



Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Summer 2015 Newsletter

PNGCP is the UK-based mission agency dedicated to raising awareness and support for the Anglican Church in PNG

NEW PNGCP PATRON

A warm welcome to Lord Williams of Oystermouth who has graciously agreed to be our new PNGCP Patron. More familiarly known as an inspirational Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002-2012, Dr Rowan Williams has been Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge since the start of 2013. His return to academia sees the resumption of an illustrious career in both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Originally ordained in Ely Cathedral, he was Bishop of Monmouth, Archbishop of Wales before being called to Canterbury.

To learn more about our new Patron, 'The Master' on the Magdalene College website makes fascinating reading. Amongst his many interests and accomplishments, one also learns that he was arrested and fined for singing psalms as part of a CND protest at Lakenheath air-base! No surprise there to those that know him; he is a lovely, gifted, holy man, with great compassion and humility.



Archbishop Rowan and Jane at Dogura in 2012

As reported in the Christmas 2012 PNGCP Newsletter, Dr Williams, together with his wife, Jane, another renowned theologian, visited the Anglican Church in PNG as his last Provincial visit as Archbishop of Canterbury. All members of ACPNG involved in that packed, colourful and lively five-day visit will share our delight that he is continuing his association and interest through this appointment as PNGCP Patron.

PORT MORESBY CONSECRATION

Bishop Peter Ramsden writes:

"It was a great opportunity to see old friends and also to have a look into the future when I returned to PNG for the consecration of Fr Denny Bray Guka, as my successor and sixth Bishop of Port Moresby. The service, held at St Martin's Boroko, was led by Archbishop Clyde Igara and brought together the bishops from the other four dioceses but also from overseas, including Archbishop Philip Richardson from New Zealand and Bishop Garry Wetherall from Ballarat. They represented the NZ and Australia Mission Boards. A colourful



The Consecration



Presentation of a gift of vestments

service included dancers from Ambasi, Bishop Denny's home parish, and the subsequent festivities included a large lunch and the presentation of many gifts to him and his family. Representing PNGCP, I was able to give him the assurance of our support from UK and our gift of a purple cassock. I also presented to Archbishop Clyde the beautiful cope from Ted Kelly that in future will be used by the archbishops of PNG. The next day, the overseas partners met with the PNG bishops to look ahead. This seems a particularly good time to do this as now, for the first time, all the PNG bishops are Papua New Guinean."

GAP-YEAR CHALLENGE

Norwich Diocese members, Lynn and Tony Fry, have just finished a 'gap year' as ACPNG volunteers. Lynn writes:

"We don't quite fit the 'gap-year' image of students going off for some fun before they get a 'proper job'. We are both in our mid-fifties and fairly settled – Tony as a plant consultant and myself as a self-supporting minister, working as a primary school teacher - both looking for a change. The suggestion of PNG came up in a meeting with our Bishop. Plans were made for a year's sabbatical with placements at Newton Theological College near Popodetta and Simbai Vocational Training Centre in the Highlands.

Newton College is in a lovely rural setting. Each morning we were woken by the sounds of the forest. The buildings are all adequate, but basic and rundown. Electricity is for four hours a day and water collected in butts. Central to everything is the wooden chapel. Prayer frames the day, with Morning Prayer, Communion and Evening Prayer. We found the worship very moving, being conscious of the sacrifices students and their families were making to be here.

All the adults are referred to as 'the learning community' and there is a small pre-school so that everyone can attend classes. While the men study to become priests, the women have their own sessions – sewing, health and the role of a clergy wife. The Principal, Father Peter Moi, sees spiritual



Lynn working with pre-school class in the College Chapel

development as an important part of the curriculum. We found the students very keen to learn but limited by their own schooling and the college facilities. There are no student computers, little internet access and the library has few contemporary books. This was a real problem for third-year students preparing for their dissertations. Students receive a small allowance for basic supplies, otherwise relying on what they grow in their gardens and any money given by their families. They cook over an open fire, eating whatever they harvest.

The College was building a guest-house to raise income, with all materials, apart from the nails, coming from their land. They have one small bag of tools and a chainsaw used freehand to cut planks and posts. This is sustainable living! Whilst there, Tony supported the building project and helped improve growing techniques. I did adult and children's literacy; worked with the women on computer skills and cookery lessons; and provided illness cover for pre-school activities.

We loved our time at the college and learnt some important lessons, not least about hospitality - the staff and students joyfully shared what they had with us, seeing it as showing their trust in a God who will provide. We also learnt that what we thought we might achieve wasn't nearly as important as the fact that we came, that we listened, and that we offered prayers and encouragement. We came away immeasurably richer than we arrived!"



Student musicians - and apprentice - in Newton College Chapel

PNG HONEYMOON!

After a Christmas break, the Fry's spent a month at Ave, the first inland mission to be established by Copeland King and Albert McLaren. Tony taught new garden methods and helped relocate flood-prone gardens, and Lynn ran adult literacy workshops.

Of their time in Simbai, Lynn writes:

"There is only one way into Simbai unless you want a long walk. Flying in a four-seater plane through low cloud, between a gap in the mountains, is not for the fainthearted. But the bush houses against the red clay look like a film set. Being somewhere so remote is an eye opener. In one class, only one of the 15 students had ever left Simbai. Asking them about change, they said they lived just the same as their



VIP's washbasin fails reliability test during Kasambim visit

grandparents did, with the exception of mobile phones and solar power. Everyone says things have deteriorated since the old days - the road is impassable, the hydro-electrics broken, no police force and seemingly very little government intervention. After a fight at Aiome, the High School and the



Women with loaded bilums walking to market

Melanesian Brothers headquarters were burnt down and looted. With no police presence, there seems to be very little, if any, consequences. The School is closed and, at the moment, unlikely to open soon. Grade 9 and 10 students have been told to go home for the rest of this school year. The MBH are all staying at Simbai now and planning to extend the house there.

