



Matthew Veale MAF Engineer Trainee

Spring Newsletter 2025

My move to Gloucester

Roughly a month ago I made the move from Swindon to Gloucester. A large factor in this decision was down to the long commute leaving me rather low on energy, which is not ideal when driving long(ish) distances. It now means I'm less tired in general! I am living with a Christian couple who, despite me not knowing beforehand, (they are friends of a friend of a friend) have put me up in their house. Quedgeley is only 20-odd minutes from work, reducing my commute by more than half. I even get to join in with the evening meals. This has been a huge blessing from God for me.

Training Progress

My training is progressing nicely, and I've mainly been working on the piston-engine side of things since my last update. Springtime gets all the pilots excited and anticipating a fun-filled summer, which means we get to service all their aircraft! It's been a great learning opportunity for me as I didn't take the piston engine exam at university (It wasn't part of the syllabus). I am aiming to take the piston exam before leaving the UK, however. The number of aircraft coming through the hangar recently has been rather relentless the last couple of months, but things are starting to calm down a little. This means I can catch up with currency training and filling in my logbook.



MAF Cessna 208 at RGV

One particular highlight came last month when a brand spanking new Cessna Caravan rolled up on our apron from the factory in Kansas, USA. Ben and I got to work taking out the ferry tanks temporarily housed in the cabin, which doubled its flying range, and installing the seats for its series of stops around Europe. The 208 will meet donors and raise awareness of MAF's purpose with the hope of also getting the right people to join the mission. Currently the aircraft is back at RGV where it will finish a 100-hour inspection (after every 100 flight hours - it doesn't take 100 hours) and depart for Papua New Guinea. The aircraft will never be as clean again as it is now!

LEFT: Taking part in ground running a Cirrus SR22T piston-engine aircraft. In this procedure we take the aircraft to a separate part of the airfield to run it full-power and test engine parameters against the manual.



Left: Cessna Caravan 208 at RGV Right: Removing the second ferry tank for new seats to be put in

A Royal Appointment

One of these stops was to RAF Northolt where a special event was held celebrating the 80th year of MAF's service. It also recognized our longstanding presence in Papua New Guinea, since 1951, and its 50 years as a commonwealth nation. King Charles III was asked to come and launch this new aircraft at and meet a broad selection of MAF staff. Those who were asked to meet the King and shake his hand varied from grass roots staff who have been faithful volunteers for many years to long term overseas missionaries. It felt like a great representation of the many people who make MAF work.

I was also asked to meet His Majesty and, representing the emerging engineering contingent of the organization, it was pretty cool to hear him say, "I've always had a lot of admiration for engineers.". We talked a little about my training before he had to move along to the next person eager to shake his hand. You can read more about the event here in this news article. It was definitely a memorable day:

<https://maf-uk.org/news/king-charles-commissions-mafs-newest-aircraft-during-charitys-80th-year/>



Top: HRH King Charles III greeting MAF staff.

I'm in the middle there somewhere. Left: Donors, dignitaries, supporters, & staff at the launch of the new Caravan with King Charles III.

Right: Two commemorative placards riveted to the fuselage of the new Caravan.



Prayer Points

- to continue gaining the necessary experience at RGV
- for continued opportunities to witness to my colleagues
- having just moved to Gloucester is making regular church community a challenge, so please pray for clarity moving forward in this area
- praise for better rest and energy levels now I am in closer proximity to work

Thank you

Thank you for your ongoing support through prayer and financial giving. It's great to hear from you through your emails so please do keep in touch. I'm very grateful for your generosity and kindness.

If you don't support me currently, but you'd like to, here is a link to my bio:

<https://maf-uk.org/get-involved/support-our-staff/matthew-veale/>