

Prayer Update No. 27 - Spring 2017

Dear Friends

May I suggest that you pause for a moment, and praise our mighty God before commencing to pray through this Spring prayer update. We praise you Father God - so mighty and amazingly great as you rule over us? You are sovereign and we worship you for who you are. What an awesome God we have!

We have some new contributions to this prayer update from Kate, Beck and Teresa. Your prayers are so important and we greatly value your ongoing commitment to pray for ANeW and All Saints.

Thanks, from us all at New Lambton. Dianne Douglass

And this is the confidence we have toward him, that if we ask for anything according to his will, he hears us. John 5:14

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL

From Arthur Copeman:

Dear Friends,

At ANeW we greatly appreciate your prayer for us. The last prayer letter indicated that I was stepping back from Diocesan work here in Newcastle to focus on the ANeW - New Lambton ministry. This has happened and has had advantages, although I have continued to be focused outside ANeW - New Lambton on the following, for which I would also value prayer:

- Work for the national Anglican Church as a member of the Executive of the Standing Committee of the General Synod and a member of the Anglican Consultative Council.
- Assisting to upgrade the system of Professional Supervision of the Clergy of the Diocese.
- I continue to be the Archdeacon for the City of Newcastle and this has had very little of my time over the last nine months. Pray that I would be able to give it more attention.

With ANeW - New Lambton, there are also three major prayer points:

- The church has grown to the point where we need to further increase the staff. Pray that God would raise up the right Gospel focused people to come and join us in this ministry.
- We are in the process of bedding down a joint ministry of ANeW - New Lambton. There are a few more steps to clarify this. Pray that this would be well bedded down by the end of the year.
- On the last weekend of November, the Diocese of Newcastle will be electing a new Bishop. Pray that God would raise up the right person for this task and, in particular, a person who will support and encourage the ANeW - New Lambton ministry. *Thanks again for your prayers.*

Assistant Minister - Michael Marklew

I thank God for being a part of such a wonderful community, and particularly for the love and support my family has received during the difficult months of Alison's hospitalisation. As an assistant, I not only enjoy a wide range of ministries, but continue to learn and grow by being a part of the ministries of so many amazing people. Please continue to pray that I develop further, as a minister in God's Church with particular emphasis on the following:

Special Religious Education

Scripture in Schools is a wonderful ministry and often the highlight of my week.

- Please pray for additional patience, extra skill in classroom management and that students would continue to transfer from ethics classes into scripture.
- On a more general note, please also pray for more people to step out and be a part of this important ministry.

Sunday Night Junior High

We are blessed to have so many young people in our Church.

- Please pray for all our youth and children's ministries, but specifically for our Junior High group that meet on Sunday nights during the service. We ask that through meeting and opening Gods word together, that a close community would build and our young teenagers would engage more deeply with scripture.

Preaching

- Please pray for faster sermon preparation and that God would continue to develop me in this ministry.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32:8

TUESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY - Adam Matthews

Thank you for your prayers for this ministry. The young adults group continues to grow and evolve - please be in prayer that we would continue to witness to those around us and testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Praise God for:

- the young adult retreat to "Retreat" in Gunnedah. It was a great time with each other and looking at the book of Revelation. We were challenged to "follow the lamb wherever he goes" as we seek to be faithful witnesses in our world.
- the opportunity to work with Gloucester Anglican with some young adults heading there to preach towards the end of this year and onto next year. Please be in prayer for the preachers and the church.
- our "manuscript discovery" study on Genesis 1-11. Praise God for the way we have seen afresh God's word and his plan of salvation for the world.

Pray for:

- continue to pray that we would be focussed on our small group Bible studies and that we would not simply know more about the Bible, but by knowing God more, we would be transformed more and more into the image of his Son.
- the young adults as they navigate university and/or work in a changing culture. That they would be well equipped to answer those around them as to why they believe what they believe.
- myself that I would be able to balance well, preaching and mentoring young adult men each week.

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life. Romans 8:6

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Amy Soutter

Once again, we have abundant reason to praise our God.

- our wonderfully dedicated teams. Kid's church and KFC leaders continue to build box walls for our Nehemiah unit, come up with interactive technology for our Pre-schoolers and teach our Crèche children to interact in ways that please God.
- for Pamela with whose help our Safe Ministry practices and policies are under way.
- that Time Out families are joining our church family and others are enjoying the much-needed support this ministry provides.
- for the growth in maturity of our children, and numbers as well.
- for the opportunity to teach Special Religious Education (SRE) in our local schools and for those who champion this ministry.
- the opportunity to host Kidswise training.

As we serve our children please pray:

- our Teams would continue to be faithful to our God and to the children in their care.

- for new recruits to join us. There is a constant need for more team members as life situations change and people have to leave our children's ministry, and to keep up with growth.
- for the implementation of our Safe Ministry practices and the protection of children (and vulnerable people).
- wisdom and sensitivity for SRE teachers.
- for parents, grandparents and significant others as they role model faith in the midst of life.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13

THURSDAY *Youth and Administration - Anabelle Copeman*

The highlight of the last few months has been our Compassion Partnership trip. Before we went, we had 6 sessions learning about poverty and how as God's people we can best respond. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more of the work of Compassion, meet church leaders and project staff, and visit 17 children, mostly sponsored by people from our church. We have confirmed a follow-up trip in 2019 and hope to build long term partnership.

