

Prayer Update No. 31 - Spring 2018

Dear Friends

Spring is in the air again and new life will soon be apparent all over the place. Let us cry out to God for our farmers well-being. By the time you read this, let's assume that the much-needed rain has fallen everywhere that's desperate for it and then we can praise and thank the Lord. Of course, we can and should praise Him at all times no matter what the situation. Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. Hebrews 13:15 Dianne Douglass

I, the Lord do not change. Malachi 3:6

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL – Arthur Copeman

We are in the midst of a process of forming one fresh 'Parish' from the Parishes of New Lambton and ANeW. This Sunday, 23rd September, there will be major presentations to all three Sunday congregations which will lead to special Parish meetings on 14th October to finalise the arrangements. This also needs to be approved by the Diocesan Council. The intention is that in November the new Parish of 'All Saints ANeW' will be launched.

You might wonder why we are joining to form this new Parish. Three critical reasons:

1. We have become one ministry and so we need one supporting structure for that ministry.
2. For the ministry to grow further we need a fresh supporting structure which is different to the existing ones and we are taking the opportunity to put that in place.
3. Under God it is our intention to plant churches elsewhere around Newcastle and we need a solid base from which to do this.

We are also praising God that we are in the process of finalising the appointment of another full time member of staff for next year. The person coming will greatly assist with ministry at New Lambton.

The present combined New Lambton/ANeW Church Council have then asked me to look for another full time minister, who would live in the suburb of Fletcher and lead the church plant in that place.

I continue to spend some time as Archdeacon of Newcastle, which involves a weekly meeting with the Bishop and other Diocesan Senior Staff and some work in local parishes, as well as some work for the General Synod.

For your prayers:

- Praise God that we have a new member of staff keen to join the team in 2019.
- Praise God for the hard work put in by Church Council members in getting us ready to launch the fresh parish.
- Praise God for the many Diocesan structural reforms being led by our Bishop, Peter Stuart, with his goal of having a Diocese which is 'Flourishing by Grace'.
- Pray for the presentations this Sunday to the congregations about 'All Saints ANeW' and the special Parish meetings on 14th October, that God might lead us through this to an improved governance and management structure for the ministry.
- Pray that I would balance my time well between the variety of aspects of the ministry and the role as Archdeacon.
- Pray that another full time minister would be found to join the team and lead the Church Plant in Fletcher.
- Pray that God's hand would continue to be upon the ministry team as it develops and changes over the next few months.

Arthur Copeman

I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings.

Philippians 3:10

TUESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY – Adam Matthews

We have spent the year in Revelation in young adults' groups. It was a long haul but we got there in the end and what was mostly a foreign book for many is now a little more familiar. Understanding the world that we live in from the point of view in the Bible has been helpful in thinking about how we should live.

Praise and thank God for:

- finishing our Revelation study! Praise God for the focus we have on the new creation and that the old order of things will pass away.
- the way that God continues to mature existing members and brings new people into our midst.

Pray for

- the evangelism course that we are about to start. Pray that it will help us to think about and put into practice, evangelism to those God puts in our path. Pray that this could become the 'culture' of ANeW.
- those in our group struggling with pressures of work, study and life situations. Pray that they would know God's sovereignty in whatever situation they encounter.
- My trip to Israel in late September and early October as part of an MA programme – that God might use that time to deepen my knowledge of the Scriptures and care for my family (Steph and Ani) while I am away.

Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter

Children's Ministry at All Saints/ANeW Church continues to grow and develop much like our children. We are grateful for the children God has given us and the opportunities to minister to them and their families.

Praise and thanks for:

- the variety of people who participate in our children's talks.
- the encouraging responses to our request for leaders and equipment.
- our leaders who are powering on through Term 3 (i.e. Winter).
- wonderful Team Leaders who enable ministry to flourish.
- children serving other children which beautifully embodies the body of Christ.
- children who have understood the grace of God and are keen to witness to their parents, family and friends and challenge their Christian peers.

Pray for:

- children and families to feel they belong at ANeW and come regularly to grow (or join another church and grow there).
- God to supply the right leaders to guide our children and be edified by it.
- our church to be a safe place for children, and adults, physically, spiritually and emotionally.

THURSDAY YOUTH and ADMINISTRATION – Anabelle Copeman

Arthur and I are very thankful for a refreshing time away on long service leave. We were able to see many interesting sites, learn a lot of history and get plenty of exercise.

I am enjoying being more involved with our young mums this year, helping with TimeOut on Tuesdays and co-leading a young mums' growth group on Thursdays.

I continue with admin, leading the 10.30am kids' church team and relief SRE teaching. Living on site is making our ministry so much easier.

Things I am co ordinating at present are our **Compassion Partnership** trip to Manado next year, our **weekend away** in October and our **City serve** project at Lambton School in September.

