

A day to celebrate - 'Melanesia Sunday'

For one hundred and sixty years the Melanesian Mission has relied upon churches in the UK to support the work of the Anglican Church in the Melanesian islands.

Over more recent years various changes in churches in Britain have seen resources being shifted away from supporting the Mission. This has happened just as the Church of Melanesia has also found itself in greater need, brought about by the ethnic tensions and by the more recent impact of the decline in the global economy. But, as Bishop Michael said at the Festival Eucharist, the Melanesian Mission should be a great movement and powerhouse of prayer, as well as providing physical support for those in the Melanesia. To help focus prayerful and material support for the work of the Mission we hope you will be able to be part of 'Melanesia Sunday'.

This will take place on the second Sunday in January each year - being the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of the creation of the Anglican Church of Melanesia as its own autonomous province in 1975.

So start thinking how you and your church might help celebrate Melanesia Sunday on 10th January 2010. To help you we are producing a DVD about the work of the Mission and the Church of Melanesia. Starting with a little of the history of the Mission, the DVD goes on to show the impact the ministry of the Melanesian church is having on people's lives today. Also in the 'Melanesia Sunday' pack will be prayers, songs and liturgy that can be included in your regular worship on 10th January. So get in touch and order yours now.

(Contact details below)
It would be lovely if your church could combine the day with a faith lunch - maybe of bread and soup or perhaps a themed meal with Pacific style food. This would be a great opportunity to show the DVD and let more people in your church learn about Melanesia.

So start to make this a regular feature in your church calendar - what better way to start a new year than to strengthen those links with the church around the world.

100 years ago... "Matthias Tarileo and Katherine Metaliliu were married on 26th August. In the morning, after the marriage, the usual football match, married v. single, was played. The married, led by the new bridegroom, won by three goals to two, but it must be confessed that six of his side were playing under false pretences as our married community at present is very small. We ended the day with scenes from 'Jack the Giant Killer,' in which the performers showed a good deal more physical agility than dramatic skill."

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Celebrating with Archbishop David

The day of the enthronement was a wonderful event. It was estimated that over 5,000 people were present, including many bishops and clergy from across the region. The service started at 7.30am and lasted for over three hours. Archbishop David was enthroned by the Rt Revd Charles Koete, the Senior Bishop of the Province. There was then a formal breakfast at St Nicholas School, followed by feasting, speeches, presentations and dancing back at St Barnabas until after 6pm. Just in case anyone wanted more, there was then a dinner at Bishop's Vale with yet more dances and songs!

"The church must not continue to live in the past"

Just days after his enthronement Archbishop David was outlining his vision for the Province. He emphasised that

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Annual Mission Festival

A great day was had by all who attended the 160th Anniversary Festival of the Melanesian Mission in Cambridge. We are pleased to welcome Bishop Nigel Stock as the new Chair of Trustees along with Bishop James Mason and Revd Martin Cox who both join the Trustee body.

More Festival news on page 15

School Links

As well as representing the Trustees at the enthronement of the new Archbishop, Andrew Cartwright visited many of the ACoM schools to explore the possibility of developing more links with schools in the UK.

Turn to page 5 to find out more



Young people dance for the Archbishop outside the Cathedral

Melanesia Sunday - see page 24