In the coming 2 months, we have Cityserve at Lambton public school and our church weekend away. Organising these events is my major focus as well as following up new people at the 10.30am service. The new software system is very helpful in these tasks.

Praise God for:

- the blessing it has been to all church members to have a group go to Manado, Indonesia with Compassion.
- easier management of my SRE classes. The school has been more helpful.
- time spent with grandchildren.

Please pray for:

- City serve on 23rd September, that we would be a blessing to our local community and God would open doors for the gospel message.
- Weekend away that I might be able to use our new software effectively to organise this and all admin tasks would happen smoothly. Also for enough children's/youth leaders as there will be more children this year.
- New people at church, that they will make connections and settle quickly and grow in their love of Jesus.
- Our Youth: The year 6 children will join the Friday night group next term. Please pray that we will raise up more youth leaders for Friday and Sunday nights, and that our youth will mature into contributing adult believers.

Administration - Teresa Charchalis

Thanks & Praise to God :

- for how He is growing our church and all the ministries across the congregations.
- that in developing the new website, it will reflect who we are, our love for our Lord Jesus and for one another, and help people understand what our church community is about.
- that the new website would be a helpful guide to newcomers who may not know Jesus, or who are looking into the claims of Jesus, and what it means to belong to a church.
- in approaching us in person to learn more about what it means to be in a relationship with God.

Come to me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Matt 11:28

FRIDAY *WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT- Cathy Young*

Praise :

TimeOut continues to go well

- we are full with mothers and children on the waiting list
- we continue to be building good relationships with mums in the community
- the Christian mums in the group are wonderful with those that don't yet know Jesus
- we have had some families come to church recently; some of the ladies are coming to our Evangelistic Spring High Tea
- we have an incredibly awesome team that love and serve Jesus faithfully every week.

SWAT (Servant Women Assistant Trainees)

- we (nine of us) are currently working through "The Vine Project" - it's brilliant!
- the Women at ANeW & New Lambton are wonderful, eager, godly women.
- Kate Rogers is now on staff 2.5 days per week - YAY.

Women's Ministry

- Thank God for many capable and godly women.
- Thanks and praise in particular for Kate & Beck.

Pray for :

TimeOut

- the families coming to church from TimeOut - that they might come into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- the Spring High Tea - that those women coming also might hear of God's "Extravagant Love" and turn back to Him.
- for extra helpers for the children's team.

SWAT

- me to finish the "official" training well with Robyn and Kate.
- the nine of us to continue to grow in our love and knowledge of Jesus.
- wisdom and direction for next year.

Women's Ministry

- for us to establish every woman well in Christ

The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Kate Rogers

Praise and thanks for :

- God's saving, sustaining and sufficient grace.
- women being mutually encouraged by each other's faith as they spend time together in God's Word and prayer.
- the loving, prayerful and very practical support shown by our ladies to many who have been struggling with serious health issues.....and answered prayer in those situations.
- the readily available and precious gift of the Bible (thankful for the Reformation!)

Evangelising

Pray for :

- the Spring High Tea on September 16th and the one hundred women who will be at this event!
- for Carolyn Burgess as she shares about God's "Extravagant Love", and that God brings ladies who will hear the gospel and respond in faith.
- for effective follow-up and discipling of those ladies.

Establishing

Praise for :

- the studies in James our Growth Groups have worked through, challenging us to be practically living out our faith.
- Book Club where we were greatly encouraged and inspired by "7 Women" (Metaxis), and challenged to spend time in 1 Chronicles (not so well known!) discovering God's faithfulness to His promises, people and purposes.

Pray :

- that our next book "Spiritual Mothering" will inspire "older women to encourage and equip younger women to live for God's glory" and that together with the studies in Titus, our growth groups have done/will do, a culture of "*women mentoring women*" will develop and grow.
- for willing *and* available carers to mind pre-schoolers during our Thursday morning Bible Study.

Equipping

Both Ladies' Bible Study groups have worked through the Two Ways To Live training program these last two terms :

Pray :

- that this will continue to equip and embolden us in *the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace (Acts 20:24)*.
- for faithful teaching of the Scriptures that are able to *thoroughly equip us for every good work*.

Serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you 1 Chron 28:9

SATURDAY OUTREACH AND 10.30am Service - Beck Bishop

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3: 12-14

S R E

- Give thanks for recent promotional opportunity at Wallsend Winter Fair- great conversations with caregivers and children about SRE and its benefits.
- thankful that the Sydney EU mission team coming in November is again involved in Christmas assemblies at many local and inner city primary schools. Pray that as preparations all the background details will fall into line and that schools would be accommodating.

Mainly Music

- be thankful for the many new families who are attending
- pray that they might find a real sense of belonging.
- praise that we could celebrate Father's Day with a night time Mainly Music and BBQ.
- pray we might get to know whole families and serve them well.
- be thankful for our wonderful, servant hearted mm team.

Christmas evangelistic Women's event:

- give thanks for those willing to serve by using their craft skills to teach new skills on the day.
- pray that God would raise up a clear speaker to impart the truths of the gospel on this day.

Praises to our God

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