



Melbourne
Anglican
Foundation
Limited



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)



Melbourne Anglican Foundation was a proud supporter of Love Thy Neighbour (LTN) – a compassionate food ministry run by PlentyLife Anglican Church in Mernda.



VISION STATEMENT

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation began in 1987, inspired by the vision of Archbishop David Penman.

The Foundation seeks to raise funds to facilitate the mission and ministry of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Melbourne, to enable the Church to think big and dream large about its future, and to maintain a Christian presence in the wider community.

CONTENTS

4	Chair's Report
6	What do we do?
8	What we did in 2025
12	Who we reached in 2025
14	Our Team
15	Melbourne Anglican Foundation Ltd
17	Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc (MABS)
21	Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation (MACO)
23	Melbourne Anglican Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund (MRSF)
24	Melbourne Anglican Youth Ministry Fund (Youth)
27	Melbourne Anglican Chaplaincy Fund (Chaplaincy)
28	Schools Engagement
30	New Ministry Presence/Church Planting and Revitalisation
34	Community Engagement
38	Financials

Thank you to Our Donors:

Amy Oliver Photography, Jerome Cole Photography, Janine Eastgate Photography, Nathan Oliver, Ivan Smith of Communique Graphics for design and Simeon Shinkfield for pre-print assistance

Cover:

The Reverend Kirsty Ross,
Senior Chaplain, Melbourne Girls Grammar School
Photo: MGGS



CHAIR'S REPORT 2025



"Your faithful giving enables the Foundation to invest in parish communities, support young people, respond to local need, ensure that those in hospital can be visited by a chaplain, help parishes to make beautiful music, welcome migrants and refugees into our community, plant new churches and advance the mission of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne."



In 2025, we rolled up our sleeves and walked alongside communities, responding where need was greatest.

We went back to school. We supported Hope and Vision through our **Hope25 Grants Round**. We walked with students in our inaugural **Youth4Youth walk**. We visited and raised money for vital **food distribution programs**. We launched a fundraising campaign for the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's **church planting and revitalisation plan**. We supported youth and food relief programs across the Diocese through targeted **grants rounds**. And we walked against violence with the Diocese's **Preventing Violence Against Women program**.

It was a very busy year.

Over the course of the year, we visited **Melbourne Girls Grammar School** on a number of occasions to talk about Anglican identity and how community support is a vital part of that identity. In particular, **we spoke with Middle Years students about the cycle of intergenerational poverty in Victoria**, and how many of their peers miss out on opportunities because they lack the everyday basics that others take for granted – food, clothing and a safe place to live.

Poverty is not an easy topic. But the students embraced it. Together, we explored ways the community can help break the cycle and, more specifically, what they could do to support the youth and benevolence programs funded by the Foundation.

Let me just say I was not expecting a sea of colourful tutus walking

around the Botanical Gardens as a part of a **Youth4Youth walkathon** nor a **pop-up op shop** where each girl contributed a treasured item to support young people in need.

The success of this pilot has resulted in the appointment of a **Schools Engagement Officer** to nurture this relationship and develop similar partnerships with other schools across the Diocese. This is an exciting new chapter for the Foundation. But the most rewarding surprise came one day when a student approached me on the train and told me that, having participated in the Foundation's sessions, she and her family had established a small fund to help young people into the future. In that moment, I felt my job was done.

From Easter to Pentecost, the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne participated in a nationwide **intentional season of sharing hope in Jesus**. Early in the year, it became obvious to us that many parishes might struggle financially to participate so we launched a **Grants Round** to help bring hope to life in local communities.

We thought perhaps there would be a few posters. Instead, the 21 successful Grant recipients amazed us with creative initiatives including board games, community gatherings, hospitality, events, and outreach activities – all in the name of sharing hope in Jesus.

In August we opened Grants Rounds for **youth and food relief projects**, funded by the money raised by our young student ambassadors, our Easter and End of Year fundraising campaigns,

and the extraordinary generosity of our donors.

Guided by a deep commitment to seeing young people flourish and community strengthened, the Foundation continues to **invest in initiatives that create lasting impact**. Following the success of our 2024 Youth Grants Round, we received **27** applications. Inspired by the clear commitment of parishes to establish meaningful and impactful programs, we distributed **\$94,280** to **13** successful grant recipients, nurturing initiatives that are shaping vibrant faithful communities for young people and providing food for those who are hungry. The Grants Round again showed the strategic value of targeted distribution of funds while encouraging parishes to respond thoughtfully to their local context, deepen connection and belonging, and lay foundations for ministry that will grow and flourish over time.

In October, we launched a fundraising campaign to support the Diocese's bold vision to plant **30 new churches and revitalise 30 existing churches by 2030**, strengthening communities, and creating new places of welcome, worship and witness.

Church planting and revitalisation lie at the heart of fulfilling the vision of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne – *to make the word of God fully known*. The Melbourne Anglican Foundation is proud to partner in this inspiring work, supporting the creation of places where faith can flourish, communities can grow and lives can be transformed. Please take a moment to watch the short film on our website and hear





the inspiring voices of those who are leading and living out the work of church planting and revitalisation across our Diocese.

It truly takes a village to make all of this work possible, and I'm deeply grateful for our **extraordinary team** – both in the office and around the Board table.

Paul McDonald, our Business Manager and Company Secretary, keeps us on the straight and narrow, ensuring the Foundation is well governed, financially responsible and operating with integrity and transparency. **Nathan Oliver**, our Development Manager, is very much our man in the trenches – deeply connected to our community, the holder of stories and the builder of remarkable relationships. **Linda Ng**, our Office Coordinator, ensures the wheels are oiled and that processes are followed, while **Ivan Smith** creates the outstanding social media and collateral that support all of our campaigns and presentations, including this annual report.

Earlier in the year we said a sad goodbye to **Lauren Partos** and **Deb Cutts**, and more recently we were delighted to welcome another smiling face to the team as our Schools Engagement Officer, the **Rev'd Amy Brown**. We wish Lauren and Deb all the best in their future endeavours.

Our Board is truly exceptional. Every Board member serves tirelessly on one or more subcommittee, is willing to drop everything at a moment's notice to join parish visits or presentations, and gives generously in heart, mind and spirit. During the year we also bid farewell to directors **Greg Reinhardt**

AM, **Cam Johnston** and **Malcolm Tadgell**. I extend my sincere gratitude to Malcolm, Cam and Greg for their dedicated service and support during their time with the Foundation. Malcolm also served on the Foundation's Investment Committee and Greg sat on the Governance Committee and was our Company Secretary.

The departure of Cam Johnston is a significant benchmark in the history of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation as Cam was the last remaining link on the Board to the founders. Cam's father James Johnston was a member of the Establishment Committee and a founding member of the Foundation. Cam was appointed on the recommendation of Nigel Morgan, then Chair of the Foundation and the driving force behind its establishment and initial funding. Nigel saw Cam as an eminent lawyer who could contribute to the Foundation's work.

As we remember Cam's major contribution to the Foundation as a wise and discerning legal mind, we are reminded of our commitment to honour those who had the vision to establish the Foundation by ensuring it continues its work to grow the Kingdom in Melbourne.

With every farewell comes the opportunity to meet new friends. In September we were delighted to welcome **Dr David Knox** AM to our Investment Committee, and from February 2026, the **Rev'd Kathryn Watt** will join our Board. We were also honoured that the Diocese's new **Archbishop Ric Thorpe** and his wife **Louie** were able to join us

for our end of year dinner. We look forward to working with them in 2026. I would also like to thank the outgoing **Archbishop Philip Freier** and his wife **Joy** for their support of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation. It has been a wonderful experience working alongside them both.

We thank God for each person who walks with the Foundation in our work and consider it a true privilege to serve with such a generous, committed and faithful community.

None of this work would be possible without the generosity of our donors. Your faithful giving enables the Foundation to invest in parish communities, support young people, respond to local need, ensure that those in hospital can be visited by a chaplain, help parishes to make beautiful music, welcome migrants and refugees into our community, plant new churches and advance the mission of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and trust.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope and expectation, confident that God will continue to work through our shared efforts. **Thank you for walking alongside** the Melbourne Anglican Foundation and helping to build communities of faith where people can flourish and lives can be transformed.

Carolyn Clark
Carolyn Clark OAM



WHAT WE DO



Melbourne Anglican Foundation

The purpose of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation is to facilitate the mission and the ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

We do this in 3 ways:

1

By raising funds through community fundraising and grants from trusts and foundations and distributing them to parishes and the Diocese.



Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc.

Purpose: Direct relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness; assistance to unemployed youth, emergency accommodation for youth, crisis and other counselling for the needy.

Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation Inc.

Purpose: The promotion, and participation in, literature, music, performing arts, visual arts, crafts, design, film, video, television, radio, community arts, Indigenous arts and cultural heritage.

2

By setting up accounts within our 6 deductible gift recipient entities to enable parishioners to make **tax deductible donations** to approved parish projects.



Melbourne Anglican Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund

Purpose: To provide help and public awareness in housing, training, integration and financial assistance in the settlement of migrants and refugees.

Youth Ministry Fund

Purpose: To provide help to young people who are in necessitous circumstances, particularly those who require guidance and assistance in areas such as unemployment, family disturbance, drug abuse and rehabilitation.

3

By giving loans to parishes for church planting and new ministry presence.



