



Melbourne  
Anglican  
Foundation

NEWSLETTER  
NOV 2025

## Church CPR!

**Church Planting and Revitalisation lies at the heart of fulfilling the vision of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne – to make the Word of God fully known.**

In a world marked by turmoil and uncertainty, many are seeking hope, community, and faith. To meet this growing spiritual need, the Diocese has set a transformative goal: **to plant 30 new churches and revitalise 30 existing ones by 2030.**

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation is proud to support this inspiring vision – but we need your help to bring it to life. Your gift to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation **Church Planting and Revitalisation Fund** will help create places where faith can flourish and lives can be transformed.

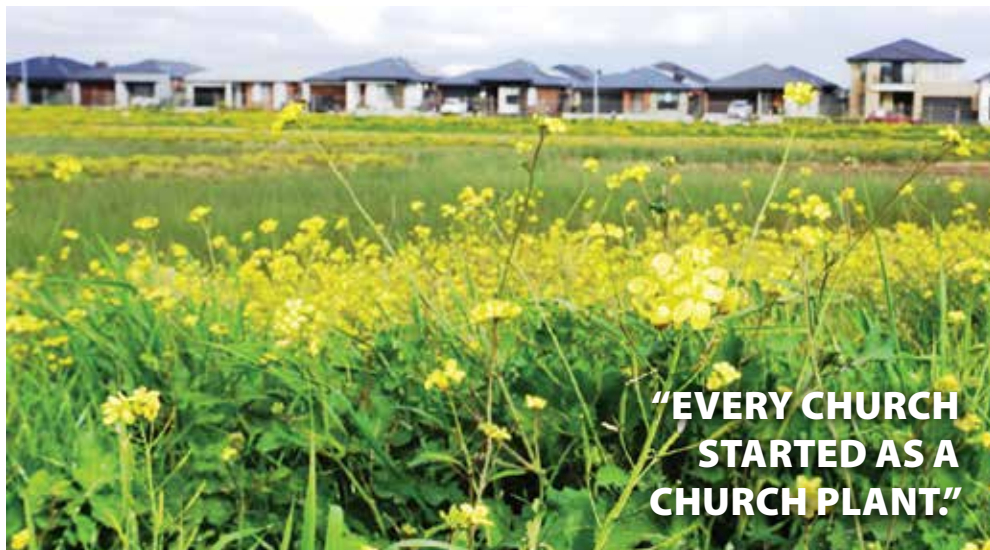
Please take a moment to watch the short film on [www.melbourneanglicanfoundation.au](http://www.melbourneanglicanfoundation.au), and listen to the inspiring voices of those leading and living out the work of Church Planting and Revitalisation in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

We are really excited to be playing our part in this vision. Please join us in supporting gospel growth across the Diocese.



**Carolyn Clark OAM**  
Chair

**“WE WANT TO SEE  
GOD’S KINGDOM  
GROW.”**



**“EVERY CHURCH  
STARTED AS A  
CHURCH PLANT.”**

## The Vision: Thriving Churches



**Archbishop-elect 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.”

## The Plan: 30x30x30

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has set an ambitious goal to establish a thriving, gospel-centred church in every locality across Melbourne and Geelong by 2030. Canon for Church Planting Rev Breeana Mills says momentum is already building, with new communities forming and people coming to faith.

With Melbourne’s population expected to grow by one million by the end of the decade, Mills says the church must respond boldly. Many congregations are still recovering from COVID-19, while rapidly expanding suburbs lack local faith communities. “There are simply too few churches to meet the needs of our growing city,” she says.

The diocese’s plan focuses on planting new churches and revitalising existing ones, ensuring they are rooted in the Gospel and connected to their neighbourhoods. Mills urges Anglicans to participate through prayer, service or giving, inviting support for the Melbourne Anglican Foundation’s church-planting appeal.



**You can still help partner with us in this crucial work  
via our [DONATION PAGE](#) or use the QR code.**

*\*Donations to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation Church Planting and Revitalisation Fund are NOT tax deductible. You should always seek your own tax advice.*



# Snapshots of what makes a Church-Planter tick...



## A New Season of Church Growth across Melbourne

**A North Richmond minister has shared her vision for a new season of church growth across Melbourne and Geelong, highlighting the need for vibrant, community-centred congregations in rapidly changing suburbs.**

Serving at St Matthias, North Richmond, where Cantonese, Mandarin and English are spoken each Sunday, the Reverend Liz Webster is working simultaneously on church revitalisation and planting. Her focus is launching a new English-language congregation to reach a neighbourhood whose demographics have shifted significantly in recent years.

"Victoria Street brings together every walk of life," she said, noting the stark contrast between the housing towers to the south and the increasingly gentrified streets to the north. "My heart is to see that diversity reflected in our church community, and to see people come to know Jesus."

With Richmond home to tens of thousands of residents but few thriving churches, she hopes to cultivate a congregation deeply rooted in its local context. A healthy church plant, she says, is one that understands community needs and responds with practical care as well as spiritual support.

Embracing the diocesan vision to plant 30 new churches and revitalise 30 more by 2030, she believes Melbourne's future could be transformed by churches of all traditions working together. "People come to know God in different ways. We need diversity – in leaders, languages and styles – if we want to reach our whole city."

