

www.mmuk.net

2025-2026

Annual Report



The
Melanesian
Mission

Prayer, People, Giving



Richard Carter with other former Melanesian Brothers including the Archbishop of Melanesia

CHAIR'S REPORT 2025 - 2026

It is a great joy to introduce and commend this Annual Report to you. As you will read, MMUK has continued to focus on prayer, people and giving over the past year as we have sought to sustain and develop our long and lifegiving partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM).

There is news here of successful visits from the UK to Melanesia and from Melanesia to the UK. Words and pictures can only give a glimpse of what is shared, given and received through these visits, and it is easy to underestimate their wider impact in terms of education, encouragement and awareness raising. I am pleased that our Annual Festival Day provides the opportunity to hear about recent visits in a little more detail, and gives space for stories to be shared. It is heartening that a very full programme of visits both ways

between Melanesia and the UK is planned for the coming months and years.

2025 was of course a year marked by significant celebration. In June we rejoiced with the rest of the Anglican Communion as ACoM marked 50 years since the creation of the Province of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. This was of course before countries within Melanesia had secured Independence, and our understanding of some of that history was informed by a very engaging recording made by Father Brian Macdonald-Milne, which included some of his first-hand recollections of how the Province came into being. It is surely a testament to the vision and foresight of all those involved in that project that fifty years on ACoM is thriving, with a constitution, institutions and structures that continue to enable and

Front Cover – Fr Nelson Bako, ACoM Mission Secretary planting one of the 100 trees at Tabalia to commemorate 100 years of the Melanesian Brotherhood in October 2025.

resource mission and ministry effectively across the Province.

As we gathered for the Annual Festival in September 2025, held in the gloriously appropriate surroundings of Selwyn College, news reached us of Fr Brian's death. It was good that many of us could be together as we received and processed the news and to pray together, in hope and thankfulness, as we commended Brian into the arms of the Saviour whom he served with such humility and dedication in both the UK and in Melanesia.



Sisters of the Church meeting Bishop Michael Igrave at Lichfield Cathedral

In October, MMUK was formally represented at Tabalia as the Melanesian Brotherhood celebrated its centenary. Richard Carter and Sam Rylands joined others from the UK who had travelled to join in the weekend of festivities that brought to a climax a series of events held in 2025 across PNG, Solomons and

Vanuatu. As the Brotherhood enters its second century, it continues to inspire through its simplicity, humility, and unwavering commitment to reconciliation in the name of Christ. It is a joy to see the community in such good heart. It is certainly a privilege and a joy to walk alongside and learn from all four of the religious orders that enrich the Anglican Church in Melanesia.

And there are more anniversaries to come! In 2027 we shall be marking 200 years since Bishop John Coleridge Patteson's birth, and, in 2028, 150 years since the death of Bishop George Augustus Selwyn. We look forward to marking these milestones with you.

Throughout the year, the trustees of MMUK continued to meet regularly to guide the charity's work, strengthen governance, and to ensure that the Mission remains focused on its objects as a charity. As you will read, steps were taken to improve our systems and processes, particularly around finances and policy documents, and this work remains a key focus for us.

I hope that you are encouraged and heartened by what you read in this report. Please do use the report as a prompt to join us in prayers of thanksgiving and of intercession, and may God bless richly all for whom we pray and our work together in partnership with ACoM.

+Sam Corley
Chair of Trustees



2025 AGM Festival Day

Supporters of the Melanesian Mission UK gathered at Selwyn College, Cambridge, on 20 September 2025 for the Annual General Meeting and Festival Day. The event celebrated the enduring partnership between the UK and Melanesia, with opportunities to view a special collection of artefacts associated with Bishops George Augustus Selwyn and John Coleridge Patteson.

During the AGM, members received the 2024–2025 Annual Report and independently inspected accounts, and thanked retiring Trustees Stephen Scofield and Revd Jacky Wise for their dedicated service. Mr Dave Friswell and Revd Angela Sheard were elected as Trustees, Sue Clayton was appointed Honorary Treasurer, and Revd Kate Pwaisiho was welcomed as the Archbishop of Melanesia's appointed Trustee.

