

Dear Friends

*We do so value your prayers and feel very blessed that so many folk are praying for us. We have grown rapidly over the past five and a half years and continue to do so. We especially need wisdom and discernment now for the future direction of our growing ministry. Praise God and thank you all for your commitment to prayer.*

*Dianne Douglass*

*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

## **MONDAY**    **CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL**

From Arthur Copeman:

During May our Diocesan Bishop of the last three years, Greg Thompson, resigned from his position. At the same time the Acting Bishop, Peter Stuart, informed me that the Diocese no longer had sufficient funds to continue to employ me half time in Diocesan work. It had also become increasingly clear to me that the ministry with both New Lambton and ANeW could not continue as a half time role. It needed to be close to full time. The end result, is that, from July 1<sup>st</sup>, I will be working five sixths of my time for the ANeW & New Lambton ministry and one sixth as Archdeacon of this central region of the Diocese of Newcastle. After nine years of one third to half of my time being spent in Diocesan work, this is quite a change for me. It will also increase the costs to ANeW and New Lambton by about \$1,000 a week.

Another major change has taken place. We have been in prayer as a church as to whether it would be possible to plant a church in the western Newcastle suburb of Fletcher. Cathy Young was working four and a half days a week for us. She was offered a two day a week secular job welcoming people to the suburb of Fletcher! She has taken this job, which runs to the end of the year and allows us to commence some closer examination of what would be involved in ministry in that region. There are currently only two churches meeting in that suburb, both are Baptist.

Just a reminder in the light of the above of the ministry team we will have from July 1<sup>st</sup> this year:

- Myself five days a week,
- Adam Matthews. focused on young adults. three days a week,
- Michael Marklew, engaged in a range of ministries, three days a week,
- Cathy Young with a range of ministries, two and a half days a week,
- Beck Bishop, focused on the 10.30 Sunday congregation and mainly music, two days a week,
- Kate Rogers, focused on 5pm Sunday, ladies Bible study and Time Out, two and a half days a week.
- Amy Soutter, focused on ministry to children, two days a week.
- Sam Chiswell, leading youth on Friday nights and Sundays
- Teresa Charchalis assisting us with graphic and web design
- Anabelle Copeman – unpaid – focused on teens, children and administration

At the same time both ANeW and New Lambton Councils have been exploring a long term closer association than we have already. What we have been exploring together is being one ministry, but retaining two parishes, with one of those parishes focused on the suburb of New Lambton and the church buildings there and the other parish keeping a wider focus on mission to the city of Newcastle. This would be an unusual arrangement, but we believe that it could lay a foundation for the expansion of ministry across this city.

Finally, thirteen of us from church, including Anabelle and myself, are going to Manado in Indonesia to spend time looking at some Compassion projects. Our church has 45 children sponsored in that area, and we are keen to see what that ministry looks like on the ground. We leave on 30<sup>th</sup> June for two weeks.

***Please thank God for***

- The ministry of Greg Thompson as Bishop of Newcastle and his commitment to changing the culture of the Diocese, which had led to children being abused.
- The amazing team of people that God has put together to work in this ministry.
- Arthur's nine years of Diocesan Archdeacon work
- The financial support at church which allows for Arthur's ministry to be increased.

***Please pray for***

- the change in Arthur's ministry role from July 1<sup>st</sup> and the funds to support him in this change.
- continued networking of ministry between ANeW and New Lambton.
- the thirteen church members heading on the Compassion trip on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- A new Bishop for the Diocese of Newcastle
- God's leading as we consider a church plant in Fletcher next year.
- Arthur's heavy involvement in the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in September this year.

***Assistant Minister – Michael Marklew***

*Would you kindly add the following to your **prayers** for the ministries I am involved in.*

**SRE**

- for patience, extra skill in classroom management and that students would continue to transfer from ethics classes.

**Sunday Night Junior High**

- that a close community would build and our young teenagers would engage more deeply with scripture.

**Preaching**

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

**Friday Night Family Bible study**

- that this new Bible study group (spearheaded by the Walker family) would grow in number and also in our trust and love for each other.

**Studies**

- for presence of mind and perseverance as I complete my remaining subjects this year.

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

**TUESDAY YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY – Adam Matthews**

The first half of the year is coming to a close and we are thankful to God for the people who make up "Young Adults" at ANeW. Every year, it takes almost this long to know who is who and it's great getting to know each other more and more. We have 4 Bible study groups operating and various members are continuing to be involved in all parts of church life; youth group, teen bible study, music, service leading, preaching and discipleship.

***Praise God for:***

- the almost completed series on 2 Samuel at Bible study. At almost every step we see signs pointing us to the true King, Jesus.
- the continued help that young adults are in assisting the operation of church and Bible study.
- the money raised for Anglican Aid Water Projects - in total we hope to raise approx. \$2000.

