



HOPE
in our
FUTURE





*For more than a century,
Saint Peter's has been a light to the world,
and to the people of Brighton Beach.*

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they
may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5.14–16

‘Hope in our Future’ is Saint Peter’s new gift program. In launching it, we seek to secure the future of the parish, ensuring that Saint Peter’s remains a light to the people of Brighton Beach in the century to come.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Anglicans in Brighton Beach worshipped at Saint Peter’s Chapel of Ease in Lynch Street, then part of the neighbouring Anglican Parish of Saint Andrew’s Brighton. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Saint Peter’s parishioners in Brighton Beach felt led by God to establish themselves as an independent parish. This was greatly assisted when Neil MacGlashan donated the land on which Saint Peter’s now stands. Generous gifts from a number of prominent local families, including the Were, Burston and Francis Stewart families, also assisted to build the church. Built in 1908 and consecrated the following year, Saint Peter’s church was designed by John Grainger, who also designed Melbourne’s famous Princes Bridge. The church building was enlarged in 1934 by renowned ecclesiastical architect Louis Williams.

Just as Saint Peter’s was established through generous gifts of land and money in the early twentieth century, the ‘Hope in our Future’ program once again calls on its parishioners to secure Saint Peter’s future through their generous gifts.



Experience has shown that if a traditional Anglican parish is to survive and to thrive in the long term, then a substantial level of bequest income is necessary. This is the principle upon which 'Hope in our Future' is based. The program's objective is to raise the substantial level of bequest income necessary to ensure that Saint Peter's not only survives but thrives in the century to come.

However, while important, we should remember that this financial goal is merely a means to an end.

As Christians, we understand 'gift' to mean much more than simple material wealth. Rather, the gift that you will give is the gift that you yourself have received: the gift of faith—a faith that leads beyond this world to the kingdom of God and to eternal and abundant life in fellowship with God and with each other. It is a gift that the world cannot give. A gift through the 'Hope in our Future' program is not just an investment in the Christian faith; it an act of faith.



The launch of this new program, too, is an act of Christian faith – an act that is made trusting in the promise of Jesus himself:

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened ... If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him ... In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.

—Matthew 7.7–8, 11–12

Within traditional Anglicanism, the failure to attract sufficient levels of bequest income is often attributed to a simple failure to ask.

This often leads to a situation in which the Anglican Parish is failing where the local dog shelter is thriving. ‘Hope in our Future’ aims to establish a culture of putting God first, of putting a concern for the kingdom of God before every other concern in this world. We are called to do this not only in our living, but in our dying too.

‘Seek first the kingdom of God,’ Jesus said, in fulfilment of the first commandment: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me’ (Exodus 20.2).

As well as being an act of faith, ‘Hope in our Future’ is an act of mission. It is an Apostolic act—an act through which we will fulfil our vision ‘To make the Word of God fully known’ to future generations in Brighton Beach.

‘Hope in our Future’ is seeking to raise new gifts of between \$1 million and \$4 million.

Gifts are being invited principally in the form of provision in a will.

At the same time, a gift may also take the form of a donation.

All funds raised by ‘Hope in our Future’ will be invested with the Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation, to be held for the long-term benefit of the Parish of St Peter’s Brighton Beach. Every effort will be made to maintain the capital invested, with capital to be touched only in exceptional circumstances, and only under the authority of the Archbishop in Council in conjunction with the churchwardens.

Funds will be invested in the Anglican Funds Endowment (or Growth) Fund.

Gifts made to ‘Hope in our Future’ are not subject to assessment by the diocese.

The target return on the Growth Fund is CPI + 4.5%.

The net annual return on funds invested will be made available to the parish each year. This new income stream will be used for the purpose of:

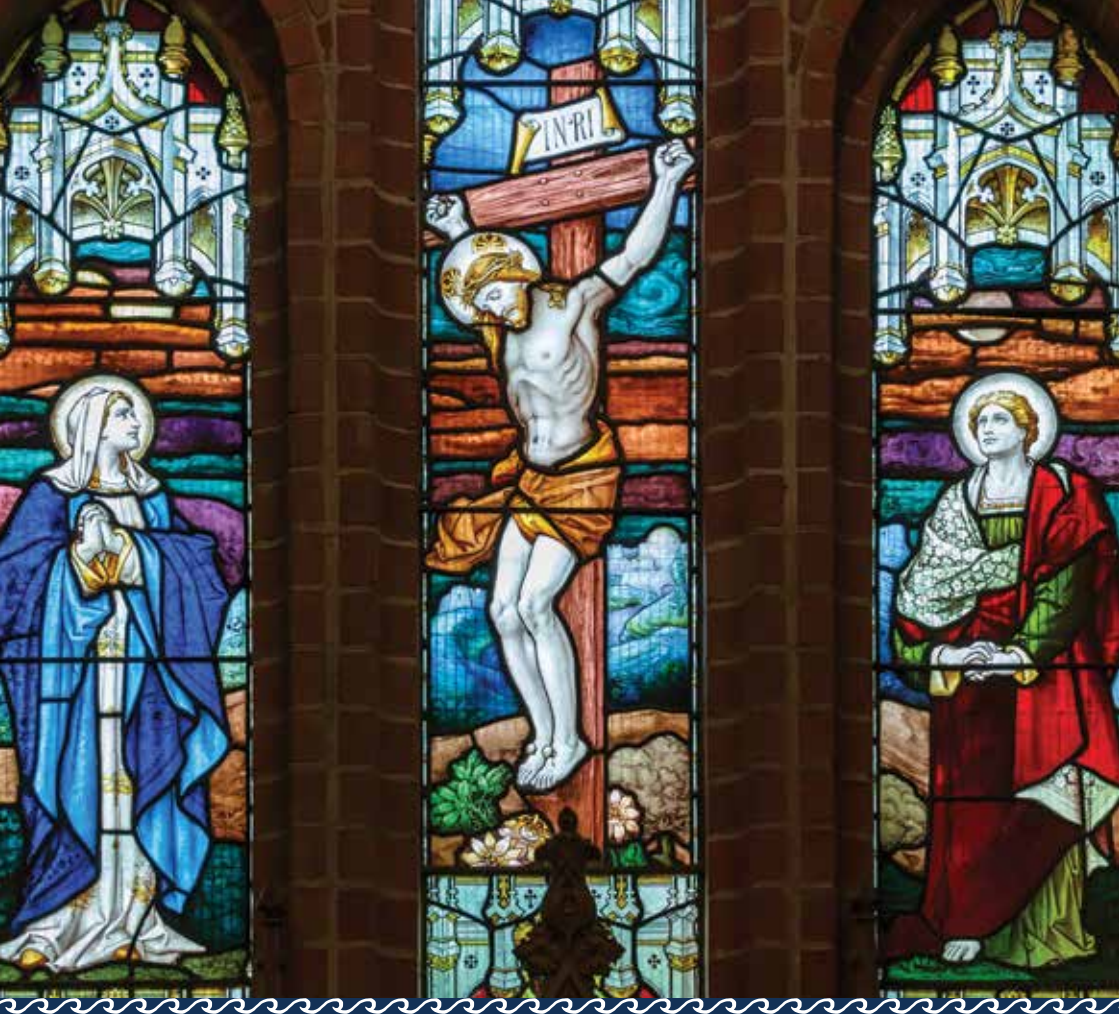
- ♦ returning the parish budget to a surplus position on an ongoing basis
- ♦ investing in new ministry and mission for the future
- ♦ administering the parish in an efficient and effective way.

The return of the parish budget to the black, after a long history of budget deficits, will be liberating for the parish and will provide a new, sustainable funding base for its future ministry and mission. New investment in ministry and mission will enable the parish to fulfil its calling, to be a light to future generations of men, women and children who call Brighton Beach their home.



Jesus Christ is the light of the world—the dawn light of the future kingdom of God. Until the kingdom of God comes as a final reality, and God becomes ‘all in all,’ we are sent out on a mission. ‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you,’ Jesus said. We are called to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God in life, deed, word and sign. We are to call others into the kingdom through baptism, repentance and faith. We are to gather God’s people to the very ends of the earth. We are to fulfil our vocation as a ‘new humanity’ in Christ, the light of the nations. Along with other Christian traditions, we are to be a sign and instrument of the future kingdom of God, calling society back to humble dependence on God, a dependence exemplified by Jesus Christ, the Word of God.





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