

Prayer Update No. 33- Autumn 2019

Dear Friends

Where do the days go – it's only seven weeks until Easter yet it doesn't seem long since this year began! It makes me think of verse 12, Psalm 90; 'Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom'. I pray that we might all continue in seeking God's wisdom as to how to spend our days here in the world. I thank you friends that you find time to pray for All Saints ANeW in the busyness of your lives. Blessings to you all. Dianne

Search me God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts, see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Ps 139:23

MONDAY *CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL – Arthur Copeman*

There is first of all much to praise and thank God for:

- The amazing and wonderful Gospel of grace in the Lord Jesus, by which we are made right with God and then sustained in the Christian life and which has led and sustained our church.
- The remarkable staff team at church, whose prayer points you can see listed below. They are a great group to work alongside and they continually put the Gospel first in their lives.
- The fact that on 10th March ANeW and New Lambton Parish will form one Anglican Parish – All Saints ANeW, with a quite radical governance structure for an Anglican Church.
- The commencement on 3rd February of a congregation meeting in the suburb of Fletcher. This work has been co-ordinated by Jamie and Cathy Young, with assistance from Bob Rothwell and Ian Copland.
- The appointment of Donna McCann as the Administration Co-ordinator for All Saints ANeW. For some time we have been aware that the administration side of the church is no longer supporting the ministry as it should. Donna's appointment to co-ordinate administration assists greatly with this.
- Many very positive changes to the culture and operation of the Diocese of Newcastle, which have been led by our Bishop, Peter Stuart.

I would then ask for your prayers for the following:

- The final pieces of the process of commencing the fresh parish of All Saints ANeW, including the sale of a seven unit retirement village which New Lambton Parish has operated for nearly thirty years.
- The celebration of the fresh parish with Bishop Peter Stuart on 10th March.
- The Church plant in the suburb of Fletcher. I will be leading this from 10th March onwards and leaving Adam Matthews and Sam Broadfoot to lead the 5pm congregation at New Lambton.
- Our Growth Groups have been asked to consider how to share the gospel with their friends this year – pray that each of these groups would see ways of undertaking this.
- Amy Soutter, with husband Nick, and daughter Emma, as Amy expects a second child in early July and then maternity leave.
- Our church annual meeting on Saturday 30th March.

TUESDAY *NEW TEAM MEMBER – Sam Broadfoot*

Having just joined ANeW in January, I've been greatly encouraged in each of the spheres I'm involved in; 5pm congregation, Youth group, and Growth groups. There is a real unity of purpose to each ministry: helping people encounter Jesus in his word.

Praise and thanks

- Youth group started strong with 19 high-schoolers coming for our first night; many keen to meet and read the Bible during the week too.
- Growth Group leaders enjoyed the recent training night, and shared wisdom about starting groups well.

Please pray that

- Our term 2 Growth Group leader course would sharpen our current leaders, and train five new leaders to share the load.
- KYCK (April 12-14) would yield fruit among our youth: conversion for our fringe members, and spurring our maturer youth on to joyful service in the gospel.
- 5pm congregation would adjust well to a pastoral change, as Arthur focuses on the Fletcher-plant while Adam and I lead 5pm.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

WEDNESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

Praise and thank God for:

- the excitement of a new year with new faces and new groups forming.
- those taking on a greater leadership role in various ministries at church including YA growth groups.

Pray for

- our outward focus. We have committed to setting aside every 5th or 6th week to spend time with our non-Christian friends. Please pray that this would be a fruitful time of speaking about Jesus.
- new young adults joining us (or now finishing school) that they would grow in love and knowledge of Christ and be conformed to his image.
- those taking on more leadership in growth groups that God would grow and sustain them as they lead.
- the 5pm congregation – that as Arthur moves to focus more on Fletcher, God would continue to work amongst us as his people, helping us to love and serve one another.

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter

We have had a wonderful start to 2019 with children transitioning up to new groups, a keenness amongst junior leaders and some wonderful initiatives from our team leader.

Praise and thanks for:

- adaptable leaders taking great care of the children transitioning.
- the enthusiasm of the visiting kids who are eager to return.
- the team leaders whom God has provided for each of our children's ministries, particularly for Clare Chiswell who has taken on Team Leading Preschool.
- a supportive church - from new people getting involved in our kids' talks to church leadership which values children in practical ways.

Pray:

- that children will be welcoming of new and visiting children, and use the opportunity this provides for them to live out their faith.
- for the leaders to be raised up who will be blessed and encouraged by serving our children. There are spaces for more leaders in all children's ministries particularly at the church plant in Fletcher.
- for God's protection over all our children's ministries: that leaders would have rest and walk closely with our Father; foresight in planning and training so that ministries would thrive in God's strength; that children would be safe.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov 3:5

THURSDAY YOUTH and ADMINISTRATION – Anabelle Copeman

After a peaceful January, I am looking forward to the term ahead. Sam Broadfoot has taken over supervising the youth ministry. While I am supervising our Year 13 trainee (Isabelle Cox), my focus has shifted to Retirees' Ministry. I am putting a team in place to lead a Growth Group with an outward focus. We are starting with a morning tea on 11th February and encouraging new people to join the group. I will also be taking 2 SRE classes this term and will continue to lead the 10.30am Kids' Church team. I am hoping to pass on some of my admin functions shortly.

