

## Prayer Update No. 30 - Winter 2018

*Dear Friends*

*Thank you faithful pray-ers who support our ministry here in New Lambton. The power of prayer cannot be over-estimated. We truly value your efforts on our behalf and thank you for your dedication. May God's blessings shower you and your loved ones daily.*

*Dianne Douglass*

*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*

**MONDAY Overall Ministry - Arthur Copeman**

The Copeman's have recently moved from a Diocesan house near the Cathedral in Newcastle to a house owned by New Lambton Parish in New Lambton. It is a house specifically designed for ministry and works well. In rearrangements at a Diocesan level I have become the Diocesan Archdeacon, although I am full time in ministry with ANeW and All Saints. Anabelle and I are about to take five weeks long service leave. At a church level we are continuing to work through what a larger ministry which incorporated ANeW & All Saints might look like. There is still much work to be done to complete this task.

On the wider ministry front Cathy Young has decided to step down from paid employment across the ministry at the end of June. Cathy has been with us since day one of ANeW and it will be strange not to have her on team. The Young's will still be with us for church and Cathy is exploring what the next stage of ministry might look like.

You will also see prayer points in this letter for the Parish of Stockton in this letter. Michael & Alison Marklew, who left us last December, are now leading the ministry there.

Please give thanks for:

- Cathy Young's ministry over seven years.
- The house we now have to live in in New Lambton
- Continued financial support for both All Saints and ANeW
- The opportunity to take some extended leave
- The great team working across the ministry

Please pray for:

- Bob Rothwell (and his wife Denise), retired minister who is covering for me while on leave
- A fresh ministry position for Cathy Young
- Wisdom to create the right structure for All Saints and ANeW
- My limited Diocesan role as Archdeacon

*Let my mouth be filled with Your praise and with Your glory all the day. Psalm 71:8*

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

This year we have been studying the book of Revelation. As we live in a society increasingly intolerant to opposing world views, this has proved to be an important book to study. Please pray for our young adults as they live, work and study in the now but not yet!

**Praise God for:**

- the joy it is to serve and be served by the young adults of ANeW.
- the continued service they provide to our church in music, kids ministry, and in many other ways.
- the growth that many have had in their understanding of God, his word and his world.

## **Prayer**

- that the young adults would make wise decisions in regard to lifestyle, relationships and how they can serve God.
- that we would continue to look outwardly and to how we can serve others and share the gospel.
- pray especially for the evangelism course that we will do for the second half of the year – that it would help us to think about how we can engage those around us with the gospel.

*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*

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

Our children's ministry continues to grow and change. We have much to thank God for.

### **Praise/thanks and Prayer**

- **Thanks** for Wendy (Creche) and Tim (KFC) our new team leaders.
  - **Pray** that God will enable them to do these roles well.
- **Thanks** for the provision of a larger space for our Pre-schoolers (the garage of the Copeman's new house!).
  - **Pray** for safety with road crossing and ironing out teething problems.
- **Thanks** for the wonderful ministry of Time Out, for the keenness of mums to come and the growing number of children.
  - Please **ask** for wisdom to care for so many children and babies.
  - for new leaders to join.
  - that we would maintain a great team culture.
- **Thanks** for the safety of our children.
  - **Pray** that we would be wise and vigilant in our Safe Ministry.

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

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

This year has seen significant changes for me in life and ministry. Arthur and I have successfully moved to the Rectory at New Lambton. This has already had huge benefits in being on site. I have joined the Time Out children's team and re-joined the Thursday Ladies' Growth Groups team as a study leader. I don't have my own SRE class but am relieving in different schools as I am available. I continue to co-lead a growth group on Monday nights with Arthur. We are looking forward to a five-week break in June/July as we take some long service leave.

In Youth ministry, Sam Chiswell has stepped back to allow him to finish his teaching degree. Thankfully, Sam Love has stepped up to take on most of what Sam Chiswell was doing. We have reorganised Junior high on Sunday nights. We are focussing more on transitioning to church and training the youth from year 9 in different areas of service.

### **Praise and thank God for:**

- the blessing of a purpose-built ministry house, which is proving to be a lovely home.
- the 20 youth and leaders who went to Katoomba, KYCK. It was a great time of encouragement and challenge.
- the great team which lead Friday night youth group and the new youth attending. This group is consolidating and youth are inviting their friends.

### **Please pray that:**

- the Rectory will be blessing to the whole church. The preschool ministry will be using the garage and garden from June as their room at church is now too small.
- Sam Love will manage his university studies and the extra youth ministry responsibilities and for energy and perseverance.
- our youth will grow in maturity and be able to take their place as adult serving members of the church. Pray we will nurture and train them well.
- That Arthur and I will have a refreshing time away and return with energy to continue in ministry in New Lambton.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

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

Dear pray-ers,

I want to thank you hugely for the many, many prayers that have been said for the Church at ANeW/New Lambton over the last seven years. There is no doubt in my mind that God has upheld us and grown us all spiritually and numerically through your prayers. We praise God for you and for His work in our midst. One major thing to pray about for me, is that after seven years from the first ever “prayer meeting”, I have decided to step down from my role - the church is flourishing and, in many ways, I feel like “my job is done”. We have a brilliant team, two of whom are part-time women involved in women’s ministry - we are extremely blessed! Ed Stetzer in his book; “Planting Missional Churches” talks about “Entrepreneurial Planters”. If there is a female version of this, then that’s me :). To the best of my ability, under God, I have helped Arthur and Anabelle to start and establish ANeW. I believe we are in the next phase of ANeW/New Lambton’s life and that is terrifically exciting :). Please pray for direction and wisdom for the next stage for ANeW/New Lambton and please pray for the next stage for me. I have a couple of ideas of what that could be but as Proverbs says; “Many are the plans of man but it is the Lord that directs his steps”. Please pray that I’ll be wise and patient as I rest and see what the Lord has for me to do next :). Thank you again for sustaining the ministry of ANeW with your prayers. God bless you and keep you and may we always be saying and doing everything for the praise of the Lord Jesus Christ :).