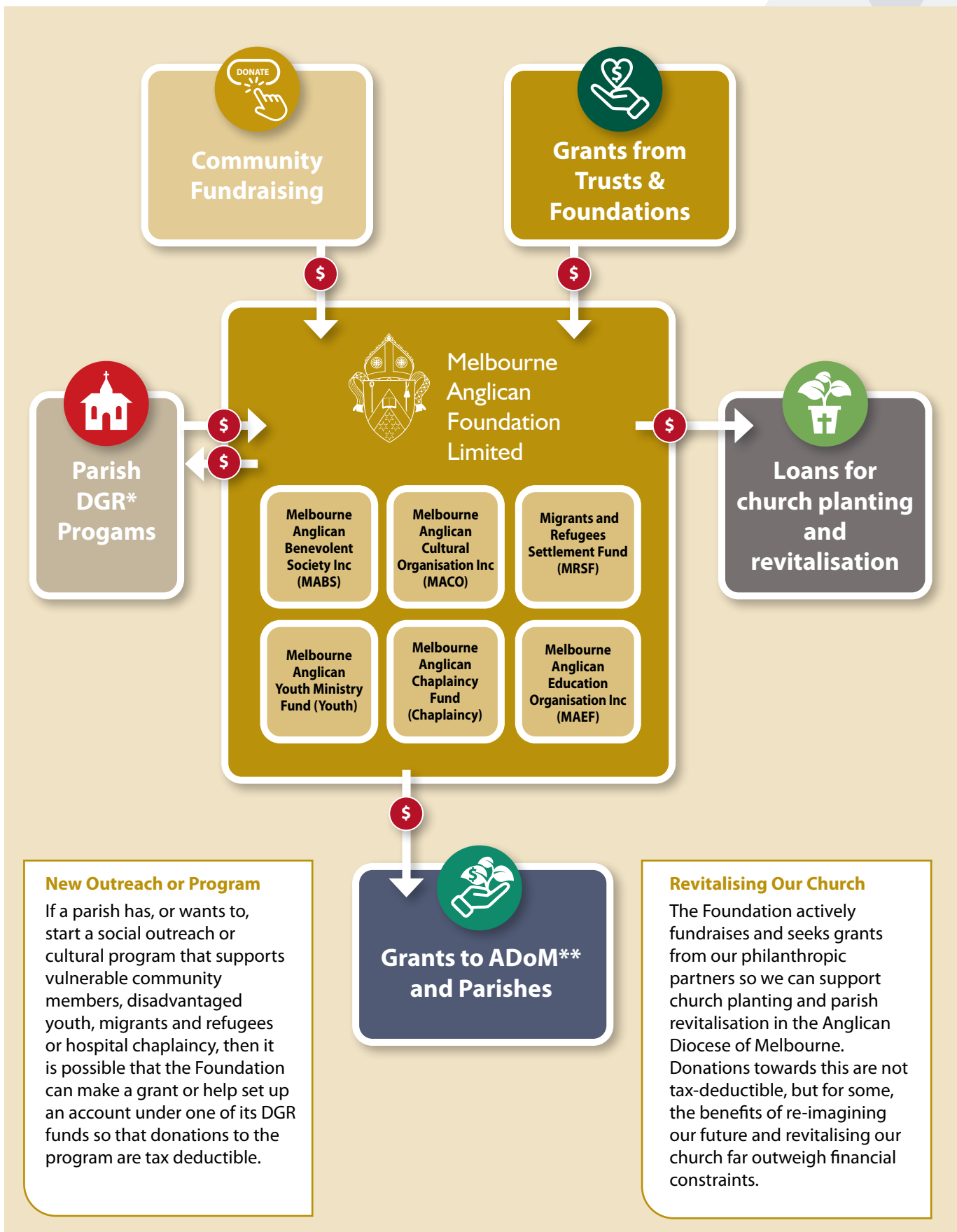
Melbourne Anglican Chaplaincy Fund

Purpose: To provide money to any public hospital or hospital or public benevolent institution which employs or shares in the employment of a chaplain licensed by the Archbishop of Melbourne.

Melbourne Anglican Education Organisation Inc.

Purpose: To source and provide funding for education in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.





*Deductible Gift Recipient

**Anglican Diocese of Melbourne



WHAT WE DID IN 2025



Funding in

8

Grants received totalling



\$376,262

The purpose of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation is to facilitate the mission and the ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

3

Fundraising campaigns: donations of



\$141,900

- "Invest in the future" Youth Appeal
- "I was hungry and you gave me food" Food Distribution Appeal
- "30x30x30" Church-Planting and Revitalisation Appeal



Funding out

55

Grants given totalling

\$671,294



43

DGR Programs facilitated dispersing

\$821,317



Melbourne
Anglican
Foundation

Supporting:



62 Parishes



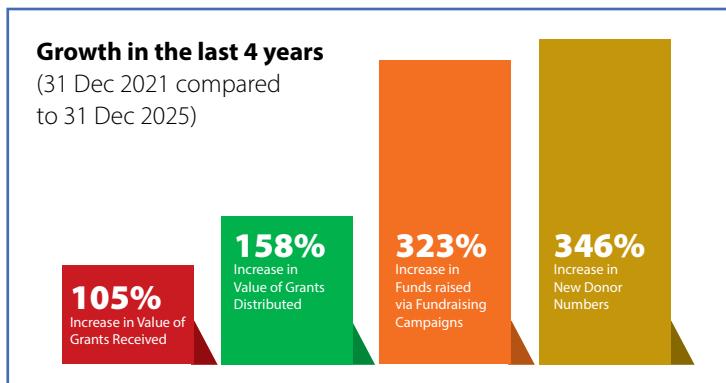
7 ADoM programs



4 Church plants



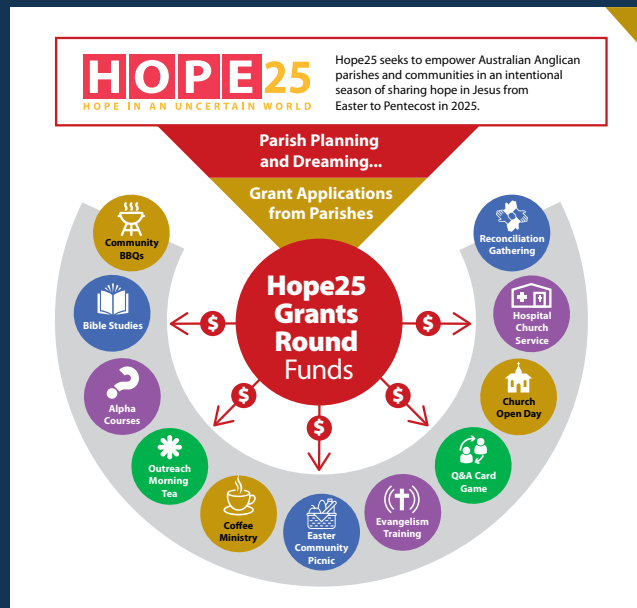
AT A GLANCE



Enabled Programs and Program Grants in the last 5 years



GRANT ROUNDS



Hope25

20
Grants

totalling: \$6,000

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation empowered 20 parishes to try new initiatives to bring hope to life as part of the Australian Anglican Hope25 campaign from Easter to Pentecost in 2025. Grants went towards projects such as community BBQs, Alpha courses, Bible studies, outreach events, Easter community picnics, evangelism training, Q&A card games, church open days, hospital church services, and reconciliation gatherings.

Hills Anglican Community hosted an Easter picnic community event to give locals a new experience of church. The church opened its doors and grounds to a petting zoo, crafts, games and BBQ. The event challenged negative perceptions of church and highlighted God's love.

The church said they just wanted families to feel blessed – and there

was a real sense of God's love felt by the community that day. One dad commented, 'Well, that was good. Last time I was in a church it was all about hell and fire and brimstone.'

This annual event will become a segue to parenting and Alpha courses with the longer-term plan of planting a new family congregation.



Youth

7
Grants

totalling: \$51,780

St Jude's Carlton, *Estate Camp*
St Mark's Spotswood with Christchurch Newport, *Youth Ministry Program*
Red Door Church Caroline Springs, *Testify Music Festivals*
St John's Camberwell, *Eat/Read/Play Program*
All Saints Clayton, *Youth and Young Adult Lay Ministry Apprenticeship*
St Peter's Brighton Beach, *Bayside Young Adult Program*
Plentylife Merda, *Youth Ministry*

Red Door Church, Caroline Springs: Testify Music Festivals aims to provide a creative outlet and supportive space for young people. They hosted 3 events during school holidays, bringing together the local community to inspire and support the next generation toward creativity and improved mental wellbeing.

"The continued growth in attendance and engagement has positioned Testify as a trusted, community-based platform for young creatives in Melbourne's western suburbs, promoting wellbeing, creativity, and local participation.

Joshua Hennessy,
Associate Pastor



MABS

6
Grants

totalling: \$42,500

Emmanuel Iranian Church, *Asylum Seekers in Necessitous Need*
Parish of Cranbourne with Tooradin, *Food Relief Program*
Plentylife Mernda, *Love Thy Neighbour Project*
St Columb's Hawthorn, *The Prodigal Hub*
St John's Diamond Creek, *Food Pantry*
St Luke's Cockatoo, *FoodStore*

Love Thy Neighbour is a compassionate food ministry run by PlentyLife Anglican Church in Mernda. What began as a small act of service has grown into a lifeline for many, particularly during and after COVID. Each week, around **24 volunteers** deliver food hampers to approximately **35 households**, facing challenges such as domestic violence, health issues, or financial strain.

The FoodStore at **St Luke's, Cockatoo & Gembrooke** (pictured right), has experienced a sharp rise in demand – supporting **70 families/individuals weekly**, up from 55 in 2024. Each recipient is offered a trolley full of essentials: frozen meals, veggies, non-perishables, desserts, and hygiene products. For those sleeping rough, the parish provides showers and laundry facilities.