Praise & Thanks for:

- a great break away.
- a fantastic ministry house onsite, which gets winter sun!! (the other house was like a fridge) and opportunity to show more hospitality.
- technology which streamlines administration

Please Pray that:

- I will grow in my ability to use Elvanto for admin tasks.
- the Compassion trip, weekend away and Cityserve, wouldn't just be projects, but activities that bring gospel growth.
- I will be faithful in preparation and God will use this whenever I am leading or teaching
- for a male leader for kids' church (Kinder to school year 4). We have lots of boys and are one leader short, which puts pressure on our wonderful team.

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

FRIDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Kate Rogers

Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. (Prov 22:17-18)

Praise & Thanks for:

- the joy and privilege that it is to church together.
- the many godly and gifted ladies in our church who so joyfully and willingly give of themselves in service to God and His church.
- the faithful and loving TimeOut Team, and praise for new recruits
- studies in *Jonah* and *1 Peter* that our Ladies' Growth Groups have been working through, helping us better understand God's sovereignty and our suffering.
- Book Club and "*Daring to Hope*", which reminded us of God's goodness and faithfulness, and encouraged us "to cling to the only One who remains constant in all our circumstances", so that "His unfailing love becomes our courage and our hope."
- the Spring High Tea – Last Saturday at this event Susan Ravenhall spoke on "*What's in a Name*" and gave a very clear gospel message with around 140 women present. It was a great afternoon and there were many ladies present who are not members of any church.

Pray for:

- the follow up to the Spring High Tea, that God will be continuing to work in the hearts and lives of those ladies who attended to draw them to Himself
- for effective follow-up and **discipling** of those ladies.
- a *Christianity Explored* or *Simply Christianity* **course** to run next term for ladies seeking to know more about Jesus.
- our Growth Groups and their leaders - to be growing in love and knowledge of Jesus, and mutually encouraging each other in our faith.
- child-minders during our Thursday am ladies' Bible Study (10-12 at the Hall).
- the TimeOut Team to continue building good relationships with mums in the community, and having opportunities for gospel chats.

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

SATURDAY OUTREACH and 10.30am SERVICE – Beck Bishop

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..... 1 Peter 3:15

In recent months there has been so many opportunities at Fletcher and New Lambton to get to know families in the community who don't yet know Jesus.

Praise and Thanks for:

- the recent Father's Day mainly music BBQs at Fletcher and New Lambton. They were wonderful opportunities to meet and show generosity to the Fathers of our mainly music children.
- the 10.30 congregation, our Growth groups, our Kid's Church and other opportunities to fellowship.
- that we can be an encouragement to each other to grow in maturity in Jesus.
- the recent opportunity Beck was involved in promoting SRE at the Wallsend Winter Fair - offering free Kid's Craft.
- all the invitations to the Spring High Tea recently handed out. Pray that many might come.

Pray for:

- Kate Rogers as she co-ordinates follow up to our Spring High Tea.
- continue to pray for gospel openings in conversations at mainly music and the Ladies' Craft Club.
- continue to pray for more SRE teachers in schools across this region.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Psalm 34:7

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

Hello Friends & New Lambton ANeW,

While ministry is not without difficulty and conflict, your prayer is a constant companion and of great encouragement to us. Much has changed since our last update. Please give thanks for Alpha, mainly music and a creche that is now up and running. God's Church in Stockton is growing, and the community is certainly taking notice in both positive and negative ways. Another 10% has been added to our numbers with an average of 60 people attending Sunday services now (plus 30 or so at mainly music). Three new families from the local community joined us last Sunday alone - one came to Alison's home group the following day with her 4-year-old and went home with a Bible and excitement to read God's word! Another one Alison is meeting up with today and the 3rd family I am meeting up with on Monday. Please be praying that we can be part of their continued journey to fullness in Christ.

Main Prayer Points.

- **Alpha** still has 3 weeks to go so please be praying that we finish well. Also, be praying for the next Alpha to start in February next year and particularly that some of the current guests would join the team and invite their friends.
- **Mainly Music** is going gang busters so please be praying for those who lead and help and that we can sustain the growth and be able to welcome the families well and integrate them into the life of the faith community.
- **Home Groups.** Please continue to pray that they are a place of Christ centered learning and maturity, that more people would join the groups and that 2 more would be established by the end of this year.
- **Space and Facilities.** Our prayers have certainly been answered in this regard with the completion of a large fenced area, a mother's room, carpet in the hall and a mobile divider. Much of which was thanks to the leadership and work of Jo & Dom (not to mention Alison who looked after up to 9 children for 3 full days straight, while the work was underway). Jo, Dom & their 3 children will soon be joining you on Sunday nights when nippers starts so please welcome them like you did my family and be praying for our loss (although we pray to see them again once nippers finishes!).
- **Local community groups.** Some local community groups are struggling with the Church's re-focus on Evangelism, Christian outreach and Gospel preaching, so please be praying that the truth would shine through any conflict and that the Holy Spirit would bring wisdom to all of us in managing the situation and particularly that they would be prevented from doing damage to ministry here.
- **Protection** from the work of the enemy whose influence is wide and far reaching is a constant prayer point. Please be praying that people do not get discouraged in the trials and that we focus on the wonderful work and the fruit that God is developing right before our eyes.

We are most thankful for your prayers.

Your Brother in Christ, Michael Marklew - St Paul's Stockton

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