***Praise and Thanks***

- for an amazing seven years with ANeW.
- for Kate and Beck who are super gifted and super godly and will now oversee Women’s Ministry at ANeW/New Lambton.
- for God’s continual love and mercy to us in the Lord Jesus.

***Please Pray***

- for wisdom for Arthur and the parish council as they navigate the next stage for ANeW/New Lambton.
- for Kate & Beck, that God will equip and sustain them in this next transition phase.
- for me and my family - that I will love Jamie, Jacob & JJ well, that we will all spend time regularly with the Lord, that God will make it clear to us, what I (we) should be doing for HIS praise and glory :).

*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*

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Kate Rogers**

***Praise and thanks:***

- that our church family and the ladies growing in their love for God and each other.
- for God’s faithfulness to His promises, people and purposes, as our ladies’ Growth Groups have seen demonstrated in Revelation and Jonah .... and the encouragement these books have been for us to obediently follow God and His Word.
- Book Club - Ray Galea reminded us in “*From Here to Eternity*” that Romans 8 “emphatically and repeatedly affirms that neither sin nor suffering will drive a wedge between the love of Christ and us”; and Gordon Cheng is set to help us discover the difference God’s words can make in the lives of those around us in his book “*Encouragement*” (meeting 29/6).
- PTC - Bob Rothwell again faithfully, skilfully and clearly helped us work through the Gospel of John.
- Cath’s loving, faithful, enthusiastic and effective ministry on team – the breadth and depth of her gifts and experience have been invaluable in serving God and His people here! We have been incredibly blessed to have her living and working out Col 1:28-29 among us ..... ”He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.”

### **Pray for:**

- we are still in need of **carers** to mind pre-schoolers during our Thursday morning Bible Study (10-12 at New Lambton Hall).
- preparations for the Spring High Tea on September 15<sup>th</sup> ..... that many ladies who don't yet know Jesus will come and hear a clear and life-giving gospel message.
- our TimeOut families - for gospel conversations and practical, pastoral care ..... and for our dedicated, servant-hearted team as they lovingly and faithfully serve these families.
- wisdom and guidance for the ministry team, particularly in light of Cath's resignation – that we would be completely dependent on, directed by and devoted to God.
- Cath, as she seeks God's direction - that He would guide, provide, and continue to effectively use her heart for the gospel and kingdom focus for His glory and purposes.

*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**

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*

It is a great privilege to be involved in ministries in the community- including Fletcher, where we are able to patiently build relationships in the hope that many might come to know Jesus.

### **Thanks and Praise**

- that we have been running Mainly Music at Fletcher now for 7 weeks and have a core of regular attendees (and very multicultural - lots of fun). Thankful for the amazing team God has brought together and for their gracious and loving servant hearts.
- that we still have the opportunity to teach SRE in our local schools and that Beck has the privilege of co-ordinating 5 schools in the inner city and training up new teachers.
- It is our one-year anniversary of Mainly Music at New Lambton and we have had the privilege of getting to know so many of the families very well. We are thankful that they have a real sense of belonging as they attend. Some have visited Church and attended events like the Christmas creativity day.
- Also praising God each day for a faithful and generous mainly music team.

### **Prayer**

- that the Ladies' Craft Club at Fletcher might continue to grow and we might get to know those women at a deeper level. Giving thanks for the opportunity to share a 'Thought for the Day' (about the Lord) on each craft club day.
- give thanks for all who attend our 10.30am service and pray that they all might continue to know and grow in Jesus. That new people might feel incredibly welcomed and that we would all care for each other deeply.
- for Beck's health, especially in the winter as she struggles with a low immune system and easily picks up colds.

*Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens. Ps 148:13*

### **SUNDAY STOCKTON PARISH – Michael & Alison Marklew**

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17*

I am humbled and appreciative of your continued prayers and support. Your Church (AneW) is a shining light, setting a Christ centered example of renewal and growth that encourages us daily. At Stockton we have spent the past 5 months tilling the soil if you will, preparing the people, the facilities and ourselves for God willing, the next stage of our renewal. During this time God has graciously grown our Sunday worship numbers from around 30 people to over 50. While numbers are never our focus, instead concentrating on maturity in Christ and spiritual growth of which our home groups are the engine room for. This year has seen the establishment of 4 home groups and a good number of parish members attending each week. We were only praying for 3 this year, but I do now ask that you join us in

praying for another 2 to be established by the end of the year in anticipation of the fruit that we pray will come from our various outreach ministries.

We still have much work to do and much prayer is needed as so many people are going the extra mile to support and start ministries here. Please be praying for:

- Alpha (an introductory Christianity course) starting on July 25th for 11 weeks.
- Mainly Music starting on July 2nd.
- More volunteers to support a toddler ministry to start in Term 3.
- Space and Facilities, that our current plans to modernise our facilities for outreach ministries would go smoothly and on schedule.
- Protection from the work of the enemy and to be sustained during times of trouble. Almost all of our leadership team have been sick or supporting loved ones with multiple hospitalisations in recent weeks, although we are in good spirits and understand that this is part and parcel of doing good works.
- Home Groups. Please pray that our Home Groups are a place of Christ centered learning and maturity, and that 2 more would be established by the end of this year.

We are most thankful for your prayers, and we pray that God would continue to bless your ministries and people.

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: [ddougllass83@gmail.com](mailto:ddougllass83@gmail.com)*