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD."
JESUS (MATTHEW 25:35)





● St Augustine's & St Alban's Merri-Bek

● St George's Travancore

● St George's East Ivanhoe

● Merri-Creek Anglican Church

● Royal Children's Hospital Clifton/Fairfield

● Royal Melbourne Hospital Chaplaincy

● St Mary's Nth Melbourne

● St James' Old Cathedral West Melbourne

● St Jude's Carlton

● St Mark's Fitzroy

● St Paul's

● St Matthias' North Richmond

● Canterbury

● St Peter's Eastern Hill

● St Columb's Hawthorn, The Field

● St Paul's Cathedral

● St John's Camberwell

● St Mark's Spotswood with Christchurch Newport

● St Silas & St Anselm Albert Park

● St John's Toorak

● St Martin's Hawksburn

● St Matthew's Prahran

● St George's Malvern

● St John's East Malvern

Port Phillip Bay

● Ormond Anglican Church

● Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River

● St Peter's Brighton Beach

● Barwon Health Geelong Hospital

● Christ Church Geelong

● St Stephen's Belmont

● City On A Hill Geelong

● City On A Hill Whittington

● Living Waters Parish

● Ocean Grove

WHO WE REACHED

● Deductible Gift Recipient

● Parish Grants

● Parishes that received both



**ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE**

Benefitting all the Diocese:

- Children and Young People Programs Resources*
- Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) Conference*
- Preventing Violence Against Women*
- Royal Children Hospital Chaplaincy*
- Royal Melbourne Hospital Chaplaincy*
- Theological Education*
- Youth Ministry*



OUR TEAM



Mr Chris Arnold
AM BComm
MBA FCPA FAICD
AFACHSE (CHM)
- Board Deputy
Chair
Sub-committees:
Finance, Audit,
Risk Management
(FARM) and Chair
of Governance

**Reverend
Malcolm
Woolrich**
MTeach
Secondary
(Melb), MDiv
(Ridley), GradDip
Div (Ridley), LLB
(Melb)
Sub-committee:
Finance, Audit,
Risk Management

**Mr Thomas
Campbell
Johnston**
LLB, BComm
(University of
Melbourne);
Harvard
Advanced
Management
Program
Sub-committee:
Chair of
Investment
(Retired January
2026)

**Reverend
Elizabeth
Murray**
BAsc, BA (Hons),
BTheol, MA
Sub-committee:
Fundraising

**Mr Geoffrey
Court**
LLB
Sub-committees:
Finance, Audit,
Risk Management
(FARM) and Chair
of Fundraising

**Mrs Carolyn
Clark**
OAM BA LLB
(Hons) LLM
MAICD - Board
Chair
Sub-committees:
Governance,
Fundraising

**Reverend
Colleen
Arnold-Moore**
BA (Hons), BTh
Sub-committee:
Fundraising

**Mr Andrew
James Porter**
FCA, MA (Hons),
St And, MAICD -
Treasurer
Sub-Committees:
Investment and
Chair of Finance,
Audit,
Risk Management
(FARM)

**Mr Malcolm
Tadgell**
BComm (Hons)
Sub-committee:
Investment
(Retired
July 2025)

**Mr Greg
Reinhardt**
AM BA LLB
(Hons) - Company
Secretary
Sub-committee:
Governance
(Retired
June 2025)



L-R:

Nathan Oliver, Development Manager

Deborah Cutts, Grants Consultant (Retired July 2025)

Paul McDonald, Business Manager & Company Secretary

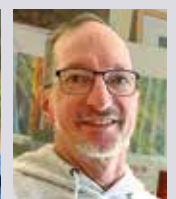
Lauren Partos, Communications Officer (Retired March 2025)



Linda Ng
Office Coordinator



Revd Amy Brown
Schools Engagement
Officer



Ivan Smith
Communications
Officer



MELBOURNE ANGLICAN FOUNDATION



TIMA Anglican Parish

“Apart from the prayer and encouragement, we also need some practical support, such as we just got the support from Melbourne Anglican Foundation, like finances, or maybe good mentoring from the experienced church planter.”

Rev'd Canon Ben Wong

The purpose for which Melbourne Anglican Foundation was established is to:

- Provide financial support to the Diocese of Melbourne of the Anglican Church of Australia (the Diocese) in its activities and in furtherance of its strategic plan and vision.

Program Grants in 2025 (including grants given as trustee of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Trust)

All Saints Clayton, *Youth and Young Adult Lay Ministry Apprenticeship*
 Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, *Children and Young People*
Program Resources, Leading Your Church into Growth
Conference, Preventing Violence Against Women,
Theological Education, Youth Ministry

Anglican Parish of Mount Dandenong, *Hope25*

Black Rock Anglican, *Hope25*

Brimbank Anglican Parish, *Hope25*

City on a Hill Geelong, *Hope25*

City on a Hill Whittington, *Leaders in Training Conference*

Epiphany Anglican Church, *Mandarin Congregation*

Hoppers Crossing, *Chinese Church Plant and Refugee Centre*
Ministry in Point Cook

Hills Anglican Community, *Hope25*

Holy Name of Jesus Vermont, *Hope25*

Living Waters Parish, *Church Café Connect Hub*

Ormond Anglican Church, *Leaders in Training Conference*

Parish of All Saints Rosebud with St Katherine's McCrae, *Hope25*

Parish of Cranbourne with Tooradin, *Hope25*

Parish of Cranbourne with Tooradin,
Migrant and Second Generation Assistant Program

Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River, *Hope25*

Parish of Rowville and Ferntree Gully (RAFT), *Hope25*

Plentylife Merda/Doreen, *Youth Ministry*

Proclaim Anglican Church, *Hope25*

St Augustine's and St Alban's Merri-Bek,
Leaders in Training Conference

St Augustine's Mentone, *Hope25*

St Barnabas GWAC, *Leaders in Training Conference*

St Columb's Hawthorn, *The Prodigal Hub*

St David's Moorabbin, *Hope25*

St George's Travancore, *Jazz Vespers*

St John's Camberwell, *Bubup & Eat/Read/Play Program*

St John's Lilydale, *Hope25*

Amount granted:
\$345,450

This project represents a strategic New Ministry Presence (NMP) among second-generation migrant youth and young adults in Melbourne's growing eastern corridor. It is a pioneering effort within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne to establish a culturally relevant, English-speaking congregation that bridges generational and cultural gaps often present in ethnic churches.

Here at **TIMA Anglican Parish**, apart from preaching and service leading, the service is now solely run by young people, with some stepping up to train others. We currently number 28 young people with the hope to grow to 50 in our first year.

We are planning for our official launch in October. We plan to polish our Friday service by organising training for young people in praise and worship, evangelism and welcoming.

Rev'd Canon Ben Wong
 TIMA Anglican Parish

St Mark's Spotswood, *Hope25*

St Matthias' North Richmond,

English Congregation Plant in Abbotsford

St Michael & All Angels Parish Beaumaris, *Hope25*

St Peter's Brighton Beach, *Bayside Young Adult Program*

St Philip's Deep Creek,

Farsi-speaking Migrant and Refugee Settlement

St Stephen Werribee Karen Congregation, *Hope25*

St Stephen's Belmont, *Hope25*

St Stephen's Warrandyte, *Hope25*

The Field Church Hawthorn, *Audio-Visual Equipment*

TIMA Anglican Parish,

Planting an English-speaking church for second-generation Chinese





A volunteer at a Winter Shelter.

MELBOURNE ANGLICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC. (MABS)

“Through dedicated volunteer coordination, strategic partnerships, and a focus on holistic care, we have been able to meet the needs of hundreds of individuals and families.”

Mary Golding,
Food Store Coordinator



St Luke's Cockatoo, FoodStore

St Luke's Cockatoo is committed to serving their local community with compassion and faith as they support on average 200 individuals and families each month. A grant allowed the appointment of a Food Store Coordinator to oversee their current food relief work for the local community in Cockatoo and develop their ministry to include a welcoming, safe connection hub for locals to gather.

Highlights:

- New community partnerships with Ozharvest, Rescue Log and local primary schools
- New partnerships to provide frozen meals with Feed One Feed All and Boorndawan Aboriginal Healing Service
- Volunteer team increased by 25%
- Fostering team spirit by establishing a WhatsApp group, which allows us to celebrate successes, share stories and prayers, ask questions, and stay connected as a group
- Transitioning from a traditional food pantry to a welcoming ministry hub where guests are invited to connect over coffee and cake with trained volunteers, fostering a safe space for conversation, prayer, and Christ-centered support.

Recently, a homeless Christian family began accessing our facilities for showers, laundry, and food. They shared that the support and care they received from our team reaffirmed their faith in Christ. Inspired by their experience, they have started volunteering at the Food Store. This step has helped them regain confidence in interacting with others and has given them a renewed sense of purpose and belonging within our community.

Mary Golding,
Food Store Coordinator

The purposes for which the association is established are:

- On a parish-by-parish basis within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, the direct relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness; and
- The provision on a parish-by-parish basis of financial and other assistance to unemployed youth, emergency accommodation for youth, crisis and other counselling for the needy and/or direct benevolent assistance.

Enabled programs in 2025

Dixon House Clayton
 Christ Church Geelong, *Meals Project*
 Emmanuel Iranian Church, *Asylum Seekers in Necessitous Need*
 Longbeach Parish, *Pantry 5000*
 Plentylife Mernda, *Love Thy Neighbour Project*
 St Jude's Carlton, *Crisis Assistance Fund*
 St Jude's Carlton, *Estates Camp Fund*
 St Jude's Carlton, *Estates Ministry*
 St Martin's Hawksburn, *Family Support*
 St Mary's North Melbourne, *Relief Project*
 St Matthew's Prahran, *Drop Inn*
 St Silas' Albert Park, *Sunday Suppers*

Program grants in 2025

ADoM Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW)
 St John's Diamond Creek, *Food Pantry*
 Parish of Cranbourne with Tooradin, *Food Relief Program*
 St Luke's Cockatoo, *FoodStore*
 Emmanuel Iranian Church, *Asylum Seekers in Necessitous Need*
 Plentylife Mernda, *Love Thy Neighbour Project*
 St Columb's Hawthorn, *The Prodigal Hub*

Amount dispersed:
\$173,402

Amount granted:
\$70,150



FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY MEL



Our Winter 2025 **Food Relief Grants Round** enabled parishes to assist those in need around Melbourne and Geelong.

We met with over **10** parishes and were so proud to give out **6** grants to **6** parishes totalling **\$42,500**



Christ Church Geelong Meals Project

For over **25 years**, Christ Church Geelong has provided free daily breakfasts and twice-weekly evening meals to those in need – welcoming everyone from the homeless to families and schoolchildren.

Demand has surged this year: breakfast boxes have jumped from **50 to 75 daily**, and emergency food parcel numbers have leapt. Rising costs mean each breakfast now costs \$5 more than last year. Despite stretched resources, volunteers continue to serve with compassion and faith.

25 years of support



Longbeach Pantry 5000 – A Ministry of Miracles

Since 2012, Pantry 5000 has provided food, support, and hope to thousands in need. Inspired by the feeding of the 5000, this volunteer-run ministry has served over **8000 people** and distributed more than **250 tons of food**. God's provision has been constant, sometimes with help arriving just when it is needed.

More than **150 dedicated volunteers**, including former guests, have walked alongside others through tough times, offering physical, emotional, and spiritual care.