At the college, we were greeted with 'thank goodness you're here, the students are waiting'. With that, we were left to get on with teaching Business Studies and Tourism. With no curriculum, no text-books and no internet – it was a challenge! Teaching in PNG is very different to home. There isn't the same kind of pressure. UK teachers stress about standards and attainment. We were more concerned about giving them an experience that was relevant to their lives. Many of the students are ambitious and hungry to learn more, but with few opportunities. 41 students graduated after a short course with us but, sadly, there is no-one to continue teaching them. People constantly asked us if we knew anyone in the UK who could come and help.

We found the Simbai's to be quieter and more reserved than the people in Oro – until the word went out that you were OK. After they saw us doing our washing in the river, we were accepted. A couple of weekends we went to visit other



Helping prepare lunch at Catechist David Wulumb's house in Alvan

villages and were treated to the full PNG works – singsings, tribal gear and kundus. Talking to a fellowship meeting in a pandanus hut, with around 200 people sitting round wood fires, I had to pinch myself that I wasn't dreaming."

Tailpiece: with Lynn's permission, this extract is from the email accompanying her last article – Editor

"I think it was you that said this would be the best year of our marriage and it is true. It has felt like a second honeymoon, having large chunks of time together and not much to do except talk. We renewed our marriage vows in the church at Simbai on our 30th anniversary. We got the giggles a bit as it was dark by the time we got going (PNG time) so we had torches tucked under our chins while we tried to read the vows. But special.

Learning to live with very little has been very good for us. A Baptist couple came to ours for dinner. I was quite glad we only had solar so they couldn't see too much in the house, but the next day they said, "We felt so sorry for you when we saw how you were living". They didn't see what it was like at Newton!! We caught 13 rats in the house - one of which Tony speared as it ran up the wall - a proper bushman!!"

Date for your Diary:

If you would like to hear more of Lynn and Tony Fry's experiences in PNG, they will be speaking at the next PNGCP Social Day in **London** on **26th September**, as will Bishop Jonathan on the recent ACPNG Pilgrimage.



Tony and the Melanesian Brothers build a pizza-oven



Some of Simbai MU members with Lynn and Fr Samson

PNGCP, ACPNG & PNG News

- Archbishop Clyde has moved his office from Lae to the Port Moresby Diocesan compound. He will shortly be joined by a volunteer Executive Assistant recruited by the Anglican Mission Board – New Zealand (AMB-NZ). PNGCP has given the Archbishop a one-off grant to help run his office in this transition year.
- This October, the ACPNG bishops and several other key personnel will be participating in a major Pacific Region Mission Conference in Auckland, organised by AMB-NZ. The conference will launch a Decade of Mission within the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia. PNGCP Vice-Chair, John Rea, will lead two workshops on 'Birth Registration'.
- This year sees the 40th Anniversary celebration of PNG's Independence.
- Warm wishes to the current UK High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Winnie Kiap, who will retire this summer. She has been a good friend and supporter of PNGCP.
- We were saddened to hear from Anne Chittleborough of the death of Fr Peter John Rautamara in his home village on 24th March. The Rautamara family played an important part in the story of ACPNG; Fr Peter Rautamara was the first Papuan to be ordained Priest (in December 1917), and a leadership role was being predicted for Fr John Rautamara when he was killed in the eruption of Mt Lamington in January 1951.
- PNGCP has a new Treasurer. A chartered certified accountant living in Carlisle, David Robin has family and personal links with PNG. His father, Peter Robin, went to PNG in 1954, working as priest in Simbai, then Koinambe, then Anglican Chaplain at Balob College, Lae (the teacher-training college jointly run by the Lutheran and Anglican Churches). David's mother, Olive, went to PNG as a missionary nurse in 1956, helping establish the Anglican Health Centre in Koinambe. The couple met there and then got married at Movi. David and his two sisters were all born and lived in PNG until the family left in 1974. Bishop David Hand subsequently invited Fr Peter back to help with the PNG Anglican Church's Centenary celebrations.
- Thanks to all who responded and a grant from the Scottish Episcopal Church, we are able to send a donation of £6,258 towards the completion of the Mt Hagen Transit House.
- The 8-page Christmas Newsletter will have 'Health in ACPNG' as its main theme.

With grateful thanks to the following for their contributions and help in compiling this Newsletter: Lynn & Tony Fry; +Peter, Sue & Nic Ramsden; Martin & Aileen Gardham; David Robin; Peter Milburn; Jasper Rea – and to the Scottish Episcopal Church for Newsletter sponsorship. Any comments, queries or ideas to the Editor, John Rea johnndellarea@yahoo.co.uk



*Handover of the Diocesan Crozier at the Port Moresby Consecration
front l to r: +Peter; Senior +Allan Migi; ++Clyde and +Denny*

Date for your Diary:

The speakers at the next PNGCP Day Conference are:

- Lynn & Tony Fry about their recent PNG experiences
- PNGCP Chair, Bishop Jonathan Meyrick, fresh back from a pilgrimage to POM, NGI & Popondota Dioceses

When? Saturday, 26th September 2015. Coffee from 10.30am, with the formal programme starting at 11.30am and finishing before 4pm. Drinks and afternoon tea provided but bring your own packed lunch.

Where? The Lambeth Mission and St Mary's, a brick-built Methodist church at 3-5 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7DQ. Nearest tube is Lambeth North (Bakerloo line) – 5 mins. walk. Waterloo main-line station is 10 mins. walk. Buses 3, 59, 344 and 507 stop nearby.



Two women from Kasambim welcome party



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