



Prayer Update No. 20 - LATE Summer 2016

Dear Friends

This prayer letter should have been with you early December and it is now nearly February - thank you so much for your prayers for our Church. This is how Dianne Douglass introduced the prayer letter in December:

How God has blessed ANeW this year! It is so encouraging and comforting to know that we have such reliable prayer cover thanks to all our faithful, praying friends. We are humbled by your willingness and so grateful for your prayers. Thank you all. It makes a tremendous difference. Let's all offer praise and thanks to our Great Faithful God. May Almighty God bless you and yours in a very special way this Christmas.

Dianne

CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL - Monday

Praise God for:-

- A great church weekend away last October with over one hundred of us looking together at the letter to the Ephesians.
- Those from the original Parish of New Lambton, who are now ministering with us in many different ways and making a significant contribution to church life.
- The four children born to church members in the last twelve months (and one more on the way!).
- The servant heartedness of those in our church.
- The continued support of the Bishops and Diocese of Newcastle for this ministry.
- His continual daily sustaining of all of us on the staff team at ANeW.

Pray for:-

- A greater desire across our church to reach out with the Gospel to those who do not know the Lord Jesus.
- our 'evangelical' focus - that we would keep listening to what the Bible says to us.
- Continued good relationships with surrounding Anglican churches.
- Wisdom from God to know how the church should develop in the future.
- More prayerful hearts and greater dependence on Almighty God.

SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH - Tuesday

Praise God for:-

- The way the morning children's ministry has grown with natural births and families joining us. This is mostly crèche age children, but will shortly need to have a preschool focussed teaching programme. A crèche team was established term 4 last year, with Anna Billington joining as a trainee.
- The way the morning music team has been able to move forward even with our original two musicians heading to Sydney Missionary and Bible College and work in Sydney.
- The general growth in numbers and servant heartedness of those attending.
- For the great developing relationships between the new congregation at New Lambton and the congregations that have met in that church for some time.

Pray for:-

- Those who have joined us. That they will quickly feel part of this ministry and know how they can contribute to its future.
- Wisdom about future developments for this congregation.
- Wisdom for those charged with looking at possible changes to the church building to better suit ministry.
- All members of this congregation to be in Growth Groups each week in 2016.
- the establishment of a pre-school team for the morning congregation to work beside the crèche team.

SUNDAY EVENING CHURCH Wednesday

Praise God for:-

- KFC - Kids for Christ - our ministry to children which occurs on Sunday evening - for the growth in this ministry and the blessing the children are in so many ways.
- The two music teams who lead us week by week.
- The parish of Lambton and their generosity in enabling us to use their building on a Sunday night.

Pray for:-

- This congregation as it enters its fifth year - that God would enable us to keep the ministry fresh.
- Continued faithful teaching of God's Word in all aspects of this ministry.
- All members of this congregation to be in Growth Groups each week in 2016.

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY - Thursday

(Adam Matthews)

Adam continues to focus on ministry to young adults in both our morning and evening congregations. The Young Adults ministry continues to change and to grow with new people constantly coming to visit the Group and with many of them joining us.

Praise God for:

- the birth of baby Ani Grace Matthews to Steph and Adam on 23rd of November.
- the continuing influx of new young adults to our church.

Pray:

- for Steh and Adam as they adjust to the changes baby Ani is bringing to their lives.
- that we would be able to grow and disciple all of these younger adults in their faith.
- that relationships with each other would strengthen and that we might continue to encourage one another in the faith.
- that our Bible studies in 2016 will grow our understanding of Jesus and what He continues to do and to teach in the world.
- for a deeper understanding of how vital mission is.

KIDS MINISTRY - Friday

Amy Soutter

(Amy and Nick had a beautiful daughter Emma Lucy on 4th January - praise God for this and pray for Amy, Nick & Emma as they develop together as a family.

Amy Soutter will be on maternity leave for the first half of 2016 Amy has successfully delegated her current tasks to a number of volunteers for that period of time. Amy will return to minister with us some time in the second half of the year and at that stage a new job description will be prepared to suit her role as both the children's ministry co-ordinator and as a mother.

As mentioned above Children's ministry continues to grow in depth, numbers and leadership so we have much for which to praise God.

At 'Time Out', (our Tuesday morning programme for mothers and pre-schoolers) the Little Timers continue to enjoy learning, recalling stories, grace and songs. As the number of children increases, with predicted growth in 2016, we need more helpers who are available on a weekly basis.

Praise & Thanks for :

- providing Heidi Wood to coordinate KFC in 2016 and for her giftedness, willingness and God's timing.
- Denise leading the Little Timers (ie; the Time Out kids).
- Denise's initiative in recruiting regular carers and God's goodness in supplying the right people.
- the Scripture Christmas Assemblies hosted in schools across the area by the Student Team from Sydney University as well as our own ANeW Team.

Pray that :

- the University would give Heidi Wood placements close to Newcastle to enable her to balance ministry and study.
- Leaders will enjoy a refreshing break over the holidays.
- students who heard the message of Christmas will be keen to hear more through SRE in 2016.

TEEN MINISTRY - Saturday

Anabelle Copeman

The last term of 2015 saw an exciting development in the Youth Ministry. 2015 year 6 & 7 boys joined the older teens on Friday nights. Andrew McKeown joined the leadership team to nurture this new group. He trained at SMBC and has previously worked as a youth pastor. It is great to have him on board. There is a new Junior Youth Team being developed to be with this group on Sunday nights, separate from KFC.

This year Anabelle will be supervising a Youthworks Year 13 student. Shanalle Wood will be working with youth and children while attending Youthworks two days every week.

Praise God for:

- The smooth transition of the younger teens to Friday night Youth Group last year.
- Providing the leaders we need to grow the teen ministry.

Please Pray for:

- Sam Chiswell as he leads the Friday night Youth Team.
- Andrew McKeown as he ministers to the junior teens.
- Anabelle, as she supervises Shanalle; that she would mentor her well and help her to learn and grow in faith and ministry skills.
- Shanalle, as she travels to Loftus every week.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Sunday

Cathy Young

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33.3

Thanks & praise:

- for a great mission with the Sydney uni team. Especially give thanks for our evangelistic gingerbread house making night in late November - about half of our attendees were not yet Christian - pray that the message of John 3:16 will take root in their hearts and that lives will be transformed.
- for a recent Simply Christianity course - give praise that ladies and a new family are coming to church.
- for a great end to 'Time Out for Mums' in 2015 and pray for wisdom and understanding as we prepare in January for 2016.

Pray :

- for good preparation for all of the ministries for 2016
- for our link with Jenny's Place (women's refuge) - give thanks for developing relationships and pray that we will be able to show Gods love to the staff, and women and children there.
- for Cathy that she will have wisdom and the Lord's direction as she seek to share Jesus with the women at ANeW & New Lambton.

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

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