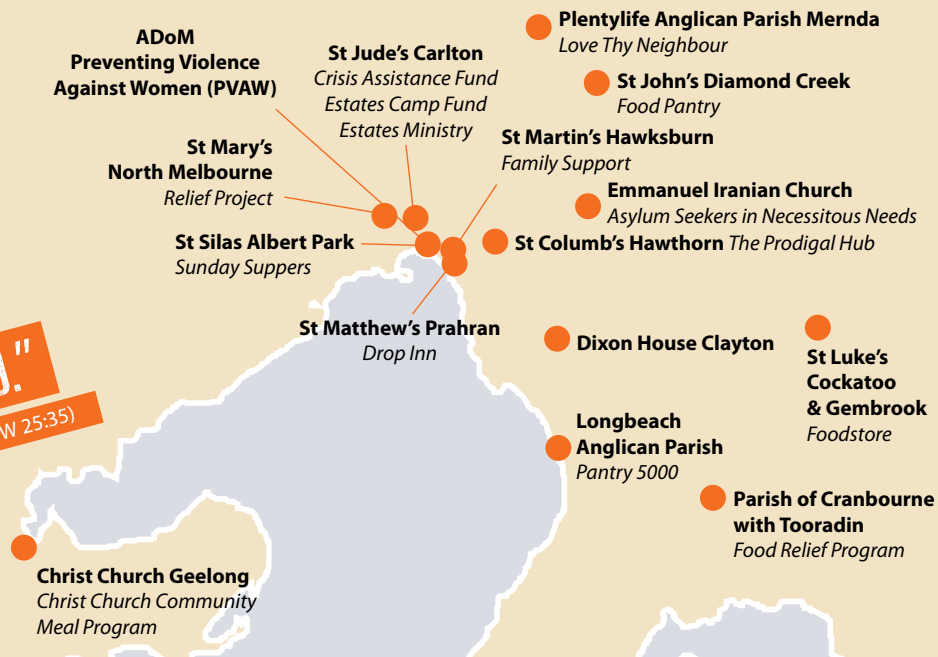
13 years of support



BOURNE ANGLICAN FOUNDATION



"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD."
 JESUS (MATTHEW 25:35)



"IF SOMEONE'S HUNGRY, WE FEED THEM."



St John's East Malvern Every little bit helps

In July, William and the choir kids from St John's East Malvern ran a stall to raise money for the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Food Distribution Appeal. Awesome effort, William!



St Luke's – Rising Need, Ongoing Hope

The Foodstore at St Luke's, Cockatoo & Gembrook, is experiencing a sharp rise in demand – supporting **70 families/individuals weekly**, up from 55 just a year ago.

Each recipient is offered a trolley full of essentials: frozen meals, veggies, non-perishables, desserts, and hygiene products. For those sleeping rough, we provide showers and laundry facilities – many are older Australians doing it tough.

Unfortunately, food supply challenges are growing ... every week is a balancing act.

2 years of support



Caring for Your Neighbour

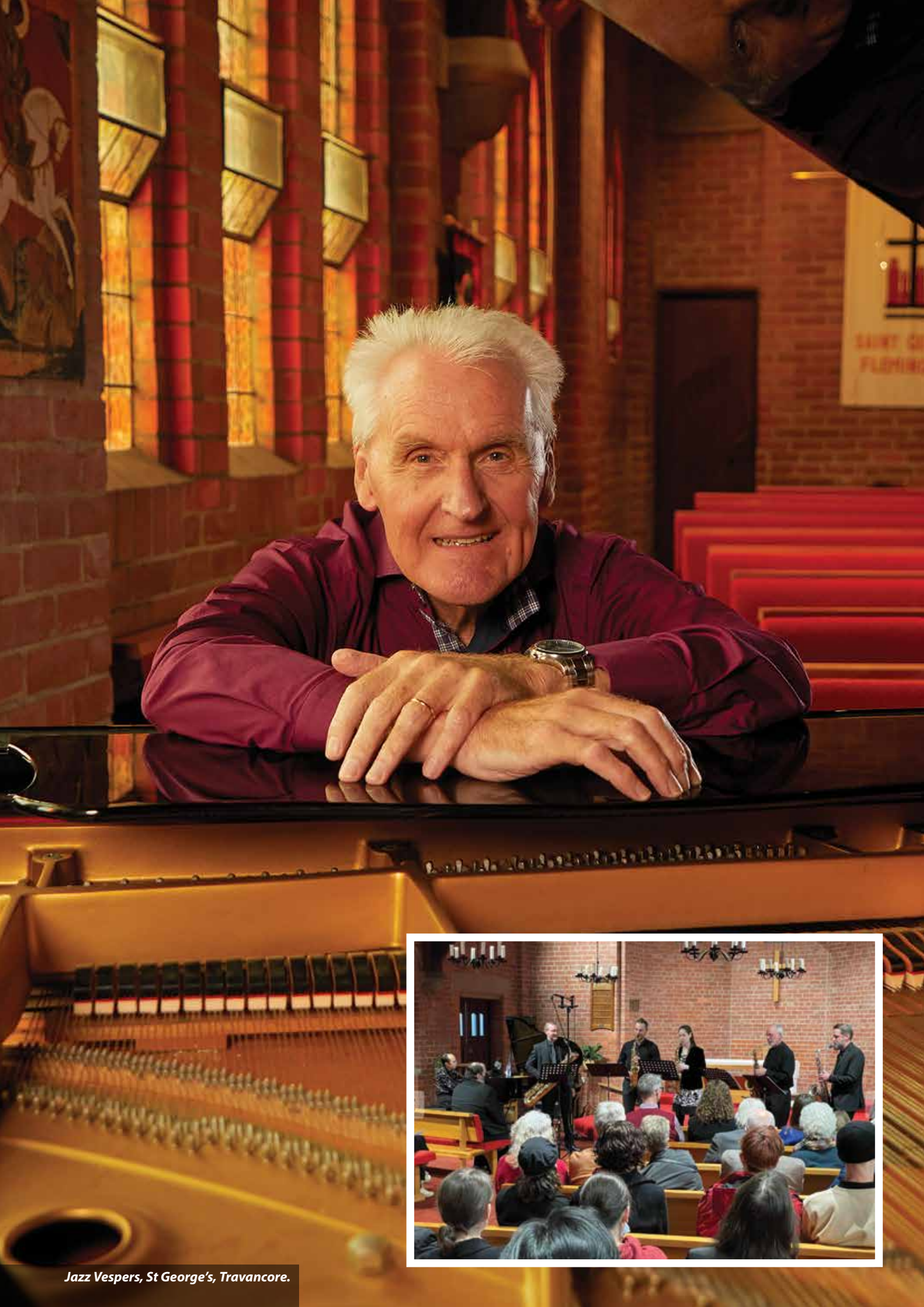
Love Thy Neighbour is a compassionate food ministry run by PlentyLife Anglican Church in Mernda, supporting individuals and families facing hardship.

Founded 12 years ago by Nola and Alan Young, LTN has grown into a lifeline for many, particularly during and after COVID.

Each week, around 24 volunteers deliver food hampers to around 35 households. Volunteers collect and sort donated fresh produce, non-perishables, and toiletries, preparing deliveries that are often a gateway to deeper support.

12 years of support





Jazz Vespers, St George's, Travancore.

MELBOURNE ANGLICAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION (MACO)



The Field, Hawthorn, Sound and AV equipment.

The Field established a tax-deductible giving program to further develop their music production and equipment in the large hall at St Columb's Hawthorn to accommodate the growing numbers of their community. The equipment installed in the large hall enables them to hold gatherings and record live worship to reach an online audience.

The Field, church plant, Hawthorn

The purposes for which the association is established are:

- The promotion of literature, music, performing arts, visual arts, crafts, design, film, video, television, radio, community arts, Indigenous arts and moveable cultural heritage; and
- Participation in cultural projects including developing church choirs and ecclesiastical music; conducting art exhibitions, plays and performances; providing art, creative writing and poetry classes; and the study of storytelling through stained glass and the study of iconography and symbols associated with churches in the Melbourne Anglican Diocese.

Enabled programs in 2025

St Columb's Hawthorn, *Hawthorn Historical Glass Art Restoration*
 St George's East Ivanhoe, *Music Program*
 St George's Malvern, *Music Fund*
 St George's Malvern, *Window restoration*
 St James' Old Cathedral West Melbourne, *Arts Program*
 St John's Camberwell, *Choir Fund*
 St John's Camberwell, *Organ Fund*
 St John's East Malvern, *Finch Street Cultural Fund*
 St John's Toorak, *Cultural Program*
 St Jude's Carlton, *Music Program*
 St Jude's Carlton, *Organ Appeal*
 St Margaret's Eltham, *Music Program*
 St Mark's Fitzroy, *Music Development Fund*

St Martin's Hawksburn, *Music Fund*
 St Paul's Canterbury, *Choir and Music*
 St Paul's Cathedral, *Lachlan Redd Memorial Plaque Fund*
 St Paul's Cathedral, *Light Up St Paul's Cathedral*
 St Peter's Brighton Beach, *Music Program*
 St Peter's Eastern Hill, *Choir and Music*
 St Silas' Albert Park, *Music Program*
 The Field Hawthorn, *Music Worship Program*

Amount dispersed:
\$363,481





*Rev'd Steve
Sonneman of
St Jude's Estates
Ministry.*

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES SETTLEMENT FUND

“We want to be a community that shares the love of Christ by welcoming people despite all their differences... background or ethnicity group – we all have things that are different from each other, but we accept each other. As Jesus said, ‘Love your neighbour’”.

Rev'd Pedram Shirmast
Assistant Curate Deep Creek Anglican



Deep Creek Anglican Church

Deep Creek Anglican's Farsi-speaking Migrants and Refugees Outreach Work aims to support newly arrived migrants and refugees, particularly from Iran and Afghanistan, in their settlement into Australian life. The project employs two Iranian Anglican ministers to work with volunteers from the Deep Creek congregations to care for migrants and refugees through the provision of English classes (ESL/EAL), pastoral care, community building experiences, cultural bridging, and assistance with visa and government service applications. It is particularly essential at this time of the conflict between Iran and Israel.

