



**PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
CHURCH PARTNERSHIP**

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Dear friends and supporters,

I write at the close of Easter Sunday, reflecting on both a church service here in England and the messages I have received, accompanied by photographs of services in Papua New Guinea.

As chairman, I am sometimes asked about the rationale for a charity such as the Papua New Guinea Church Partnership. After all, we are nearly 10,000 miles away, and one might reasonably think that care, concern and love for the Church in Papua New Guinea should be rooted more locally, within its own region, rather than sustained through distant ties. How I respond often depends on the audience. At times, I suggest that such a partnership draws us beyond ourselves - beyond our own circumstances and preoccupations. At others, I point to a world in which war and hostility once again dominate the headlines, and where the quiet bonds of friendship and peace are therefore all the more significant.

It is, of course, in Papua New Guinea that the Church must live and flourish - among the people, for the people and shaped by them - as part of the wider Anglican family. This shared identity feels especially meaningful as we hold the new Archbishop of Canterbury in our prayers at the beginning of her ministry. There are, no doubt, many ways one might answer the question, and all have their place. Yet the golden thread running through them is this: in our care, concern and love, we are participating in a shared endeavour.

The photographs of Easter services in Papua New Guinea are a vivid reminder of this connection. In this spirit, I commend the Easter newsletter to you, and offer thanks to the editor, John Rea, and to all who have contributed. It is a thoughtful and encouraging read.

Yours faithfully,

William Spooner