

# Why we care

## Our Christian foundation

Anglicare Tasmania is a Christian organisation. This means that Christian beliefs are the basis of our organisational decision-making.

1800 243 232  
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# Our Christian foundation

## Why we care

Anglicare Tasmania is a Christian organisation and part of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Tasmania.

Our shared story is about loving and serving the Tasmanian community in the name of Christ. In the early 1980s a small team investigated how the Anglican Church could most helpfully respond to the practical needs of local people. As a result, an organisation was set up to offer financial counselling to Tasmanians struggling with debt and low income. It was the first service of its kind in the state. Due to high demand, financial counselling soon expanded from Hobart to Launceston, Devonport and Burnie. In 1984, Anglicare also began offering crisis accommodation to young people at risk of homelessness.

Today, Anglicare delivers a wide range of services to the Tasmanian community, partners with parishes and schools, and conducts research and advocacy on important social issues.

Anglicare's work has never been about profit or prestige. We have a clear mission, based on a Christian view of the world and our place in it. The work of Anglicare is done in response to God's love.

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***We love because he first loved us.*** (1 John 4:19)

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Jesus' example provides a radically different view of what life is about. His death and resurrection points to a God who shares in our suffering and who is redeeming His world. Jesus came to bring "life in all its fullness" and to show us how deeply we are loved by God.

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***Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*** (Ephesians 5:1)

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Jesus often spent time with those on the fringes of society, showing regard and compassion for those who'd been rejected by others. He instructed his followers to care for the poor, work for justice and protect the vulnerable.

Jesus demonstrated the transformative power of love and urged his disciples to follow the same pattern. The Biblical writer Paul described the extraordinary and unexpected ways of God like this:

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*For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.* (1 Corinthians 1:25-27)

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Jesus explained that serving people regarded as "the least" serves God. We are told to reach out to those experiencing poverty or exclusion:

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*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.* (Matthew 25:35-36)

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## Love in action

### We seek justice:

Justice reflects the character of God. God is passionately concerned with the plight of all who are oppressed by others. God identifies with the vulnerable and takes up their cause, and empowers us to be part of this work:

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*I know that the Lord maintains the cause of the needy, and executes justice for the poor.* (Psalm 140:12)

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The Bible describes a just society as one with clear laws that protect the vulnerable. Jesus' thirst for justice saw him challenge the religious and community leaders of his day:

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*But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.* (Luke 11:42)

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Christians are commanded to seek and uphold justice.

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*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (Micah 6:8)

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### We are respectful

Christian beliefs emphasise the inherent value and dignity of every person. This is because all people are created in God's image.

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*Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...'* (Genesis 1:26)

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*For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.* (Psalm 139:13-14)

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The early Christian church was encouraged to behave respectfully when interacting with others – including people with different backgrounds or beliefs. Jesus also taught about how to treat others and urged us to show respect:

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*In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.* (Matthew 7:12)

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## We are compassionate

The Bible emphasises showing care and concern for others.

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*The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.* (Psalm 145:8-9)

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Compassion is not an easy path. Jesus explained to his followers that it leads to costly sacrifice.

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*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*  
(1 John 3:16-18)

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*'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.'* And, *'Love your neighbour as yourself'.* (Luke 10:27)

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Following Jesus means choosing to lay down our power in order to love others.

## We are hopeful

Jesus experienced the joys and struggles of human existence. In the midst of difficulties, he assured his followers that God's purposes would ultimately prevail:

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*I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!* (John 16:33)

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The Bible has a constant theme of God providing hope and purpose.

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*Lord, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them.* (Psalm 10:17)

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Our hope includes the restoration of people's relationships with God, each other and creation. We watch for and celebrate God's healing of all that is broken.



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**Anglicare, in response to the Christian faith, strives to achieve social justice and to provide the opportunity for people in need to reach the fullness of life.**

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If you would like to know more about Anglicare's Christian foundation, contact our Parish Community Development Worker, Margaret Savage.  
P: (03) 62133656, [m.savage@anglicare-tas.org.au](mailto:m.savage@anglicare-tas.org.au)

Find out more about the spiritual hope and life to the full offered by Jesus at:  
[anglicantas.org.au/overview](http://anglicantas.org.au/overview)

## Statement of belief:

Anglicare Tasmania is an organisation of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Tasmania committed to the basic doctrines of the Christian faith drawn from the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

It is committed to the three ecumenical creeds:

- Apostles Creed
- Nicene Creed
- Athanasian Creed

It is committed to foundational Anglican doctrine, including the 39 Articles, Book of Common Prayer, and the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia and Diocese of Tasmania.

## Anglicare Tasmania affirms:

### Faith

Its faith in God, as One-in-Three-Persons, whose redemptive purpose for the world is revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ.

### Christ

That the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed in word and deed the presence of the Kingdom of God through mission to the world—a calling of people to repentance and belief in the gospel, and to love our neighbour through practical ministry to others and by enabling reconciliation, peace, wholeness and justice.

### Being

God's concern for the whole person, about how people relate to others and the world, and that justice and mercy form the hallmarks of society.

### Needs

That the Bible and Christian tradition recognise the practical and spiritual needs of people in finding fullness of life and that these needs are to be addressed with respect, compassion, justice and hope.

### Presence

The redemptive presence of God in the world.



**Anglicare**TAS

*Choice, support and hope*

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