The afternoon featured inspiring presentations on the Melanesian Brotherhood, the 50th anniversary of the Province of Melanesia, and the growth of school partnerships. Supporters also gave thanks for the life of Revd Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne, whose lifelong commitment to Melanesia was remembered with gratitude and affection. The day concluded with a Eucharist in Selwyn College Chapel.

Notice of AGM and Festival Day 2026:

The next AGM and Festival Day will be held at Exeter Cathedral and Palace, on Saturday 19 September 2026, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. All members and supporters are warmly invited to attend.

Achievements and Performance



During the financial year 2025–2026, MMUK continued to live out its mission of partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) through prayer, people and giving. Together, we have strengthened relationships, supported vital work on the ground and deepened understanding between communities in the UK and Melanesia.

At the heart of this year has been a commitment to connection. Trustees met regularly to guide the charity's work, strengthen governance, and ensure that the Mission remains focused on its calling. Important steps were taken to improve systems and processes, including the appointment of a bookkeeper and a full review of policies and governing documents, ensuring that the charity is well equipped for the future.

Beyond governance, the charity's impact has been felt most clearly in its partnerships and support for ACoM. MMUK provided an unrestricted annual grant of £39,000, enabling the Church in Melanesia to respond flexibly to local priorities. Additional grants supported a wide range of work, including disaster relief following flooding in Guadalcanal, support for the Mothers' Union and the religious communities, and funds for preparations for the Melanesian Brotherhood's centenary celebrations.

The year also saw the launch and continuation of fundraising initiatives such as the Learning for Life Appeal, supporting education across Melanesia, as well as practical projects including sewing initiatives, local income generation schemes and infrastructure improvements.

Exchange visits and shared experiences have remained central, reminding us that this mission is not one-directional but truly mutual. From UK visitors learning in Melanesia, to Melanesian sisters and bishops visiting the UK, these encounters have deepened faith and friendship, and brought understanding to life.

None of what has been achieved would have been possible without the faithful support of our community. We give thanks for all who have supported MMUK this year—through **prayer, people, and giving**, enabling us to continue this shared mission and to grow lasting friendships in Christ.

2025 – 2026 End of Year Accounts

The charity's accounts for 2025 – 2026 were independently inspected by Redwoods Accountants and accepted by the Trustees of MMUK in September 2026. For a full copy of the accounts, please visit the charity's website www.mmuk.net

A Year of Mission



April

MMUK Trustee Colin Butler visited schools in Solomon Islands, strengthening links between partner schools and seeing first-hand the impact of educational and community projects. His visit provided valuable opportunities to encourage pupils and staff, deepen relationships, and share stories with supporters in the UK.

May

MMUK continued to raise awareness of the climate emergency and support the Environment Observatories programme in Solomon Islands. The charity was delighted to be named Exeter University Chapel's Charity of the Year and attended their Summer Fête with a display highlighting the impacts of climate change in Melanesia.

June

The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) celebrated its Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years since becoming an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion in 1975. The week-long celebrations brought together church members and partners for worship, thanksgiving, and reflection, while also looking ahead through initiatives such as the inauguration of John Coleridge Patteson University.



July

The charity launched the Learning for Life Appeal to raise funds for ACoM schools, vocational training centres and the new university.

August

Eight Sisters from the Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC) visited the UK for a period of prayer, fellowship, and renewal. Alongside attending their Chapter Meeting at St Michael's Convent, Gerrards Cross, the Sisters travelled to dioceses across England, strengthening links with supporters and sharing insights into their ministry in Melanesia.



September

The 2025 AGM and Festival Day was held at Selwyn College Cambridge. It

was a fitting location to give thanks for the life and ministry of the Revd Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne, who died on 19 September aged 90. A devoted servant of the Church of Melanesia for many years, Brian played a significant role in the development of the Province and remained a committed supporter of MMUK, leaving a lasting legacy through his scholarship, writing and faithful service.

October

This month the Melanesian Brotherhood celebrated its 100th anniversary with over 10,000 people attending a week-long programme at the Brothers headquarters, Tabalia.



November

Rt Revd Steven Koete, Bishop of Central Solomons, and the Rt Revd Othniel Gamutu, Assistant Bishop of Central Melanesia, visited dioceses across the UK after spending 9 days in Canterbury on a new Bishops training course.