***Please pray:***

- for our new series on Genesis 1-11; that we would know God and his character more deeply and that we would have a greater understanding of ourselves and the need for forgiveness.
- that many of us would be able to have a weekend away towards the end of the year growing in relationship with each other and with God.
- for our engagement with non-Christians; that we would be purposeful, loving and bold in sharing about Jesus.

*There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. Proverbs 21:30-31*

**WEDNESDAY**

***CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter***

Amy is currently on a well-deserved holiday. She has had a busy start to the year with commitments at Time Out and teaching SRE. She is responsible for programming the am and pm primary age ministry and coordinating the am crèche and preschool teams and the evening KFC team. She has also been working on Safe Ministry procedures and protocols, including forms for recruitment and screening of new leaders.

***Praise God for***

- the great unit of teaching in term 1 on 'Big words ending in **'tion'**'. Children and adults greatly benefited from this unit and the Kids wise material was very easy to use.
- the training of young adults to be leaders in children's ministry.

***Pray that***

- everyone at ANeW/New Lambton will get on board with Safe Ministry practice.
- God will provide the leaders needed for our crèche and preschool ministries. Some of the current leaders are stepping back. (i.e. having more babies!!)
- all our children will grow in their knowledge of Jesus and in their love of God's word.
- Amy, Nick and Emma will have a refreshing time away and come back ready to continue in ministry.

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

**THURSDAY** ***Youth and Administration – Anabelle Copeman***

The biggest challenge of the last few months has been the move to a new software package called **Elvanto**. It keeps our data base and roster information. It has been a big job to load all the information, but once in place, it should streamline the administration.

The youth ministry has consolidated in the last few months; new leaders have joined the Friday night team. In the last school holidays, many of our youth went to KYCK and SU Hunter AG camp. Sam Chiswell is starting a new discipleship group for senior high school boys, which will meet every second Wednesday afternoon. The senior girls continue to meet before church on Sunday afternoons.

I have continued to lead the morning primary school age children's ministry team.

***Praise God for***

- the growth in the Friday night youth group and the provision of new leaders for that group.
- the growth in the Sunday evening junior high school group.
- Sam Chiswell's mentoring of the older teens.
- the learning that happened at KYCK and how it strengthened relationships in the group.
- new leaders joining the morning school age ministry team.

### ***Please Pray for***

- Sam Chiswell as he leads the Friday night youth team and the older teens mid-week group; that he would have the energy and wisdom to do this well.
- the Sunday junior high schoolers; that they will transition into adult church membership and be disciplined to be the future leaders in the church. We need a younger female leader for this group.
- the senior high school girls; that they would use their gifts to serve and grow into maturity of faith. That more of the girls would join this group.

*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*

### **FRIDAY**      ***WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT– Cathy Young***

There is always lots to be thankful for in regards to the ministry amongst women but specifically this time we can be very thankful for the staff increase in women. Beck, who joined us at the start of the year is now employed two days per week (originally one day per week) to work with Mainly Music and the 10:30am congregation. Kate, who joined us in November last year has increased her time with us from one and a half days to two and a half days per week. Kate is working primarily with the 5pm congregation. Both of these women are godly and delightful. It is an absolute privilege and joy to work with them. I have decreased my time by two days per week as another opportunity for six months, external to ANeW and New Lambton, has presented itself but I continue to oversee, train and be involved with women from the 8:30am, 10:30am and 5pm congregations.

### ***Praise and thank God***

- for the Simply Christianity Group that Kate and Robyn have led recently - pray for the continued follow-up of the girls who attended.
- for a wonderful evangelistic event - Taste for Life. We had 110 come and 66 of those were friends of our church people. We keep hearing of the ripple effects that this time of telling people about Jesus has had. Many thanks to God for a great night and for God's gospel going out.
- continually for Time Out for Mums - we have a significant waiting list. Two mums are interested in finding out more about Jesus; please pray for them to come to know the Lord.
- that Mainly Music is up and running and that Beck is having a wonderful time.
- for Women of Truth - over 300 ladies from the Hunter came. Claire Smith spoke from Acts - it was a wonderful day for women in the Hunter.

### ***Please pray***

- for wisdom and direction as we minister to everyone at ANeW and New Lambton.
- for God to raise up a full-time male staff worker to join the team.
- that we will love God's bride - the church well.
- for direction and wisdom as my role continues to change with new women staff joining.

Thank you again for all of your prayers. They are a fragrant offering to God and we are very blessed that you are remembering us before the Lord. May He continue to be praised and glorified in all that we do. God Bless, Cath :)

*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. Jeremiah 29:11*

*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](mailto:ddouglass83@gmail.com)*