Praise & Thanks for:

- a spiritually and physically refreshing break at CMS Summer School.
- the wonderfully committed Kids' Church leaders and the 2 trainee leaders we have this term.

Please Pray:

- for the refreshed ministry to retirees: that new people to church will find a place to connect and be encouraged in faith.
- that the new leadership group will work well together and move the group forward.
- that the studies in the parables this term will be an encouragement to both long time Christians and those newer to the faith.

Our Year 13 Trainee Isabelle Cox

- that she will settle quickly into the new role.
- that her PTC studies would be a great grounding in bible knowledge.
- that she will gain many practical ministry skills.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. Isaiah 42:3

FRIDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT – Kate Rogers

Praise and thanks:

- to the "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments". (Neh 1:5)

Paul Tripp notes that "We were created for dependency, first on God, and then on one another in loving community"

- As we start back into regular meetings (Growth Groups, TimeOut, Book Club, one-to-one Bible reading and praying), I am so thankful for the riches God so freely gives us every day, and for the people He has placed in our lives!

Pray:

- that we will, individually and together, be increasingly and prayerfully shaped by God's Word and Spirit so that we are:
 - growing in knowledge and love of Him.
 - serving His people faithfully and lovingly.
 - sharing and showing the gospel to those who don't yet know Jesus.
 - rejoicing in His presence, promises, principles and provisions.
 - seeking God's heart for His gospel, His church and His world.
 - being used by Him to further His planswhich all revolve around Jesus 😊
 - walking in Christ Lord, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith (the gospel!), and overflowing with thankfulness. (Col 2:6-7).

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

SATURDAY OUTREACH and 10.30am SERVICE – Beck Bishop

"Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but Gods" 2 Chronicles 20:15

In all circumstances it is great to be reminded that our living God is the victor.

Praise and Thanks:

- for Growth Groups and that we can get to know each other well, pray for each other and encourage each other in the Word and the Lord.
- that we still have the opportunity to have SRE in our local Public schools and that there are really dedicated teachers who love Jesus and their classes.

- We have had so many new families at mainly music at New Lambton and Fletcher and they are really keen to get to know us and be part of this part of Church community.
- for connections made with Fletcher community through mainly music, ladies craft group and the BTAC Carols.

Pray:

- Continue to pray for more leaders for mainly music team at Fletcher.
- There is a really big need for SRE teachers for Public Schools in the inner city of Newcastle.
- that Beck might be able to manage her two part time jobs well - with Church and SRE. That she might care for volunteer leaders, community members, SRE teachers and Church members well. That all might grow to maturity in Christ.

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

SUNDAY *Michael Marklew – Minister at St Paul's Church Stockton*

Hello Friends and All Saints ANeW,

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support. I am always delighted to hear how God is blessing ministry at New Lambton and we very much appreciate and need your prayers.

Praise and Thanks

- **Summer Club** - Our 3-day annual summer club went ahead in January and was a great success. Last year some 12 children attended but only 2 were local, this year we had 22 children every day and only a couple were not from Stockton! Please give thanks to the 15 volunteers who helped with the program and for the trust that we are gaining in the community.
- **Christmas Carols** – Your prayers almost completely filled the Church for our first Carols event! Your Harry, well I think he is Stockton's Harry now :) did most of the planning and lead the band. Every song, talk and word spoken proclaimed Christ and it was wonderful. I think everyone left walking on a cloud.
- **Community** – The community can be a nebulous word as there are many communities within a community. However, we must give great thanks to the way the community here has warmed to our Church, particularly over the past 6 months. While we are not without those who knock us (including some rather horrible signs being put on our fence of late), in large, everywhere I turn now, people are extremely welcoming and over the moon with everything we have been doing here. Teachers at the school, parents and people on the street, people from other Churches, shop keepers and many more, love what is happening here and want to be part of it.

Prayer Requests

- **Breeze JR** - Under Harry's leadership and with Alison's support we are starting a Youth Group for Junior High (school years 5-8) in March. Please be praying for volunteers, that this ministry would glorify God and that it would grow.
- **Home Groups** - Please be praying that our home groups would be well attended and that 3 more would be established this year.
- **Sunday Services** – In some ways, Church in Stockton seems to take a back seat to the beach, the super cars, toy runs and many more events that fill Stockton in the Summer months (we had a number of Sundays where people couldn't actually get into Stockton!). Many who dropped away during this time have already started to come back but please be praying that more will return and that gathering as the people of God (everywhere) would become a bigger priority in people's lives.
- **Finances** – The parish has taken a big hit on its finances – due to a major and completely unexpected event. Please pray God would use this for his glory and that He would continue to grow the ministries here.
- **My Family** – It feels strange (perhaps humbling) to ask for personal prayers, but we certainly need them. Please be praying that I would be diligent and consistent in taking time off ministry, that we would be sustained in everything we do and for protection from the work of the enemy.

Your brother in Christ, Michael Marklew, St Paul's, Stockton

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

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