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Local traditions

Recommendations,
top tips and general
travel advice
for *Telegraph*
readers... by
Telegraph readers

Winning letter Flames of friendship kindled by Christmas in Fiji

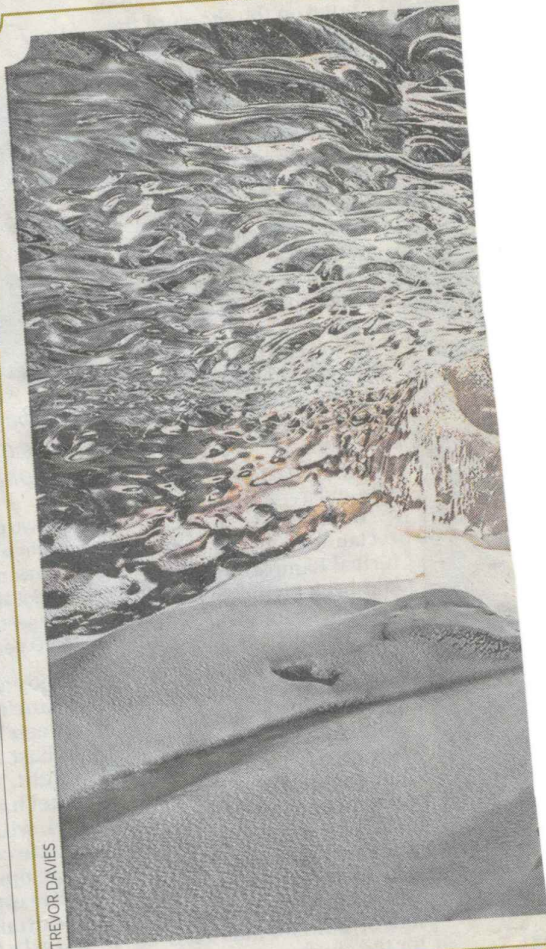
Fijian worshippers sitting on wood worn by centuries of souls, harmonies super-glued, voices pure as faith... The tunes are familiar and there are encouraging nods as I try to follow words from Verity's proudly inscribed hymnal. Best dresses are on show, though shoes aren't always being worn.

There's a white-gloved pat of the pew and an invitation to share the village's Christmas meal. Palm-tree torchieres guide us to the shore. A *lovo* in the sand - garlic chicken, fish, Palusami, cassava, swaddled in palm over a cradle of leaves. Photos of fan and spear-dancing capture the widest of smiles against the delicious dark sky.

We reprise our common bond - Christmas carols - by singing simultaneously in two languages around the flames of friendship. The night isn't silent, there's no holly or ivy, but there is joy to the world this Christmas in Fiji.

JULIE O'DONNELL, FROM SOMERSET,
WINS A £500 TRAVEL VOUCHER WITH
KUDU TRAVEL

**A commanding presence
after the Khyber Pass**



TREVOR DAVIES

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