



Thank You!

"I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food." (Matthew 25:35)

With your help, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation raised almost **\$65,000** in its end of financial year fundraising campaign supporting food distribution programs run by 'Anglicans in Action' in Melbourne and Geelong.

We are in awe of the **hard-working volunteers** and their respective programs who every day provide free breakfasts, lunches and dinners to those experiencing hunger and poverty. In recent times, of course, they have also faced the challenges of cost-of-living increases. Read some of their inspiring stories below.

This winter ... and beyond ... your donation response will help to ensure that communities can continue to provide consistent, nourishing meals to disadvantaged individuals, providing not just food, but also dignity, hope and love.



Carolyn Clark OAM
Chair

**"AS PRICES
RISE, SO TOO
MUST OUR
COMPASSION"**



Caring for Your Neighbour

One of the food distribution programs we featured in this year's campaign was **Love Thy Neighbour (LTN)**. LTN 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 embodies Matthew 25:35: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." 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.

Volunteers collect and sort donated fresh produce, non-perishables, and toiletries, preparing deliveries that are often a gateway to deeper support – like prayer, hospital visits, or emergency help. The ministry thrives through community collaboration, with contributions from schools, families, and local partners. Despite challenges like funding and storage, LTN remains resilient – "If someone's hungry, we feed them," Nola says simply.

So with strong support from our appeal, LTN will continue to transform lives – one food box, prayer, and act of love at a time.

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



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



You can still help this vital service
via our **DONATION PAGE** or use the QR code.

**Donations to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Youth Fund are tax deductible. You should always seek your own tax advice.*



Snapshots of other food distribution programs we supported...



Geelong Christ Church 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.



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.



At St Jack's, it's more than a meal

Each Friday behind St John's Anglican Church in Malvern East, people gather for food, friendship and faith. For many at 'St Jack's', it's more than just a hot meal – it's a place of connection, comfort and community.

In a time when loneliness and hardship are all too common, this simple gathering offers dignity, hope and belonging.



For nearly two decades, St Jack's has quietly lived out the ancient role of the church as a sanctuary...



St Luke's – Rising Need, Ongoing Hope

The Foodstore at St Luke's, Cockatoo & Gembrooke, 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.



Food Distribution Centres

Enabling 'Anglicans in Action'

Contact **Melbourne Anglican Foundation** if you are running a food distribution program or service initiative for those in need around Melbourne or Geelong. We may be able to assist.

Your help – and our hands...

You may not be in a position to be hands-on ... but have a willing and generous heart to help financially. Contact Melbourne Anglican Foundation to discuss the wide range of **tax-deductible options** to help those facing hardships.

foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au
www.melbourneanglican.org.au/Foundation



The Reverends David Sullivan, Samantha White, Paul Carr and David Powys.

Picture: George Ladu

Foundation supports 'Game to Explain' the hope within

■ Hannah Felsbourg

A new card game created by a Melbourne vicar is helping people of all faiths or none articulate and evaluate what they believe and why.

St Agnes' Black Rock vicar the Reverend David Powys developed *Game to Explain* as part of the Hope25 initiative, with funding from the **Melbourne Anglican Foundation**.

About 20 clerics took copies of the game following its debut at the recent Jumbunna clergy conference.

Dr Powys said the game was inspired by the instruction in 1 Peter 3:15 for believers to be ready to defend the hope that was within them.

He said the game encouraged participants to think about their convictions and whether they could explain their reasoning.

"People of all sorts of faiths or possibly no faith are encouraged to think about what

they believe, what their convictions are and their reasons for holding those convictions," Dr Powys said.

The game consists of cards featuring belief statements such as "right and wrong are only matters of convention" or "everything that exists came into being through a fluke".

Players indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statement, write down their reasoning, and then have their rationale evaluated by the group.

Dr Powys said he hoped the game would encourage meaningful exchanges between people of different faiths and backgrounds.

He said the game worked best with participants who were open to respectful dialogue and willing to consider different perspectives.

"That's the way that hearts and minds are going to be changed as people actually have discussions about what they believe and why they believe it," he said.

The Reverend Sam White, who tried the game at the conference, said it would be particularly valuable in university and youth ministry settings.

"Faith doesn't exist in a vacuum, so our faith, whilst it might be something that we hold deeply in our heart, we need to be able to talk about that faith and express that faith with other people," Mrs White said.

She said the game also encouraged people to listen to how others arrived at their beliefs.

"It's really useful for helping people go beyond the sort of linear black and white binary thinking of something is right and something else is wrong," Mrs White said.

Dr Powys said he would produce a second edition of *Game to Explain* incorporating feedback from players if there was enough demand.

Reprinted with permission from The Melbourne Anglican, June 2025.

Foundation's year of enabling growth

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation (MAF) has had a successful and inspiring 2024 defined by strategic growth and deeper community engagement.

Throughout 2024, the Foundation distributed **\$1,041,615** in grants across **46 projects** supporting the Diocese of Melbourne. It also enabled **53 parish-led tax-deductible initiatives**, directing **\$809,068** toward grassroots programs addressing local needs.