December

MMUK celebrated the news that its Executive Director, Katie Drew, was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the 2026 New Year Honours List for services to UK-Solomon Islands relations



January

Widespread flooding in Solomon Islands caused significant damage to communities, with access routes cut off and families forced to seek shelter. MMUK responded by providing emergency funding to support ACoM's relief efforts and shared news of the crisis with supporters. Pupils at Tipton St John Primary School in Devon wrote special prayers for those affected, demonstrating the strength of the partnership between schools in the UK and Melanesia

February

The Community of the Sisters of the Church (CSC) in Melanesia celebrated a season of growth and renewal at Candlemas. The Community gave thanks for the blessing of Sister Jessica as Assistant Provincial Sister and welcomed six new Novices and three new Postulants, marking important milestones in their journeys of faith, formation, and service.

March

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and their UK Associates held their first online Bible study, bringing together participants across thousands of miles for shared reflection on Scripture. Reading and discussing Luke 10:1-11 in both Solomon Islands Pidgin and English, the group explored themes of mission, discipleship, and God's kingdom, strengthening bonds of prayer, fellowship and mutual support between the UK and Solomon Islands.



Environmental Advocacy

MMUK continues to stand in solidarity with the Anglican Church of Melanesia as communities face the growing impacts of climate change. Throughout the year, the charity helped raise awareness in the UK through talks in schools, churches, and interest groups, sharing the lived reality of climate change in the Pacific.

A key focus has been our ongoing support for the Environment Observatories in Solomon Islands. These grassroots initiatives play a vital role in monitoring environmental change and equipping communities with knowledge and practical tools to respond. This year, MMUK contributed funding towards the Project Manager's salary and supported travel and resources to strengthen this work.



One exciting development has been the creation of a pilot Green Apostles handbook. This resource explains the causes and impacts of climate change while offering practical guidance on how communities can adapt. It will be tested, refined, and translated into Pidgin, before being distributed widely across schools, Environment Observatory sites, and through mission activities led by the religious orders and the Mothers' Union.

This work reflects MMUK's wider commitment, not only to advocate for justice, but to support communities with the tools they need to respond with resilience and hope. Through prayer, education, and practical action, we continue to stand alongside our partners in Melanesia as they care for God's creation.

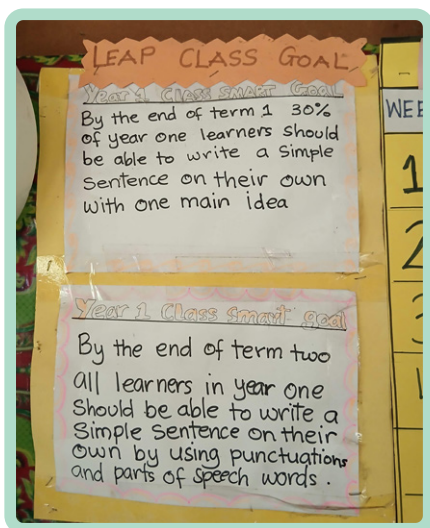
Schools & Education

Education remains at the heart of MMUK's work, recognising its importance in shaping lives, strengthening communities, and offering opportunity.

This year saw continued growth in school partnerships between the UK and Melanesia, helping young people to learn from one another, deepen their faith, and develop a global perspective. New resources, including an act of worship on Bishop John Coleridge Patteson, have supported UK schools in engaging with the life and spirituality of Melanesia.

The Learning for Life Appeal was launched to support ACoM schools and educational initiatives, with a target of £25,000. While this goal was not fully reached within the initial timeframe, the appeal was extended, reflecting the ongoing need and importance of this work.

Trustee visits to schools and Rural Training Centres in Solomon Islands have strengthened understanding of how education is delivered in different contexts, particularly where resources can be limited. These centres provide not only academic learning but also vocational skills, equipping young people for life in their communities.



Education is not just about classrooms, it is about relationships. Through exchanges, shared learning and prayer, students and teachers in both the UK and Melanesia are growing together, discovering what it means to be part of a global Church.

Thank you to all who have supported this work, helping to nurture knowledge, faith and opportunities for future generations.



Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia and for all who serve at the Provincial Headquarters in Honiara, and for the new General Secretary, Mr Adrian Toni.

Give thanks for the New Zealand Trust Board and its directors as they continue to support the Church's mission and ministry across Melanesia.

Monday

Pray for the Diocese of Temotu, Bishop Patteson Nibeo and the staff serving at the diocesan offices in Lata.

Remember the Revd Bobby Chuchuni, Chaplain to Seafarers, and all those who minister to crews and passengers through pastoral care, prayer and practical support.

Tuesday

Give thanks for the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and for their ministry among women, families, and communities throughout the islands. Pray for Head Sister Everil, Assistant Head Sister Mary, and for Associates in Melanesia, Australia and the UK, who support the Community through prayer, friendship and giving.

Wednesday

Pray for the Diocese of Ysabel, Bishop Christopher Hope Fihu, and the diocesan team serving from Jejevo, Buala.

Give thanks for ACoM's Communications Department and the work of church radio in sharing the Gospel and connecting communities across the islands.

Thursday

Hold in prayer the Diocese of Vanuatu and New Caledonia, Bishop James Tama, and all who serve from the diocesan offices in Luganville, Santo.

Remember those affected by non-communicable diseases and pray for health programmes that encourage wellbeing, prevention and healthy lifestyles.

Friday

Give thanks for the Society of St Francis and its witness to creation care throughout Melanesia.

Pray for communities already impacted by climate change, and for ACoM's environmental monitoring work through the Environment Observatories programme.

Saturday

Pray for the Diocese of Malaita, Bishop Michael Sau Bebeu, and the Diocese of Southern Malaita and Sikaiana, Bishop Rickson George Maomaoru.

Give thanks for all involved in education, including teachers, pupils, theological colleges, rural training centres and John Coleridge Patteson University.

Sunday

Pray for Archbishop Leonard Dawea, Assistant Bishop Othnielson Gamutu, and all who serve in the Diocese of Central Melanesia.

Remember Fr Nelson Bako and the Mission and Evangelism team as they encourage the Church's witness throughout the region.

Monday

Pray for the Diocese of Guadalcanal, Bishop Benedict Loe, and all involved in the development of the new diocesan offices.

Give thanks for the ministry of St Barnabas Cathedral and pray for God's guidance as a new Dean is sought to take up this important role.

Tuesday

Give thanks for the ministry of the Sisters of the Church and pray for Revd Sister Veronica, Provincial Sister for the Solomon Islands Pacific Region.

Remember the Christian Care Centres on Guadalcanal, Malaita and Temotu, and pray for all working to support survivors of gender-based violence and family hardship.

Wednesday

Pray for the Diocese of Central Solomons, Bishop Steven Koete, and staff serving from Tulagi.

Ask God's blessing on ACoM's shipyard at Taroaniara, on all who travel by sea for ministry and livelihood, and on

plans to secure a new Southern Cross mission vessel.

Thursday

Pray for the Diocese of Banks and Torres, Bishop Anthony Ling, and the clergy and lay leaders serving remote island communities from Sola.

Give thanks for the Mothers' Union in its 150th year, and for its work through literacy training, sewing projects, savings clubs, parenting programmes and family support ministries.

Friday

Give thanks for the Melanesian Brotherhood and its ministry in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Australia.

Pray for Anglican schools across the region, and for growing partnerships between schools in Melanesia and the United Kingdom.

Saturday

Pray for the Diocese of Hanuato'o, Bishop Arthur Stanley Abui, and all clergy and lay leaders serving the people of Makira.

Ask God to strengthen links between churches around the world, and give thanks for missionaries past and present whose faithful service continues to inspire future generations.

UK Visits

One of the great joys of MMUK's work is welcoming friends from Melanesia to the UK, strengthening relationships and sharing life together.

In August 2025, MMUK organised a programme for eight Sisters of the Church, who were visiting for their General Chapter. By dividing into smaller groups, the Sisters were able to travel widely, visiting the dioceses of Chester, Ely, Exeter, Lichfield and London. Along the way, they met supporters, shared worship, and built new and renewed friendships.

Their presence was a gift to all who met them, offering a powerful witness to faith, vocation and community life. One Sister was even able to remain in the UK to attend MMUK's AGM and Festival Day.

