

Prayer Update No. 29 - Autumn 2018

Dear Friends

We are very blessed to have so many people faithfully pray for ANeW church and All Saints at New Lambton, guided by this three-monthly prayer newsletter. We are commanded to pray in the scriptures - and we know that God hears and answers us!

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” Eph 6:18. “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” 1Jn 5:14. Without prayer, we wouldn’t be in the strong position we are today. On behalf of all of us who worship with All Saints and/or ANeW church, here at New Lambton, I thank you wholeheartedly for your commitment to praying for us. May your 1918 be blessed with good things. Dianne Douglass

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. 1 Peter 3:12a

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL From Arthur Copeman

The remarkable and wonderful matter which I have to report to you is that the ANeW / New Lambton ministries continue to grow. This time five years ago there were about fifty of us who met for ANeW Church in the suburb of Georgetown in Newcastle on a Sunday night at 5pm and there were about thirty people who met on a Sunday morning at 9am in New Lambton Church. I now report that under God and in the power of the Holy Spirit this has grown to an 8.30am congregation which averages over forty people, a 10.30am congregation which averages over ninety people and a 5pm congregation which averages over one hundred people. More than that these people are from all ages and all backgrounds.

The major matter which is before ANeW and New Lambton is to organise together a supporting church structure for this wonderful ministry. It is a matter on which we are spending a lot of time at the present, as it is very important for the future. We are still currently two parishes and are about to hold two parish annual meetings. At these meetings there will be a presentation from people from both parishes about how we might form one renewed parish which with a suitable format for supporting evangelical Anglican ministry here in Newcastle for the future.

Through this prayer letter you will see comments from other members of the ministry team here. I am very grateful to the team and to God for what are now long term ministry colleagues. Cathy Young has been a colleague for over six years, Adam Matthews over five years and Amy Soutter almost five years. These three, along with Kate Rogers, Beck Bishop, Sam Chiswell (youth) and Anabelle, lead remarkable ministries each week. I praise God for them.

Since January 1st I have been funded completely by ANeW and New Lambton and have ceased to be paid for any work for the Diocese of Newcastle. I am the Archdeacon of Newcastle and sit on the Bishop’s Senior Leadership Team. Anabelle and I have also been living in a Diocesan house next to the Cathedral for over seven years, but in mid-April will move to a Church house in New Lambton. We are looking forward to moving, as for both of us all of our ministries are based now in New Lambton and so it is the place we need to be.

Praise God for :

- Seven years of ministry in Newcastle
- The growth in the ministry over that time
- The amazing team who minister alongside me in ANeW and New Lambton
- The provision of the New Lambton facilities to meet in.
- God’s continued raising up of the finances needed to fund ministry
- The support of Bishop Peter Stuart for the ministry

Pray for:

- Wisdom to construct the right church structure to support ministry in Newcastle
- That we would remain faithful to God's word in all things
- That God's word would continue to be faithfully taught across the church ministries
- The Copeman's house move to New Lambton in April
- The relationship between ANeW New Lambton and the Diocese of Newcastle
- Annual Meetings coming up in the second half of March.

I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. Isaiah 48:17

TUESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

The year is now underway with many of the young adults returning for uni. It is exciting to see what God will do in and amongst his people at ANeW in 2018. Pray for us as we seek wisdom and guidance from God in being faithful witnesses in his world.

Praise God for:

- a number of new Christians that we have in our midst. Through personal relationships some friends became Christians last year, which is great news!
- a return to regular growth groups where we can read the bible, seek to be obedient to it and encourage one another.

Pray for:

- good relationships with non-Christians so that we might introduce them to Jesus and his wonderful message of salvation.
- a thorough understanding of the book of Revelation as we study it this year and how it is we are called to live in the world.
- personal holiness in a world seeking to pull us away from God and his word.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jer 29:11

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter

Just like our children, our children's ministry is constantly growing and changing. It is a privilege to be part of God's work in the lives of our children, whether it is to children from our church or those in our community.

Praise and thanks for

- new leaders joining our ministries, others who are stepping up and for faithful leaders who have been serving with us long term.
- supportive leadership is a huge blessing. It is wonderful to have leadership that cares about children and is willing to give practical and ideological support.
- the work that has been done on Safe Ministry as we seek to adapt and apply policies to make our church a safe place for everyone. Particularly thank God for Pamela's efforts and those who assist.

Please Pray

- for the implementation of Safe Ministries procedures so that they we would have safe practices that protect children, and others, and keep the standard of our children's ministry above reproach.
- that children would form strong relationships with their peers, supporting and encouraging one another, while welcoming newcomers and visitors.
- for preschool as they use a new program which, in Term 1, aligns with the primary aged programs. Also, for more assisting leaders to join the team as there are currently none.
- for foresight for: ongoing recruitment of leaders; investing in and supporting our leaders; forward planning as we grow and adapt.

Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven Matt 18:4

THURSDAY Youth and Administration – Anabelle Copeman

Arthur and I rejoice in the safe arrival of a 3rd grandchild. I am now sharing more of my time with family commitments and trips to Sydney.

Sam Chiswell has taken over running the 5pm junior high team, while I continue with the 10.30am school age Kids Church team and administration tasks. I am relieving for other SRE teachers, but have not taken my own classes this year. Arthur and I will be moving to the New Lambton rectory mid-April, which will save us both much travel time.

Praise and thank God:

- for the provision of a great ministry house close to church.
- for the new children in Kids Church (we lost 5 children at end of last year) and a great team committed to loving and teaching the children.
- for Sam Chiswell stepping up to lead Junior High every week, as well as coordinating the Friday night Youth group.
- that Friday Youth is now meeting at New Lambton and able to share resources and have access to the internet and office facilities.

Please pray:

- that our move goes smoothly (we are doing most of it ourselves with church help) and that being onsite will enhance and streamline our opportunities for ministry.
- for Sam Chiswell as he does his teaching internship next term. We will need others to step up to lead on Friday nights.
- for leaders to assist Sam with Junior high on Sunday evenings.
- for a great time of spiritual growth and encouragement for our youth as they go to KYCK in April.
- that we will be able to follow up new people properly as the congregations grow in size.

For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:14

FRIDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT– Cathy Young***Praise and Thanks***

- for my family - Jamie, Jacob & JJ - I just love them all the world and am very thankful for them :)
- for the new Ladies Bible Study out at Fletcher on a Thursday morning.
- for the fortnightly craft group that has started up on Mondays in Fletcher.
- for continued good relationships with people in the Fletcher community.
- that the team of ANeW people (wearing ANeW T-shirts) who assisted at the Carols, had a great impact in the community.
- for small gospel opportunities.
- for Beck and Kate and many other women at church who are such a joy to partner with in gospel prayer and proclamation.

Please Pray

- for “C and K” - that I might have opportunities to speak with them about Jesus.
- that God will raise up a worker to be the pastor of an Anglican Church in Fletcher.
- that Bishop Tyrell Anglican College might be more instrumental in the local carols this year.
- for wisdom and direction for my role which continues to change as the needs change.
- that I will grow in my wisdom, love and knowledge of God and that I will continually fix my eyes on Jesus and be encouraging others to do that also.
- for the Hunter 'Women of Truth' Conference - 26 May. Alli Muscat will be speaking to us from the Psalms.

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. 1 Peter 3:12a

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Kate Rogers

Praise and thanks:

- that TimeOut has started back with great enthusiasm and two new families (more to come ☺). Thanks for the wonderfully loving and faithful Team.
- for the joy and privilege it is to join together around God's Word, and that many of our ladies are part of Growth Groups.
- for the opportunity to be encouraged and challenged at Book Club as we read "Don't Waste Your Life" by John Piper.

Pray for:

- for the TimeOut Team to brightly shine the light of the gospel to families who so need to hear about and experience God's love, grace, and truth.
- for our Growth Groups and their leaders - that we will grow together in God's living and written Word, and "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds". (Heb 10:24)
- for child-minders during our Thursday am ladies' Bible Study (10-12 at the Hall).
- that we will "pray and think and dream and plan and work not to be made much of, but to make much of God in every part of our lives" (John Piper).

Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being. 1 Cor 10:24

SATURDAY OUTREACH AND 10.30am Service - Beck Bishop

Beck's duties include: ministry to the 10.30am women; Mainly Music at New Lambton; ministry at Fletcher: Mainly Music and ladies Craft Group. Beck is also the Newcastle SRE Board Primary Schools Co-ordinator.

Thanks and/or Praise

- very thankful for the 30 children and their families now involved at mainly music New Lambton. Also, the wonderful mainly music team who work together in unity in the Spirit.
- praise God for the opportunity Easter brings to teach the truths of Jesus' saving death and resurrection through mainly music and SRE (School Scripture).
- thankful for the community contacts we have made with a number of women in the Fletcher community through the craft club and that our mainly music team there is forming and getting ready to launch.
- give thanks for the great encouragement Monday night mixed Growth group is at our house, the rich time of fellowship we share over a meal and the studies in Revelation this year.

Prayer

- for extra energy for Beck as she gets all her SRE teams in 5 schools properly trained and authorised, and for all the paperwork this involves.
- Also, for both Mainly Music teams and the Ladies craft club, that Beck can care for everyone well.
- thankful for many great gospel conversations Beck has had recently. May they come to fruit so that many might come to know our loving Saviour Jesus.
- for the SRE co-ordinators lunch, training events, prayer meetings and celebrations, that they would be a time of mutual encouragement in the Lord Jesus.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 95:2

If at any stage, you are praying for ANeW/All Saints and would like an update on prayer points, you are welcome to email Dianne at: ddouglass83@gmail.com