Rev'd Pedram & Rev'd Leili Shirmast

The grant to St Paul's Cathedral for the English Conversation Corner supported migrants and visitors to Melbourne as they built confidence in spoken English and settled into a new cultural context.

A welcoming space was created for participants aged 18 to 80 to practise conversation, share hospitality, and develop friendships that reduced social isolation. Over 40 people from over 30 countries of origin benefited every week, 52 weeks of the year.

Many participants express that ECC has been instrumental in helping them feel at home in Melbourne, with some describing it as their primary source of meaningful English conversation and genuine friendship.

Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe

The purposes for which the association is established are:

- To provide money for the sole purpose of providing help and financial assistance in the settlement of migrants and refugees within and through parishes of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, either individually or in association with other churches or community organisations;
- To provide funds to enable such migrants and refugees to be integrated, housed, maintained, transported, counselled and generally assisted in any way required by their situation and status;
- To provide funds for the training and equipping of voluntary workers in pursuit of these objects together with the preparation and evaluation of settlement programs;
- To provide activities designed to assist the integration of individual migrants and refugees, migrant and refugee families, and migrant and refugee groups, within the Australian community;
- To provide materials, speakers and programs to heighten community awareness of migrants and refugees, their situation and their culture; and
- To solicit, collect, receive and take, by gifts, grants, devise or bequests, money, funds, and real or personal property and the income therefrom in and towards the settlement of migrants and refugees.

Amount dispersed:
\$18,946

Enabled programs in 2025

St Philip's Deep Creek, *Farsi-speaking Migrant and Refugee Settlement*
Emmanuel Iranian Church, *Asylum Seekers in Necessitous Need*
Dream Stitches, Migrant and Refugee Women's Sewing Program Inc

Grant program in 2025

New Migrant Families Support Program

Amount granted:
\$49,875



MELBOURNE ANGLICAN YOUTH MINISTRY FUND (YOUTH)



St Columb's Prodigal Hub.



Red Door Church, Caroline Springs.



St Jude's Carlton, Estates Camp.

"In our first month we welcomed 420 customers. Allowing that 20 of these are parishioners, and 10 are repeat customers, we estimate we have connected with 380 new people so far."

Nikki Capp,
Prodigal Hub

Opposite Swinburne University, **The Prodigal Hub** offers a 'middle space' where members of St Columb's are easily able to meet and connect with locals and students in the community. The Hub combats the loneliness epidemic by offering a community coffee shop with activities for young children, drop-in chat sessions, co-working space, and monthly community meals.

Highlights include: People working and needing a change of scenery are coming into the space and finding it a place of warmth and solace for their day. One person in the community, who has since become a volunteer, has invited to the community meal five young adults in her apartment building. An autism support social group came and stayed for a while – they enjoyed the chats, the puzzles, the garden (especially the strawberries) and hot chocolates!

Nikki Capp,
Volunteer member, Hub Advisory Group

The **Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's** lead consultant supports and resources parish-based Children and Families ministries, empowering local parishes to reach unchurched children and their families, make committed disciples and develop leaders.

Highlights include: running training events across the diocese for clergy and children and youth ministers, consultations with 50 churches and facilitating Starting from Scratch programs for 10 churches beginning new ministries.

Rev'd Karen Winsemius,
Lead Consultant, Children and Young People ministry team

The purposes for which the association is established are:

- To provide money to help young people within Victoria who are in necessitous circumstances, particularly those who require guidance and assistance in areas such as unemployment, family disturbance, drug abuse and rehabilitation.

Enabled programs in 2025

Merri-Creek Anglican Church Clifton/Fairfield, *Inner North Group*
Parish of Rowville and Ferntree Gully (RAFT), *Youth Ministry*
Red Door Church Caroline Springs, *Testify Music Festivals*
Sojourners Church Werribee, *Community Playgroups Program*
St Columb's Hawthorn, *Outreach Hub*
St John's Camberwell, *Eat/Read/Play Program*
St John's Malvern East, *Finch Street Youth Leadership and Development Initiative*
St Stephen and St Mary's Mount Waverley, *Youth and Young Adults*
St Stephen's Werribee, *Outreach to Vulnerable Karen Youth*

Program grants in 2025

Red Door Church Caroline Springs, *Testify Music Festival*
St John's Camberwell, *Eat/Read/Play Program*
St Jude's Carlton, *Estate Camp*
St Mark's Spotswood with Christchurch Newport, *Youth Ministry Program*

Amount dispersed:
\$218,238

Amount granted:
\$76,780





*Red Door Church
Caroline Springs,
Testify Music Festivals*



The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

MELBOURNE ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY FUND (CHAPLAINCY)



Hospital Chaplaincy.

Always there when it matters most: Spiritual care at the Royal Melbourne Hospital

Anglican chaplaincy has been part of the Royal Melbourne Hospital since its foundation in 1848 – a 177-year ministry to patients, families and staff facing illness, trauma and the end of life. When cuts to healthcare chaplaincy funding left the future of this role uncertain, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation stepped in to help ensure it could continue.

The Foundation is co-funding the Anglican Chaplaincy, enabling the position to be maintained part-time through to the end of 2026 while a longer-term sustainability plan is developed. It is a contribution that carries significant weight: the RMH Spiritual Care service supports approximately 6,300 patients and staff each year, with the Anglican Chaplain alone delivering around 2,700 direct patient episodes of care, 55 end-of-life rituals, and 150 anointings annually. Quarterly memorial services, attended by bereaved families, are coordinated by the Chaplain and regarded as a benchmark among Melbourne hospitals. Staff in palliative care, the ICU and other high-pressure areas also benefit from grief education, trauma debriefing and guided reflection sessions.

The impact of this ministry is most clearly seen in individual lives. A patient from rural Victoria spent months at the RMH with neurological symptoms, isolated from home and faith community. Regular visits, prayer and communion from the Chaplain sustained him and his wife through that long period of uncertainty. An 89-year-old woman admitted to palliative care, who had long believed her divorce had excluded her from communion, received the sacrament and wept with gratitude. A young trauma patient, initially angry and disengaged, was helped through sustained conversation to process his experience, becoming calmer and more cooperative with his care team.

These are quiet moments, but they are not small ones. The Foundation's support is ensuring that this essential presence, at bedsides, in memorial services, and in the spaces where faith meets suffering, remains available to all who need it at one of Victoria's largest public hospitals.

Lauren Supple
Associate Director
– Trusts and Foundations
The Royal Melbourne Hospital
Foundation

“The RMH Spiritual Care service supports approximately 6,300 patients and staff each year, with the Anglican Chaplain alone delivering around 2,700 direct patient episodes of care, 55 end-of-life rituals, and 150 anointings annually.”

Lauren Supple, RMHF

The purpose of the Chaplaincy Fund is to provide money:

- To any public hospital or hospital which is carried on by a society of association otherwise than for the purpose of profit or gain to the individual members of that society or association within the Diocese of Melbourne;
- To any public benevolent institution which employs or shares in the employment of a chaplain licensed by the Archbishop of Melbourne or has committed itself to employ or to share in the employment of a chaplain licensed by the Archbishop of Melbourne.

Amount dispersed:

\$9,410

Amount granted:

\$100,000

Enabled programs in 2025

Barwon Health Geelong,
Hospital Chaplaincy

Program grants in 2025

Royal Melbourne Hospital Chaplaincy
Royal Children's Hospital Chaplaincy





Melbourne Anglican Foundation's Chair Carolyn Clark and Development Manager Nathan Oliver with Melbourne Girls Grammar students.



Providing students with an avenue to engage with God's mission in Melbourne through School partnerships

TAILORED PROGRAMS:

- Chapel talks / Workshops
- Guest speakers
- Cross-curriculum links
- Student leadership paths

- Social welfare issues
- Faith perspectives
- Enhancing Anglican identity
- Experience faith in action
- Fundraising for impact

The Melbourne Girls Grammar student-run 'Wear It Forward' pop up op shop.

SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, the Foundation's pilot program with Melbourne Girls Grammar delivered two student-led events – the *Youth4Youth Walk* and *Wear it Forward* pop-up op shop – supported by workshops.

Youth4Youth Walk

Year 8 students took part in the Foundation's first *Youth4Youth Walk* around the Tan on 14 March 2025, learning about inequality and how to give back. They raised \$3,283 to support local youth in Melbourne.



Rev'd Kirsty Ross said, the event "sparked many deep discussions about faith in action and enabled us to explore the concepts of Christian service and outreach in a dynamic and engaging way."

Wear it Forward

In August, Year 7 ran a *Wear It Forward* pop up op shop to support youth mental health. Partnering with the Foundation's *Testify Music Festivals* program, students saw how music, drama and poetry can lift young voices. Each student donated two loved clothing items, raising funds while learning about giving and caring for people and the planet.



One student said, "It was so easy, I wish I could help the community more often." Another reflected, "It felt really special to donate my clothes to help others."

The initiative not only raised money but also encouraged students to think deeply about giving, generosity, and the impact they can have in their community.

Speaking Opportunities

Our Chair Carolyn Clark and Development Manager Nathan Oliver met with Year 6, 7 and 8 students to discuss challenges faced by people experiencing chronic disadvantage and how we can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

"Working with the Melbourne Anglican Foundation has shown our students that service is faith in action – an opportunity to make God's love visible in the lives of others."

Rev'd Kirsty Ross
Senior Chaplain

Developing School Partnerships

In October 2025, we added a new member to our team, the **Rev'd Amy Brown** to be our Schools Engagement Officer. This role aims to establish and maintain fundraising partnerships with schools to engage students with Anglican Church projects making a meaningful impact on their local community.

We will work with schools to build a tailored program that connects with these church programs and teaches on social welfare issues from a faith perspective, whilst assisting the school to enhance their Anglican Identity and helping students see and experience faith in action.

Through School Partnerships, we can:

- Develop awareness of Christian service and mission through local Anglican Churches
- Enhance Anglican Identity by connecting Anglican Schools with Anglican Churches
- Advocate for faith in action by hearing about projects and supporting those who are disadvantaged in our communities
- Incorporate the values of the school and our Anglican faith to show compassion and generosity for our community
- Create fundraising opportunities for students that have a direct impact on other young people in our communities.