Later in the year, Bishop Steven Koete, Bishop of Central Solomons, and Bishop Othnielson Gamutu, Assistant Bishop of Central Melanesia were supported to attend the New Bishops' Course in Canterbury, before visiting dioceses across England, deepening ties with the UK Church.

Although plans to bring additional visitors were postponed due to rising travel costs and wider global instability, the commitment to these exchanges remains strong.

These visits are not simply programmes, they are encounters, friendships, and moments of shared faith that continue to shape and enrich the life of the Church both in the UK and Melanesia.



Sisters visiting Chester Diocese





Revd Rich Clarkson from Lichfield Diocese visited Solomons in 2025

Melanesian Placements

Exchange visits are at the heart of MMUK's mission, offering opportunities for mutual learning, fellowship and transformation.

During the year, the charity supported placements and visits to Solomon Islands, including grants for UK priests to spend time in Melanesia in September and October. A key element of this work is ensuring that those who visit return to share their experiences, helping to build understanding and engagement across the UK.

Planning also continued for future placements, including opportunities ranging from short visits to longer-term experiences of 9–12 months. These programmes offer participants the chance to live, learn and serve alongside communities in Melanesia.

Work also began to explore the reintroduction of gap year placements, in partnership with Project Trust, with a feasibility visit planned for April 2026. These opportunities are transformative, not only for those who travel, but for the communities they encounter and the wider network of supporters who hear their stories.

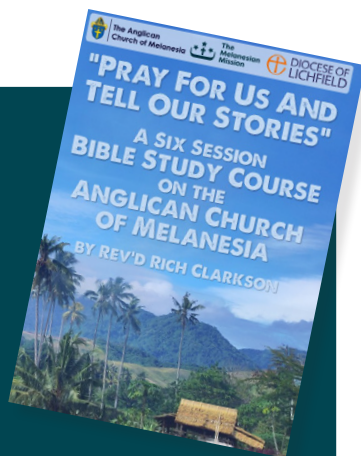
To find out more about the opportunities to make a visit to Melanesia, contact the charity.

New Bible Study Course

“Pray For Us and Tell Our Stories” is a six-session Bible study course written by Revd Rich Clarkson, drawing on his time spent with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in 2025. It is rooted in a simple but powerful invitation from the Archbishop of Melanesia, the Most Revd Leonard Dawea: “Pray for us, and tell our stories.”

Through six accessible sessions, the study offers a glimpse into the life, faith, and challenges of the Anglican Church of Melanesia. It brings together history, personal encounters, scripture and prayer, helping participants engage spiritually and relationally.

For your copy, contact the charity.



100 Years of the Melanesian Brotherhood

In October 2025, the Melanesian Brotherhood celebrated a remarkable milestone, **100 years of its life and ministry.**

MMUK was honoured to play a part in these celebrations, providing financial support and being represented at the centenary by Trustee Revd Dr Sam Rylands and Revd Richard Carter.

For a century, the Brotherhood has been a powerful witness to faith, service and reconciliation across Melanesia. Its members live lives of prayer, community and mission, often working in challenging contexts and offering a ministry of peace.

The centenary celebrations were a time of thanksgiving, reflection, and renewed commitment, recognising both the rich history of the Brotherhood and its vital role in the life of the Church today.

For MMUK supporters, the Brotherhood remains a cornerstone of our shared story, an enduring sign of the deep bonds between the Church in Melanesia and the UK.





As part of the 100th anniversary celebrations, the Brothers oversaw the planting of over 100 trees at their headquarters Tabalia.



Watch a collection of short films about the Melanesian Brotherhood on MMUK's YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/@TheMelanesianMission/videos

Trustee Visits to Melanesia

Trustee visits remain essential in maintaining strong, informed and prayerful partnerships.

In April and May 2025, Trustee Colin Butler visited Solomon Islands, spending time in schools and rural training centres across three dioceses. His visit strengthened educational links and deepened understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing ACoM.

Planning also continued for further visits, including those by staff and Trustees in 2026, ensuring ongoing engagement, accountability and relationship-building.