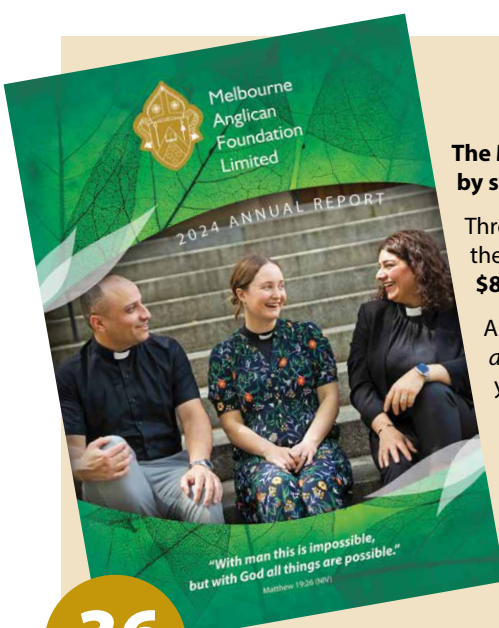
As Colossians 1:17 reminds us, "All things were created through him [Jesus] and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." We've witnessed that truth in action – supporting youth ministry, chaplaincy, food distribution, church plants and revitalisation, the arts, and programs such as Preventing Violence Against Women.

The Foundation is privileged to walk alongside ministers, volunteers, and congregations who embody the love and hope of Jesus. Their stories, many captured in MAF's annual report, remind us that God is at work – and there is more potential waiting to be unlocked.

Supporters are essential to this mission. Join MAF in celebrating these stories, and continue to partner with them in offering practical hope that meets real needs across our communities.

Reprinted with permission from The Melbourne Anglican, June 2025.

The Melbourne Anglican Annual Report can be downloaded from www.melbourneanglican.org.au/Foundation



36
pages!

Vermont program a safe space for **migrant youth**

MAKING
NEWS

■ Lesa Scholl

A Vermont parish church has created a safe space for youth in the Chinese community to find connection and encouragement.

Holy Name Anglican Church vicar the Reverend Grace Wang and parishioner and counsellor Ping Luo saw a need with young people disconnected from family and education.

Some of the young people were school refusers and others had learning difficulties exacerbated by language gaps.

Mrs Luo said she was working with young people one-on-one, but the Safe Space initiative enabled youth of a similar background to come together, share stories and make social connections.

"The youth find it very difficult to make new friends at school. They felt isolated," she said. "Some are very anxious."

Safe Space was a recipient of the **Melbourne Anglican Foundation youth grants**. This funding was invaluable for the continued provision of food and mentoring at no cost to the young people.

Ms Wang said it was important to provide vulnerable young people with a safe



Holy Name Anglican Church creates safe space for migrant youths.

Picture: supplied

environment where they could build trusted relationships and share their lives.

The young people were initially withdrawn, not willing to make eye-contact, but Ms Wang has seen them transform.

"They got back a life in their eyes," she said. "It's encouraging just to help the young people to feel recognised."

Reprinted with permission from The Melbourne Anglican, June 2025.

Updates on other programs we have developed in 2025

SCHOOLS

Melbourne Anglican Foundation is assisting students to engage with those experiencing disadvantage.

MAF has been developing its Schools Program in 2025 on the back of a pilot project at Melbourne Girls Grammar School.

This has opened doors for us to work with more Anglican schools – introducing students to our vital work and for them to explore ways of serving others. The MGGGS Youth for Youth fund-raiser walk is an example. Monies raised will go to providing essential support including education, welfare and mentorship programs for youth in need.



On Friday 1 August, our Chair Carolyn Clark and Development Manager Nathan Oliver enjoyed a wonderful morning at Melbourne Girls Grammar School, speaking with students about the challenges faced by people in our community experiencing chronic disadvantage. They explored the ways we can all contribute to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The students were highly engaged and eager to learn more about the programs supported by the Melbourne Anglican Foundation, which provide vital support through food, education, and other essential services.



Updates on other programs we have developed in 2025



Chinese Culture and Christian event,
St David's Moorabbin



Lilydale Easter Craft volunteers,
Lilydale Anglican Parish



High Tea event, Holy Trinity, Lara
with Christ Church Little River



Hope25 seeks to empower Australian Anglican parishes and communities in an intentional season of sharing hope in Jesus from Easter to Pentecost in 2025.

Grants from Melbourne Anglican Foundation were applied for from parishes for projects such as: community BBQs; Bible studies; Alpha courses; Outreach events; coffee ministries; Easter community picnics; evangelism training, Q&A card games; church open days; hospital church services; and reconciliation gatherings.

In 2024 there were **31** expression of interest, **20** grants awarded and a total of **\$6,300** distributed.



Divine Devonshire Tea event,
Anglican Parish of Mount Dandenong



Royal Melbourne Hospital sacred space of
worship and outreach for staff and patients



Picnic event,
Hills Anglican Community

Here's our exciting news as to what is **coming up!**

Youth Grants Round 2025

Melbourne Anglican Foundation will run its annual Youth Grants Round in September 2025.

In 2024 there were **40** expressions of interest, **16** grants awarded and a total of **\$104,023** distributed.

More details will be released soon.

FUTURE CHURCH APPEAL

A thriving Anglican Church in every locality by 2030

The combined population of Melbourne and Geelong is expected to grow from 5 million to 10 million by 2050. As a Church, how can we best prepare for this? How can we best steward our resources?

We want to be a living witness to Jesus in these new communities through church planting and revitalisation... 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.

In 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 St Paul instructs believers to contribute to a collection for the saints in Jerusalem by setting aside a portion of their income. This is a model we can apply to enable us to thrive as an Anglican Church into the future... more details to come.

Pray. Give. Grow.



Melbourne
Anglican
Foundation

209 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000

T 03 9653 4220

E foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au

www.melbourneanglican.org.au/Foundation

[f](https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneAnglicanFoundation) [ig](https://www.instagram.com/MelbourneAnglicanFoundation) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MelbourneAnglicanFoundation) @MelbourneAnglicanFoundation