"We look forward to engaging more schools in fundraising projects that are already happening and launching new ones in 2026 that help students in Anglican Schools see the relevance of the church in their community, Melbourne and Geelong, hear the gospel and experience faith in action."

Rev'd Amy Brown
Schools Engagement Officer



NEW MINISTRY PRESENCE AND CHURCH REVITALISATION

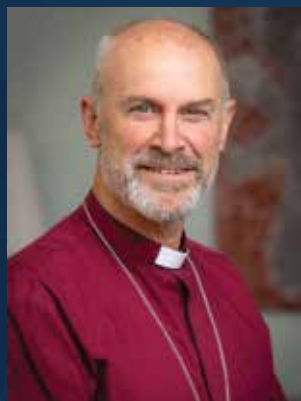


Melbourne Anglican Foundation's Chair Carolyn Clark speaks at the Church Planting and Revitalisation launch in October.

Thriving Churches

Archbishop Ric Thorpe endorsed Melbourne Anglican Foundation's Church Planting and Revitalisation appeal.

"We are living in such exciting times, where God is on the move and we are seeing signs of His Kingdom all around us. Church planting and revitalisation are a crucial part of this work of seeing thriving churches across our diocese in every part of Melbourne and Geelong and beyond. As the new Archbishop of Melbourne, I am so excited to see God's faithfulness at work in so many ways and all the more as we continue to step out in faith together.



So please consider partnering with the Melbourne Anglican Foundation to help us see this vision become a reality."

Vision

In line with the diocesan vision to 'make the word of God fully known,' the vision of the church planting and revitalisation work of the Diocese of Melbourne is to see: **A thriving Anglican Church in every locality by 2030.** This vision is a near-term goal to ensure there is a thriving church accessible to everyone in the diocese, across Melbourne and Geelong. This goal will take a mixture of both church planting and revitalisation to achieve across the diocese.

Mission

To catalyse a vibrant church planting and revitalisation network, building on our Anglican heritage and working together to reimagine a collective future, where we resource leaders and churches effectively to reach new generations and geographical areas and renew churches so they can thrive. This mission defines four strategic areas of focus:

Reimagine, Resource, Reach, and Renew.



30 new Church Plants
30 new Church Revitalisations
By 2030
by the Grace of God





Canon for Church Planting Rev'd Breeana Mills



Strategy

- Embracing new ideas, adapting our structures and training as God leads to shape leaders and churches for future impact.
- Providing resources to support and develop church planters and revitalisation efforts, enabling them to flourish.
- Planting new churches in growth corridors, urban areas, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities using diverse models to engage new people.
- Partnering with churches in need of renewal to offer training, consultancy, and coaching for significant, lasting change.

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation is proud to support this inspiring vision – to help create places where faith can flourish and lives can be transformed.

Please take a moment to watch the short film on www.melbourneanglicanfoundation.au, and listen to the inspiring voices of those leading and living out the work of Church Planting and Revitalisation in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

TIMA Anglican Parish

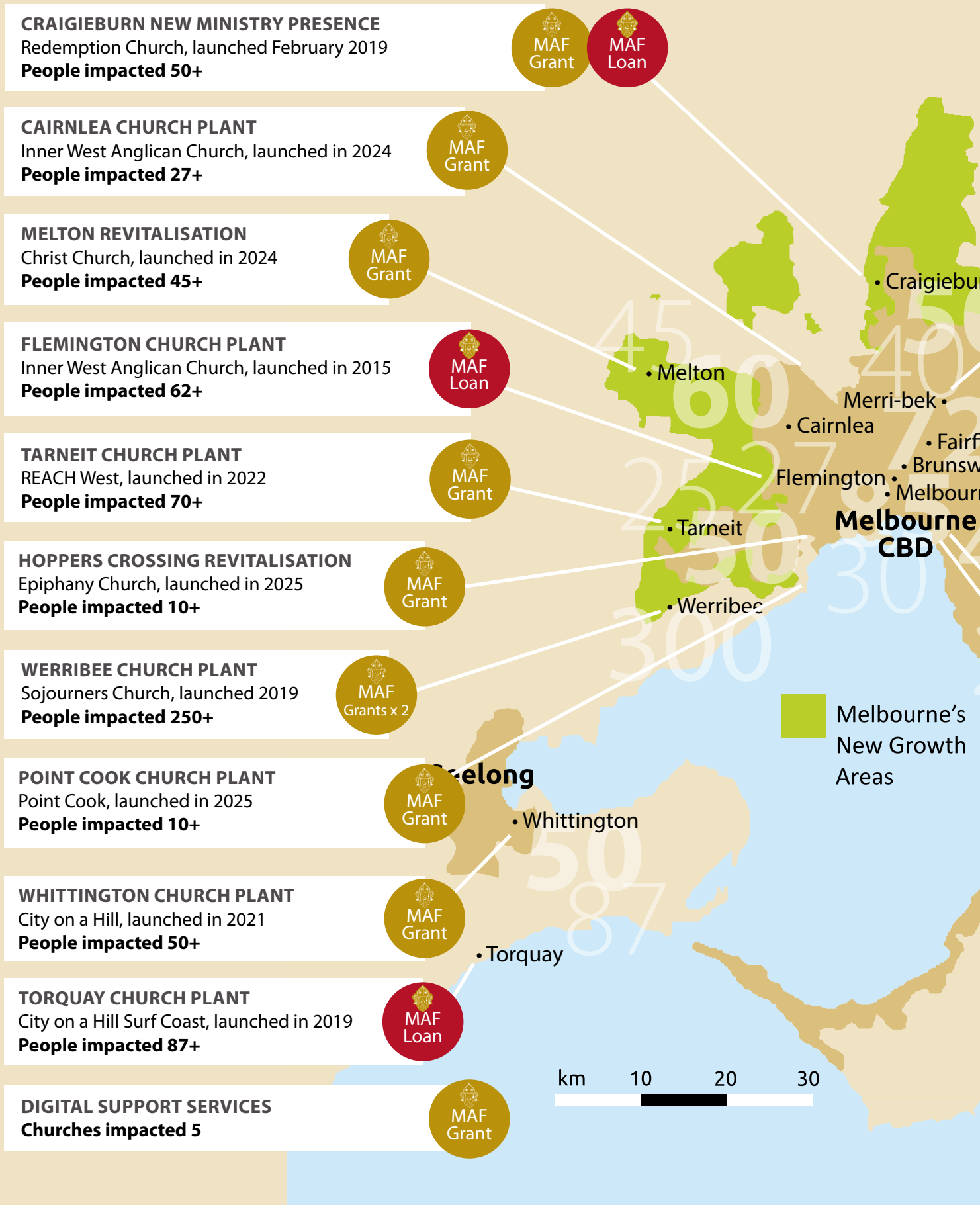
TIMA Anglican Parish continues to grow as a vibrant, multicultural, multi-site community shaped by a simple vision: Church 'Repotting' – fostering fresh ministries within established yet declining congregations. In 2014, St Timothy's Bulleen was an ageing English congregation but years of prayer, patient rebuilding and intentional cross-cultural ministry slowly brought new life. Today, TIMA operates across three ministry centres – Bulleen, Templestowe and Greythorn – serving English, Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking communities.
Rev'd Canon Ben Wong

The Field, Hawthorn

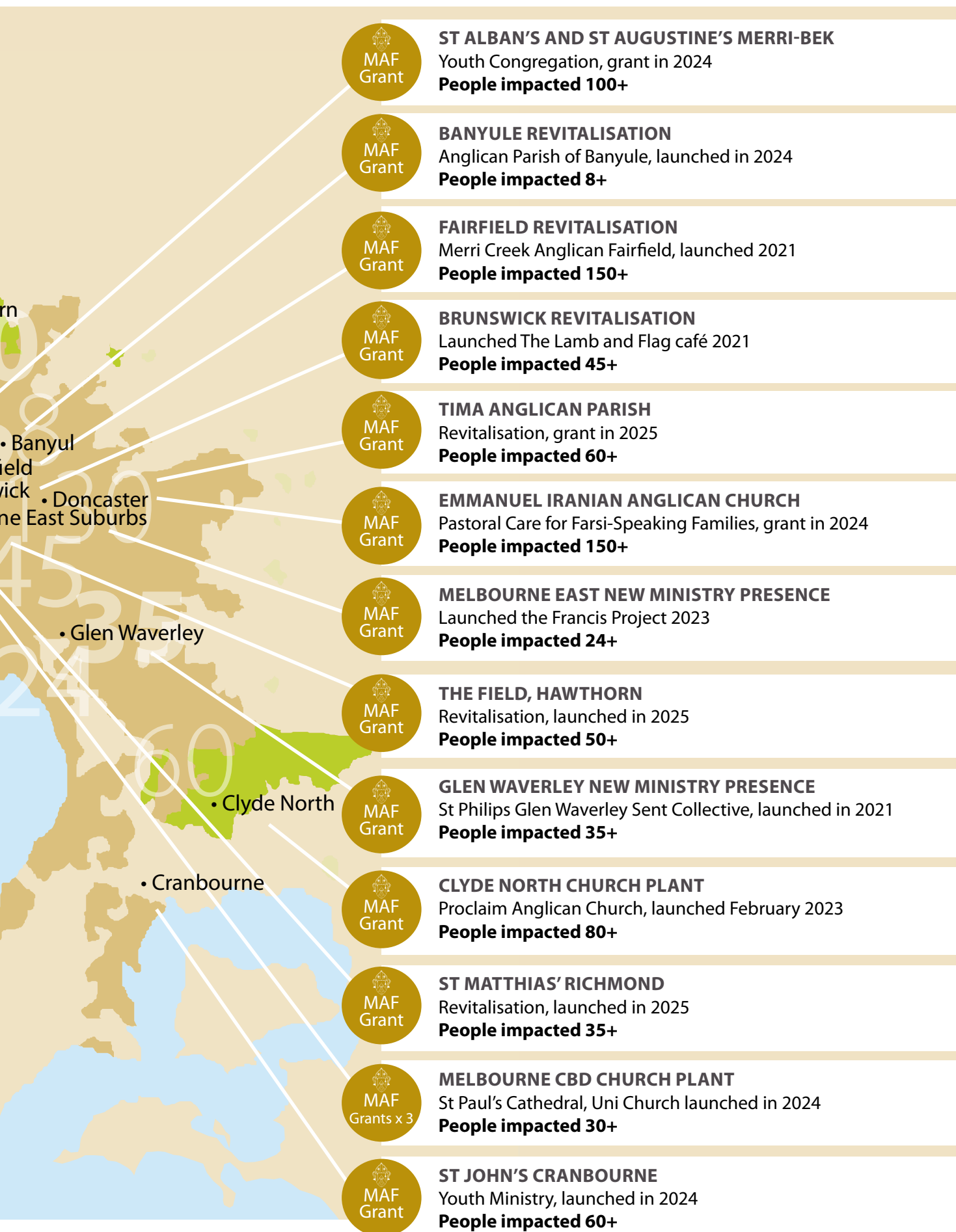
God has done much through **The Field**. At our Christmas Eve-Eve gathering in 2024, a family visited – parents, their two adult daughters, and their eldest daughter's fiancé. They started coming to our Tuesday night gatherings, and within a few months their daughter had returned to a relationship with Jesus, and her fiancé had become a Christian! We had the privilege of sharing in their baptism and wedding.
Lex Buckley, The Field



NEW MINISTRY PRESENCE/CHURCH PLANTING SUPP



SUPPORTED BY THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN FOUNDATION



Message from our Development Manager

Our year in 2025 was a year to go deeper – in relationship with parishes, Diocesan departments, and the clergy who lead the programs we support.