Funded in part by the Melbourne Anglican Foundation, she acknowledges the rarity of such support for new church planters. "With the whole church behind us – in prayer and generosity – we can plant more, reach more and revive more."



## Revival Begins in Every Neighbourhood

**Church planting, according to Rev Canon Ben Wong of the TIMA Anglican Parish (Bulleen, Templestowe, Greythorne), sits at the heart of the Christian mission. "Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations," he says, noting that Melbourne's cultural and linguistic diversity makes localised ministry not just helpful – but essential.**

Ben believes new churches are vital for reaching communities. While long-standing parishes may continue serving those who share their heritage and traditions, newly planted congregations can engage migrants, younger generations, and emerging cultures. "Side by side, they reveal the beauty and diversity of God's kingdom," he says.

His passion stems from a vision for renewal across the Anglican Church. Many parishes, he observes, face dwindling attendance but still occupy prime locations in the heart of neighbourhoods. "The question isn't whether a church is 'worth keeping,'" he says. "I believe revival is coming, and we will need worship spaces in every neighbourhood."

For Ben, these buildings are not burdens but opportunities – ready-made foundations for new communities.

One example is the Mandarin-speaking playgroup launched 12 years ago at Bulleen, created to support new migrant families. The ministry reduced isolation, fostered community, and ultimately led many to faith – some now serving as church leaders.

To see widespread renewal, he emphasises the need for prayer, partnership, and practical support – finances, mentoring, and especially open church buildings.

"We are seeing it happen already," he says as TIMA is preparing to launch a new service for 30–40 young people, using an existing parish site.



## A New Congregation Into Melbourne's Foothills

**City on a Hill Melbourne East is preparing to launch a new church in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges, marking the latest chapter in the movement's commitment to planting "churches that plant churches."**

Lead Pastor Rev Nick Combs helped establish City on a Hill's eastern congregation in October 2017. "It was an exciting, uncertain step," he recalls, "but God has been faithful. He gathered unchurched, de-churched, and people giving church one last chance." Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the young church grew steadily, drawing young families and professionals who embraced its mission.

Now, that same congregation is sending out a new church led by Patrick and Carly Donohoe. "We bought a house in the foothills and felt God putting it on our hearts to reach our local area," Patrick says. The new church hopes to launch late 2025, with a growing team already meeting, praying, fasting, and searching for a venue. "We're excited to see what the Lord does."

Donohoe admits leaving their home church is difficult. "The easy option would be to stay. The hard option is to go – but the gospel calls us to be sent."

For Combs, multiplying churches is a sign of health. "Every church started as a church plant. Jesus promised he would build his church, and he's still doing it."

City on a Hill's ministry has already changed lives. Rob, a successful eastern suburbs professional who rediscovered a memory of his Christian maths teacher. Years later, searching for meaning, he contacted the teacher – who pointed him to City on a Hill Melbourne East. Rob was visited, became a Christian, and was baptised.

"We want to see people go from death to life," Combs says. "The harvest is plentiful. We simply want to join Jesus in the work he's already doing."



# Launching the **Church-Planting and Revitalisation** Appeal



**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

**2** By setting up accounts within our 4 deductible gift recipient entities to enable parishioners to make **tax deductible donations** to approved parish projects.

**3** By giving loans to parishes for church planting.

## **Melbourne Anglican Foundation is:**

**Purpose:** 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.

Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc.	Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation Inc.	Melbourne Anglican Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund	Melbourne Anglican Youth Ministry Fund	Melbourne Anglican Chaplaincy Fund
<b>Purpose:</b> 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	<b>Purpose:</b> The promotion, and participation in, literature, music, performing arts, visual arts, crafts, design, film, video, television, radio, community arts, Indigenous arts and cultural heritage	<b>Purpose:</b> To provide help and public awareness in housing, training, integration and financial assistance in the settlement of migrants and refugees	<b>Purpose:</b> 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	<b>Purpose:</b> 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 <b>Note: Non Tax deductible</b>

# The Foundation's New Schools Engagement Program

## Demonstrating Faith in Action!



**Our engagement with Melbourne Girls Grammar School has been a success in 2025.**

Senior Chaplain the Reverend Kirsty Ross states, "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."



**NEW INITIATIVES**



**We have appointed the Reverend Amy Brown to develop our new Schools Engagement program.**

We offer opportunities for students to hear about God's love to the marginalised, see faith in action, and participate in service that makes an impact to real people through Melbourne Anglican Foundation supported programs in church communities.

**2026 will be an exciting year as we develop our Schools Engagement program.**

We are currently exploring opportunities to partner with 26 Anglican schools in running sessions exploring with students social justice awareness and a way for them to respond via youth walk fund-raisers and the like. See below...

## School Partnerships

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

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

**TAILORED PROGRAMS:**

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

**INTERESTED?**  
Contact Amy  
0432 417 005  
[abrown@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au](mailto:abrown@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au)



## Wear It Forward

### Raises Funds and Awareness

**In August, the Year 7 students at Melbourne Girls Grammar School hosted a *Wear it Forward* pop-up shop to raise funds for Anglican youth programs supported by the Melbourne Anglican Foundation.**

Each student was invited to donate two items of clothing that they valued and their responses were inspiring.

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

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.



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