't complete their education and can be married off at a young age. Domestic violence is normalised, making it difficult for victims to escape. However, there's hope: The Community of the Sisters of the Church and the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia, provide refuge and actively campaign to end all forms of gender-based violence.

The pilgrimage was challenging, with some coastal footpaths, open moorland, boggy lanes, torrential rain and even hail. But this was more than made up by the welcome at churches and schools along the route and the companionship of the pilgrims.

Sarah Crompton one of the pilgrims shared why she walked this year: *"I've wanted to walk St Hilda's Way since I first heard that Hilda was the patron saint of the Community of Sisters of Melanesia. Walking this route felt like a really appropriate way to raise money for ministry to women in Melanesia."*

*"The pilgrimage gave a small group the opportunity to spend time together in fellowship and prayer, and we had some lovely conversations with clergy and local people along the way. Huge thanks to everyone who supported us with generous donations and encouraging messages,"* said Sarah.

**The pilgrims raised £2,900 for gender justice programmes run by the Melanesian Sisters and the Sisters of the Church in Melanesia.**



Beginning at St Hilda's Well, Hinderwell



Finishing at Whitby Abbey



## 2026 AGM

Join Us at MMUK's 2026 Annual General Meeting & Festival Day



Exeter Cathedral



Saturday 19th September



11:00am – 4:00pm

To book your place or for more information, please contact:

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

We warmly invite you to attend the Melanesian Mission's Annual General Meeting and Festival Day at the stunning Exeter Cathedral. This special gathering will include updates on our mission work, inspiring talks, worship, and fellowship.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to MMUK, come and be part of the conversation and celebration.

# Rooted in Partnership – Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to 2025–2026, the Melanesian Mission remains deeply committed to nurturing the bonds between Anglicans in Melanesia and the UK. Every activity, resource, and placement we support stems from direct requests from the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the four religious orders, and the Mothers' Union in the region. Together, we listen, respond, and walk in step with our Melanesian partners, living out the Five Marks of Mission through education, justice, care, and prayer.

This coming year will see us broaden our reach, deepen our support, and continue bearing witness to issues facing Melanesian communities—particularly climate change and environmental destruction, gender justice, and equitable access to education. We affirm our role as partners, advocates, and companions in these shared concerns.

## Priority Work for 2025–2026 Includes:

**Pilgrimage and placements:** Coordinating reciprocal visits between the UK and Melanesia, offering training, learning, and spiritual growth for clergy, religious, and lay partners. Supporting placements of 2 weeks to 8–12 months in Melanesia, tailored to the gifts and skills of participants

**Learning for Life Appeal:** Seeking to raise £25,000 by the end of 2025 to support of ACoM schools and educational institutions

**School partnerships:** Providing new RE and cultural resources, while facilitating teacher exchanges and peer learning across continents

**Religious Orders:** Strengthening ties between UK-based Companions and Associates and the Melanesian Brotherhood, Melanesian Sisters, Sisters of the Church, and Franciscans, through prayer and shared witness

**Trustee and staff visits:** Ensuring regular in-person engagement with church leaders and institutions in the region, offering relationship-building and project oversight

**Building our prayer support:** Growing our digital presence to invite wider prayerful engagement with Melanesian communities

As ever, MMUK's work is shaped by deep listening and faithful response. Every journey taken, pound donated, and prayer offered helps sustain a mission of love, justice, and hope.

We thank you for continuing the journey with us.



# Learning for Life – Supporting ACoM Education in Melanesia

## Target: £25,000 by the end of 2025

Education in Melanesia is more than a pathway to opportunity – it’s a lifeline. Yet many children, especially girls, face significant barriers to accessing and completing their education. Financial hardship, limited facilities, and a lack of basic resources contribute to high dropout rates.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) is working to change this. Across 53 institutions, including pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, boarding schools, and Rural Training Colleges, ACoM nurtures thousands of students in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It is also establishing its own university: the John Coleridge Patteson University.

MMUK’s Learning for Life campaign aims to raise £25,000 to support key educational initiatives:

- £10,000 to furnish the new girls’ dormitory at Pamua Secondary School
- Provision of science equipment and phonics resources to strengthen literacy and STEM
- Tools and training materials for RTCs in carpentry, mechanics, farming, and hospitality



Your support will empower young people, especially girls, and uphold ACoM’s mission to educate the whole person – body, mind, and spirit.

### Ways to donate:

[www.mmuk.net/donate](http://www.mmuk.net/donate) (Ref: L4L Appeal)  
JustGiving [www.justgiving.com/campaign/learningforlife](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/learningforlife)  
For BACS details or to send a cheque, contact: [mission@mmuk.net](mailto:mission@mmuk.net)

The Melanesian Mission UK (MMUK) is a Christian mission agency rooted in prayer, companionship, and giving. In partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM), we work to support communities through education, climate resilience, gender justice, and the life of the Church.

Want to follow the journey? Visit [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net) for the latest news, blogs, and prayer requests from Melanesia and the UK. Explore our extensive film archive, featuring stories on the religious orders, climate change, and mission outreach.

Stay up to date. Subscribe to our regular email newsletter via the website, and follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/MelanesianMission](https://facebook.com/MelanesianMission)

Need resources or a speaker? If you would like extra copies of this Annual Report, leaflets about MMUK's work, school teaching resources, or to invite a speaker for your church or community group, please get in touch.

## Contact us

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With grateful thanks to all who contributed stories and photographs to this 2024–2025 Annual Report—your voices bring the mission to life. Together, may we continue walking in faith, sharing hope, and building relationships across oceans.

O Jesus,

Be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life;

Be the rudder that keeps me in the straight road;

Be the outrigger that supports me in times of temptation.

Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day.

Keep my body strong so I can paddle steadfastly

on in the voyage of life. Amen

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