Central to this were the visits I was privileged to make to nearly all the deaneries across the Diocese. I was shown remarkable hospitality and welcomed into the day-to-day realities of parish life by clergy leading ministries throughout Melbourne and Geelong.

Spending time with ministers in their own contexts was deeply formative. Many of those I met are responsible for programs supported by the Foundation – work that requires persistence, creativity, and an enormous amount of heart. Hearing directly from them about the rhythms of parish life, the pressures they carry, and the people they serve made clear how much unseen labour and care sits behind each initiative.

Being present in parish spaces strengthened partnership, and hopefully, gave some encouragement – or at least assured those in the thick of church-work that they are in our minds and hearts, as well as our prayers. Listening carefully helped clarify how development support can best come alongside work already happening, enabling ministries to grow in impact without losing their integrity or local grounding.

Alongside this deepening parish engagement, 2025 also saw the appointment of a Schools Officer and the launch of a new program partnering with Anglican schools. This work has opened meaningful pathways for schools to raise both funds and awareness for vital parish based programs, particularly those supporting the wellbeing of young people. It has been encouraging to see schools and parishes connect more closely in their shared desire to serve the next generation.

Scripture reminds us that while we labour and plant, it is God who gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6). It is a privilege for the Foundation to play a small part in what God is already doing, as Jesus continues to bring life, hope, and restoration through his Church.



Nathan Oliver,
Development Manager

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Partnering with the community is key to the work of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation. We have therefore made it a priority to increase awareness of the work and benefits of the Foundation for parishes. We have done this by visiting parishes, holding clergy information events and being actively present at Diocesan events.

Regional Conferences

Through attendance at regional episcopal conferences, the Foundation engaged directly with clergy and ministry leaders, strengthening relationships across the diocese. This engagement increased awareness of available support and led to many follow-up conversations with parishes exploring future collaboration.

Fundraising Campaigns

This year, the Foundation conducted three impactful fundraising campaigns, focusing on Youth, Food Distribution Programs and Church-Planting and Revitalisation. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, a total of **\$141,900** was raised, helping to strengthen vital ministries and services across the Diocese.

Walking with PVAW

Melbourne Anglican Foundation stood alongside the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Preventing Violence Against Women Program (PVAW) for the Walk Against Family Violence in November 2025. Anglicans joined thousands of participants moving through Melbourne's CBD, publicly affirming that churches have an important role to play in ending violence against women. The Walk was organised by Respect Victoria as part of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign, highlighting a shared commitment to safer communities and lasting cultural change. (See PVAW report, page 37).

ADoM Committees and Working Groups

In 2025, members of the Foundation team were actively involved in Diocesan committees and working groups to further our relationship with and understanding of Diocesan priorities. These include:

- AiC Healthcare Chaplaincy Working Group
- AiC Governance and Nominations Committee
- Bishopscourt Trust management Committee
- Disability Inclusion Working Group





The Field, Hawthorn.



Holy Name Anglican Church, a safe space for migrant youths.

- Safe Ministries Reference Group
- Interagency Committee
- Church Planting and Revitalisation Working Group
- Diocesan and Parish Partnership Working Group
- ADoM Senior Staff and Officers

The Foundation has also engaged with other Anglican bodies, including Anglican schools and tertiary colleges.

Grants Rounds

In 2025, Melbourne Anglican Foundation facilitated three grant rounds supporting Hope25, Youth Grants, and Food Relief initiatives. The process began with parishes prayerfully planning and envisioning new opportunities for mission, before presenting their financial needs through clearly defined goals and measurable outcomes. Successful applicants assumed responsibility for managing the funds entrusted to them, maintaining regular communication with the Foundation and submitting a final acquittal report at the project's conclusion. This year, the Foundation has been proud to partner with and support a wide range of mission-focused initiatives across the diocese.

AiC Governance Training Conference

In August our Chair and our Treasurer presented to parishes and to members of Anglican Diocesan committees and boards on corporate governance, risk and financial management.

Melbourne Anglican Education Organisation

Towards the end of 2025 we were proud to finalise the establishment of a new Education Organisation. The purpose of the Organisation is to source and provide funding for education in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. We look forward to supporting the Diocese through scholarship and building funds into the future.

Melbourne Anglican Foundation Newsletters

In 2025, Melbourne Anglican Foundation launched three newsletters to ensure our supporters and the wider diocese remained informed and connected with the encouraging stories and developments unfolding across Melbourne and Geelong.



Archbishop Thorpe.

Picture: Janine Eastgate.

Welcome Archbishop Ric Thorpe

Melbourne's new Anglican Archbishop has been installed, marking a significant new chapter for the Church and the Diocese of Melbourne. On Advent Sunday, **Archbishop Ric Thorpe** became the city's 14th Anglican leader, succeeding **Archbishop Philip Freier**, who retired in February after 18 years of faithful service.

Elected in May, Archbishop Thorpe is widely recognised as a leading voice in church planting and revitalisation within the Anglican Communion. Addressing the 1,400 gathered at St Paul's Cathedral, and thousands more watching online, he pledged to be a faithful witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and to lead with courage, clarity, and hope in this new season of ministry.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Belonging by Design Conference.



Keynote speaker Kirstyn Oliver.

Neurodivergence and the Church

The Belonging by Design Conference

The Belonging by Design: Neurodivergence and the Church conference was held on 17–18 October 2025 at Crossway Baptist Church, Burwood East, bringing together 120 participants from Anglican and other Christian denominations across Victoria and interstate.

Hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in partnership with Intergen, and building on the Diocese's growing work in disability inclusion and accessibility, it was the first conference of its kind in Melbourne focused specifically on neurodivergence and the life of the church. The conference equipped church leaders, ministry teams, volunteers and families to better understand neurodivergence and to cultivate faith communities where neurodivergent children, young people and their families feel welcomed, valued and able to flourish.

Participants included clergy, children's and youth ministry leaders, diocesan staff, chaplains, disability inclusion practitioners, lay leaders and volunteers, representing Anglican, Baptist, Uniting Church, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and independent church communities.

As part of the conference, Bishop Genevieve Blackwell, Administrator of

the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, formally launched the Diocese's Disability Action Plan, developed to support churches in strengthening accessibility, belonging and participation for people with disabilities in church life.

Keynote speakers included Kirstyn Oliver (Alma Autism), Dr Louise Gosbell (online-AUT), and Daniel Giles OAM from Speaking Insights, highlighting the importance of listening to neurodivergent voices and ensuring church environments support genuine participation and belonging.

In addition to the keynote presentations, participants attended a series of practical workshops designed to support churches in developing more inclusive ministry practices. Topics included sensory approaches to sharing Bible stories, starter resources for inclusive ministry, neurodiverse inclusion in parish life, wellbeing and pastoral care, and design strategies for welcoming congregational environments. One workshop introduced the Every Body Belongs framework from the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Disability Action Plan, offering a practical pathway for parishes seeking to embed disability inclusion and accessibility in church life.

To broaden participation across culturally diverse communities, migrant and refugee church groups were invited through diocesan and

community networks. Wordly live translation software enabled real-time translation in Arabic, Afrikaans, Chinese, Cantonese, Greek, German, French and English, with live captioning supporting neurodivergent participants and people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These accessibility features were accessed 75 times during the keynote sessions, demonstrating strong engagement.

The conference is already influencing parish practice. The Rev'd Julie Blinco-Smith of All Saints Greensborough subsequently hosted the Diocese's International Day of People with Disabilities, highlighting the parish's partnership with The Good Brick Co, a micro-enterprise supporting autistic individuals, and inspiring the development of a new community drop-in centre-The Nest that will create further opportunities for connection and belonging within the local community.

Support from the Melbourne Anglican Foundation made this conference possible, helping to equip churches across the Diocese and beyond to grow in accessibility, belonging and inclusion for neurodivergent individuals, children, youth and their families.

Virginia McDonald
*Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Disability Inclusion Officer*





Melbourne Anglican Foundation joined the PVAW at The Walk Against Family Violence Day in November.

Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW)

The Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Program (the Program) implemented by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is a leading initiative for preventing and responding to violence against women and family violence within an Australian faith community.

In 2025, the program continued to provide a wide range of training, activities and resources for faith leaders and parishes across the Diocese. A more intensive ‘Whole-of-Church’ model was implemented for 12 churches who participated in a community of practice together as part of the program.

The past year has seen the conclusion of the previous 3-year phase of the program, along with the expansion of activities and resources, and consideration to the strategic planning for the next phase. We continue to be supported by our program partners: Anglicare Victoria, Relationship Matters and the Brotherhood of St Laurence along with the ongoing financial support of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation (MAF). We are grateful to MAF and our partner agencies for their ongoing support.

