



## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA CHURCH PARTNERSHIP**

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Dear Friends and Fellow Supporters of ACPNG,

I welcome you to this next edition of our Newsletter. I am writing this not in Tavistock Gardens, but in the island of Grenada, part of the Diocese of the Windward Islands in the Province of the West Indies, where I am serving a short Interim Ministry in a parish that sustained some damage in last summer's Hurricane Beryl, following much greater damage from Hurricane Ivan, 20 years before, and which has been without a resident Parish Priest for 7 years. Why tell us that, you might think? What's that got to do with ACPNG?

Well, I have been struck by some significant similarities: the lush mountainous tropicity here reminds me of many sights I have seen in PNG; there is a similar fertility in the ground, and an abundance of fruit and vegetables; there is the same abundant generosity overflowing from the people I meet; there are changes in the effects of the climate, with an increase in severe conditions and the inevitable effect on buildings put up under kinder conditions; there is the same vibrant (and similarly Anglo-Catholic in style) outworking of faith in the life of the church. Covid has left a mark, but I have just led a compulsory retreat for 80 16/17year old school students just before their final exams (when you would think their minds would be elsewhere), and found a really serious attention and engagement. There are differences, too, of course, but I am reminded of PNG regularly.

I hope you will find much to interest you in this edition. For the second edition running, I see that John Rea, our continuing editor, has received a good amount of information and stories from ACPNG itself, and it all paints an encouraging picture. The MU, at 75 years old out there, is clearly in fine fettle, with all the enthusiasm evident you could hope for; pictures of both bishops and clergy throwing themselves into their work, even in holiday time; continuing positivity from the new Modawa Institute, though the need for our support is also clearly still there; and, in a piece from Thelma Guni at the National Office, an indication of her involvement in the life of the Dioceses.

Our continuing support is clearly still needed, but there is a great deal happening on the ground there, and it feels very encouraging. There looks set to be another regular Partners Meeting in early September, when doubtless we will hear something of the continuing challenges as well.

This coming Partners Meeting will be the first I have not attended since they were established in 2013. I step down as Chairman in May. I will then have been Chairman for over 6 years, in two tranches. We have some keen and younger members as Trustees and Committee members now, and I am delighted that William Spooner, who came with us to the last Partners Meeting and won the confidence of our friends out there, is taking over from me at the end of our May meeting. I will step down as a Trustee also but will remain on the Committee for a further year. Peter Ramsden, who has of course been a serving bishop in Port Moresby, will take over as Vice Chairman for two years until his term as a Trustee also comes to an end. My huge thanks to all those whose support has made such a difference to doing this role, and to all of you.

My colleagues join me in wishing you all a Blessed and Joyful Holy Week and Easter.

Bishop Jonathan Meyrick - PNGCP Chairman

27th March 2025