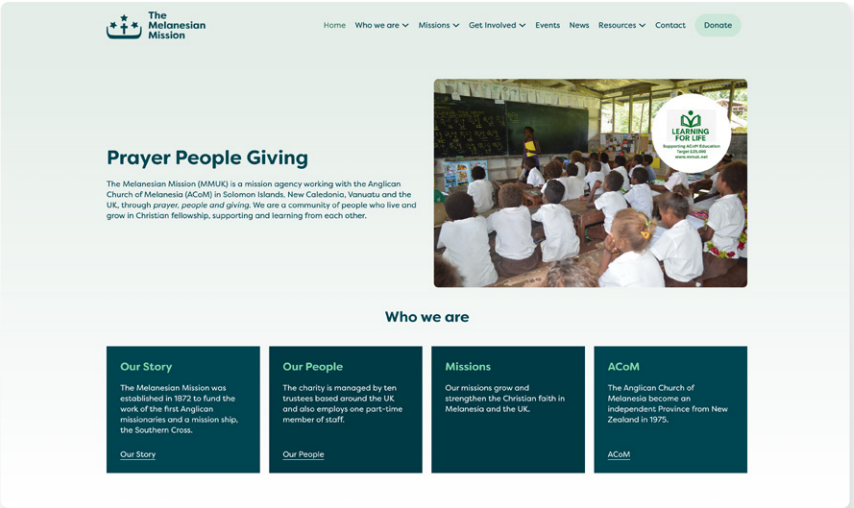
These visits are not simply oversight, they are opportunities to listen, learn, encourage and pray alongside our partners, ensuring that MMUK's work remains rooted in real relationships and shared mission.



Trustee Colin Butler meeting staff and pupils at ACoM schools



Staying Connected



Throughout the year MMUK has continued to keep supporters connected through online events, newsletters and the website.

Six email newsletters, regular website updates and opportunities for prayer and reflection have helped build a strong and engaged community. Special resources and dedicated school communications have also widened participation.

This ongoing communication is vital as it enables supporters to remain part of the story, to pray, to learn and to respond.

Want to follow the journey? Visit 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 and YouTube: www.youtube.com/@TheMelanesianMission

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.

Priority Work for the Year Ahead

Looking forward, MMUK remains committed to strengthening partnerships, supporting education, and deepening engagement.

Key priorities include:



Expanding placements & exchange visits both ways



Continuing the Learning for Life Appeal to reach the target of £25k



Supporting the Bishop Patteson Theological College, *see Pg23*



Growing school partnerships & resources



Strengthening connections with religious orders by encouraging supporters to become Associates and Companions



Increasing opportunities for prayer and engagement.

These priorities reflect a desire not only to support, but to walk alongside the Anglican Church of Melanesia in a spirit of partnership and shared calling.

Above all, we give thanks.

Everything described in this report has been made possible through the generous support of MMUK’s community, through **prayer, people, and giving**.

Thank you for walking alongside the Anglican Church of Melanesia and sharing in this mission.



Join Us in Building the Future



Bishop Patteson Theological College Anglican Church of Melanesia



Continuing over 175 years of theological education



Forming Anglican leaders for generations to come



167 hectares of land available for the College
and proposed future University

The Melanesian Mission UK (MMUK) is an Anglican mission agency working in partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) through prayer, friendship, advocacy and financial support.

We seek to strengthen relationships between churches, schools, and communities in the UK and Melanesia, encouraging mutual learning, exchange visits and shared mission. We support ACoM's priorities through fundraising and grants for projects that improve lives, strengthen the Church and build resilient communities.

MMUK advocates for issues affecting the peoples of Melanesia, particularly those relating to climate change, education, health and social wellbeing. We promote educational links between schools and colleges, helping young people develop global friendships and understanding.

At the heart of our work is prayer. We encourage prayer with and for the Church in Melanesia and seek to learn from the faith, spirituality and witness of our Melanesian sisters and brothers in Christ.

In all that we do, MMUK strives to nurture lasting partnerships, deepen Christian fellowship and share God's love across oceans and cultures.

With sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2025 – 2026 mission reflected in this annual report. Through your prayers and participation, the story of God's mission in Melanesia and the UK continues to unfold. May we go forward together in faith, hope and friendship, strengthening the bonds that connect us 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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