As leaders in this space, we are committed to regularly contributing to the evidence base for this work through our partnership with Melbourne University and sharing our learnings and resources wherever possible. In 2025, the University conducted an evaluation of our program to date to help inform

“We are grateful to MAF and our partner agencies for their ongoing support.”

our next steps going forward. The Evaluation found that the program demonstrated a range of promising outcomes that contributed to shifts in attitudes, culture and practice within the Diocese by supporting faith leaders’ capacity to respond to family violence, and to address the gendered drivers of violence against women. The evaluation also identified key areas for improvement and opportunities to strengthen outcomes.* This research will be used to plan for the next phase of the program.

Some key highlights for our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

communities include delivering in language family violence training to Farsi speaking communities, developing our posters into 8 different community languages, and developing training into simplified Chinese to be delivered to our Chinese congregations. Other highlights include increased participation in the 16 Days of Activism activities across the diocese, including display of banners outside churches and attending the Walk against Family Violence together in the city as well as our usual training sessions and Orange Door tours. Another highlight was participation in the 10 Commitments Men’s Summit by many of our male Clergy as part of the National Faith, Hope and Love conference.

We look forward to building on the learnings of the previous phase and strengthening our PVAW work in the coming year.

Kerryn Lewis
Manager, Preventing Violence Against Women Program

* You can read the full report here: https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PVAW-Program-Evaluation_final.pdf



FINANCIALS

Auditor's Statement



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Level 22 Tower 5
Collins Square
727 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3008
GPO Box 4736
Melbourne VIC 3001
T +61 3 8320 2222

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Melbourne Anglican Foundation Limited

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Melbourne Anglican Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Melbourne Anglican Foundation Limited, has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

www.grantthornton.com.au
ACN-130 913 594

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd ACN 130 913 594 a subsidiary or related entity of Grant Thornton Australia Limited ABN 41 127 556 389 ACN 127 556 389. Grant Thornton refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. Grant Thornton Australia Limited is a member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTL), GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions. In the Australian context only, the use of the term "Grant Thornton" may refer to Grant Thornton Australia Limited ABN 41 127 556 389 ACN 127 556 389 and its Australian subsidiaries and related entities. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

19

Emphasis of matter – basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the financial report

The Board of Directors (the Board) is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. This responsibility also includes such internal control as the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

C S Gangemi
Partner – Audit & Assurance
Melbourne, 16 April 2026



Treasurer's Report

2025 saw the worsening of cost-of-living crisis, which impacted many people's ability to donate to programmes that, conversely, are made even more necessary by the cost-of-living issues.

It is therefore pleasing to report that across all of the combined entities in the Melbourne Anglican Foundation \$1.4 million in grants, donations and bequests was received. Although down on the record year last year, this still enabled \$1.5 million to be paid out to parish and diocesan projects, with increases over the prior year in Chaplaincy and Youth programmes.

MACO, the Cultural Foundation, has proved to be a very popular and efficient way for parishioners to support the cultural life and outreach of their parishes, including the music that is such an important part of the Anglican tradition.

The assets of the entities remain healthy, showing a total net assets at 31 December 2025 of \$6.8 million, marginally up on last year's \$6.7 million.

It was particularly pleasing to see the first fruits of the bequest programme appearing in these figures. A bequest is a wonderful way for the Anglicans of Melbourne to help the Foundation continue its purpose of helping parishes to meet the needs of their own communities and to enable both parishes and their communities to grow.

The administration fee charged on grants and donations received enables the Foundation to continue its important work. This is not only helping parishes achieve their own goals but also in ensuring that all grants and donations are properly recorded and paid and the requirements of various State and Federal legislation met. This includes the levels of governance and financial management, accounting and reporting that donors, grantees and "bequestors" would expect and that the law requires.

This would not have been possible without the time and attention put

in by the Board on its various sub-committees. I should also thank the team at Evan & Partners for their investment advice, BG Private for their work in providing accounting and financial reporting services, Grant Thornton for their work during the audit and of course the team at the Foundation for their dedication that enable us, and our donors, to go some way to meeting what God requires of us.



Andrew Porter
Treasurer

Statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2025

Melbourne Anglican Foundation Limited

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Donations and Grants	291,070	441,927
Interest Income	9,080	10,148
Administration Fees	291,032	239,697
Dividends Received	106,540	97,685
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	50,710	104,886
Bequests and Other Income	86,920	-
Total Revenue	835,352	894,343
Expenses		
Bank Charges	(390)	(354)
Portfolio Services	(16,425)	(14,088)
Computer Expenses	(14,000)	(36,375)
Accounting and Audit fees	(50,688)	(82,284)
Travel	-	(667)
Salaries	(325,703)	(253,602)
General Expenses	(84,901)	(78,428)
Allocations to Projects and Grants Made	(383,290)	(499,427)
Promotions and Functions	(13,762)	(14,395)
Total Expenses	(889,159)	(979,620)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(53,807)	(85,277)
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	(53,807)	(85,277)



Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc.

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Donations	208,843	187,322
Grants Received	28,075	96,000
Dividends	19,970	18,109
Interest Income	1,695	3,577
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	21,485	23,443
Administration Fees	14,571	9,982
Other Income	6,639	55
Total Revenue	301,278	338,488
Expenses		
Administration Charge	(35,712)	(29,073)
Allocation to Projects	(173,402)	(175,033)
Bank and Compliance Fees	(741)	(517)
Grants Paid	(70,150)	(99,775)
Investment Cost	(3,859)	(2,886)
Total Expenses	(283,864)	(307,284)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	17,414	31,204
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	17,414	31,204

Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation Inc.

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Donations	369,664	434,750
Administration Fees	19,298	22,866
Other Income	–	8,487
Total Revenue	388,962	466,103
Expenses		
Allocations to Projects	(363,481)	(428,885)
Bank and Compliance Fees	(1,917)	(1,961)
Administration Expenses	(9,648)	(11,433)
Grants	–	(6,400)
Total Expenses	(375,046)	(448,679)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	13,916	17,424
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	13,916	17,424

Melbourne Anglican Chaplaincy Fund

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	12,724	15,248
Donations	51,210	201,392
Investment Income	17,689	12,715
Administration Fees	2,705	9,428
Interest Income	2,876	1,896
Other Income	1,171	–
Total Revenue	88,375	240,679
Expenses		
Investment Management Expense	(2,459)	(2,004)
Allocations to Projects	(9,410)	(12,493)
Bank Charges	(467)	(872)
Administration Expense	(34,713)	(25,579)
Grants Paid	(100,000)	(84,750)
Other Expenses	–	5,893
Total Expenses	(147,049)	(125,698)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(58,674)	114,981
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	(58,674)	114,981



Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Donations	26,129	57,036
Interest Income	5,151	3,848
Administration Fees	3,948	5,601
Investment Income	8,961	9,101
Grants Received	49,875	49,875
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	5,193	13,433
Total Revenue	99,257	138,894
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	(27,618)	(16,102)
Allocations to Parish Projects	(18,946)	(39,160)
Bank Service Charges	(287)	(464)
Grants Paid	(49,875)	(57,875)
Total Expenses	(96,726)	(113,601)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	2,531	25,293
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	2,531	25,293

Melbourne Anglican Youth Ministry Fund

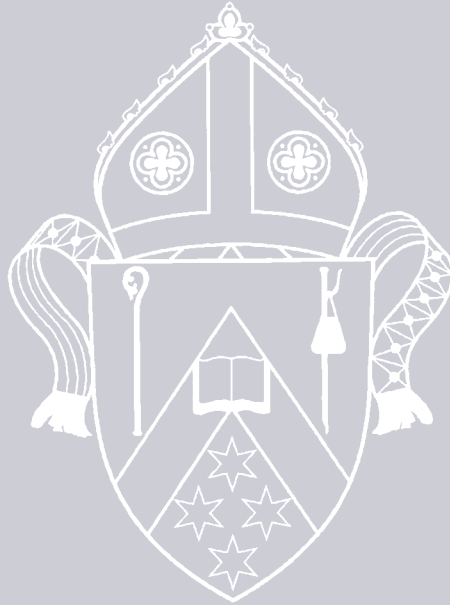
	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Administration Fee	16,154	9,529
Investment Income	28,690	30,444
Donations	259,724	181,545
Interest Income	4,218	1,285
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	30,518	17,276
Other Income	46	–
Grants Received	47,500	–
Total Revenue	240,079	
Expenses		
Administration Fees	(41,798)	(42,831)
Project Allocation	(218,238)	(180,062)
Bank Charges	(1,231)	(349)
Grants Paid	(76,780)	(112,042)
Other Expenses	(2,572)	(4,650)
Total Expenses	(340,619)	(339,934)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	46,231	(99,855)
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	46,231	(99,855)

Melbourne Anglican Foundation Trust

	\$ 2025	\$ 2024
Income		
Investment Income	145,884	128,488
Net Gain on Financial Assets held at Fair Value through Profit and Loss	75,488	118,573
Total Income	247,061	
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	(129,431)	(111,859)
Investment Fees	(20,531)	(18,307)
Grants Paid	(29,039)	(154,781)
Total Expenses	(179,001)	(284,947)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	42,371	(37,886)
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the Year	42,371	(37,886)

Full financial information is available on the website and on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Website.





**Thank you to all our donors:
individuals, businesses and trusts and foundations.**

With gratitude to:

Benefact Trust UK

Collier Charitable Fund

The Anthony Costa Foundation

The Flora & Frank Leith Charitable Trust

The Sonshine Foundation

The Yulgilbar Foundation

Vera Moore Foundation

William Angliss Charitable Fund





Mural from the Parish of St John's Flinders with St Mark's Balnarring Belonging: A creative arts space.



Established in 1987, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation was the inspiration of Archbishop David Penman who thought it was critical that the Diocese look for new ways to raise funds for future ministries. An initial 75 members paid a joining fee which made up the corpus on which the Foundation was built.

The corpus continues to grow through donations, grants and investment to ultimately provide for the distribution of grants and allocations to projects to support and promote the mission of the Anglican Church in Melbourne.



**Melbourne
Anglican
Foundation**

209 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000

T 03 9653 4220

E foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au

www.melbourneanglican.org.au/Foundation

  @MelbourneAnglicanFoundation

*St Stephen's, Warrandyte
Hope25 collaborative
artwork handprints for
Reconciliation Week.*