



- The four children born to members of our church in the last few months and the six children due to be born before the middle of next year.
- The children's ministry that Tracey Piggott has led, while covering for Amy Soutter's maternity leave.
- Those from our church who for good reason are moving from Newcastle at the end of this year, but have made a huge contribution in ministry while they have been here.
- The fact that we have an architect now considering how to refurbish our church building.
- Evan Harris (married to Eliza, with Asher (20 months) who has agreed to join the team on 16th January to be trained up to church plant in Newcastle.
- Tom Hardy (married to Sarah) as he joins the team in a Trainee role from January 1st.

Prayer Update No. 44

Summer 2021/22

Dear Friends

In these changing and oft challenging times, how encouraging are John Newton's words that Arthur shared with us recently; 'How unspeakably wonderful that all our concerns are held in the hands that bled for us'. Although we do not know the details of the future, we do know that our gracious, heavenly Father does and so we can trust Him with all our concerns and rest in Him. May you all experience the wonderful joy of Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ. Blessings,

Dianne

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Hebrews 13:8



MONDAY : Arthur Copeman

Dear praying friends,

I am so grateful to God for the church in which I have the privilege of serving. I am constantly impressed by the variety of ministries which people across our church carry out in the strength which God gives them. I am humbled by God's graciousness and goodness in all this.

Over the last few weeks in church I have been detailing where we hope and pray, under God, that All Saints ANeW is now heading. This direction has been set by the Vision which we established a few years ago:

To see more people transformed by Jesus

This Vision we believe will be best achieved through a particular **Mission:**

As by the Spirit we prayerfully establish a network of thriving congregations in five locations, pastored locally and supported by a hub in New Lambton

There are at present three focuses for this Vision and Mission.

The first of these is to:

Refurbish the Hub

The goal of this focus is to ensure that the great site we have in New Lambton is well set up for this Mission and Vision. This is a matter for which I have asked prayer in the past. God has answered our prayers and last week contracts were signed with an experienced firm of Architects to begin considering what might be possible on the site.

The second focus is:

Training

All of us (including me) need further training to ensure that we continue to minister effectively in twenty-first century Newcastle. Then we have a particular opportunity as a church to provide an intensive training period for some of the younger adults amongst us. In this regard we have been blessed to have Cinta Chapman with us this year and next. In 2022 Tom Hardy (married to Sarah) will join this training program for two years.

The third focus is to begin to work towards

Church Planting

We have at New Lambton the numbers of people and the opportunity to consider establishing a church on another site in Newcastle. What has been needed is a person to lead such a plant. Early next year Evan Harris, with Eliza (and son Asher), will join us to lead this work. Evan has just completed four years at Moore College. We look forward to having them with us.

Please therefore thank God greatly for:

- The fact that people came back to church in November when we resumed face to face church. Indeed on 14th November (second week back) we had more people in church across the day than we had ever had before.
- The many people who have recently joined our church (and that we would care for them appropriately).

**WEDNESDAY : Tracey Piggott (acting for Amy Soutter) –
Children's Ministry**

At the time of writing, I am busy wrapping 60 books to give to each child at All Saints ANeW as a Christmas gift. Let us rejoice for each one of these precious children from 0-12 years of age. We have a wonderful privilege to work alongside families to raise children to know and follow Jesus and be transformed by His Spirit.



Praise & Thank God that :

- children have returned to church after lockdown.
- Will Walker was confirmed in front of a number of 5 pm church friends.
- 4 babies have been born since July and 5 more due up until June.

Pray for :

- more teachers and assistants to support the children's ministry in 2022.
- children to find friends here and feel they belong.
- parents to grow in their love of God and wisdom to know how best to raise their children well.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Please join us in praying that :

- Our Church would head forward in a manner pleasing to the Lord in every way.
- We would have wisdom from the Holy Spirit for all that we undertake.
- The architects that we have engaged might develop an exciting and creative plan for the All Saints building so that it may be refurbished in a manner which provides the Hub in New Lambton that our Mission requires.
- We would be well trained for ministry in this city at this time.
- We would be able to establish new congregations around a hub in New Lambton.
- We would have the financial resources required for the ministry we are undertaking.
- Those who preach at All Saints ANeW would be diligent in preparation and faithful to the word of God and clear in explaining it in ways which those who are listening find helpful.
- We would be faithful as a church in supporting our overseas missionaries – Jo (Pioneers – Middle East), James & Steph (CMS – preparing for ministry in Asia), and Jess (CMS – preparing for ministry in the Middle East).
- We would have wisdom to develop midweek activities which reach out to the community around us with the gospel.

I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

TUESDAY : Sam Broadfoot – 5pm Team, Youth, Outreach & Growth Groups



You all know the type of year 2021 has been: God's grace working amidst the fatigue of constant change! Therefore, we are thankful to have a week's holiday planned in mid-January, before we

welcome baby #3 into the family in mid-February, and send our eldest off to 'big (primary) school.' In all this change, I am reminded of the priority of godly character over ministry competence, and a firm dependence upon his ever-faithful sovereignty. Thank you for your prayers.

Evangelism

- **Thank** God for S. who came to know the depth of God's grace and love recently. **Ask** Him to continue growing S's faith, and continue drawing others to know Him too.
- 'Carols and Candles' is a much-loved musical-gospel-feast on Christmas Eve at 8pm. **Pray** for Tim as he co-ordinates the music; for Adam as he preaches God's life-giving words; and ask God to work in the hearts of all attendees.

Youth

- Two of our female leaders will finish up in 2021. **Thank** God for their godly service, and please **ask** Him to provide 2 new female leaders to continue the ministry.

Growing

- A shortage of groups and leaders is a perpetual problem (though a good problem to have). **Ask** God to provide the right leaders/times/places, to continue growing this church deeper together in Christ.

Training

- Tom Hardy will start a 2-year ministry apprenticeship on January 1st, joining Cinta and increasing our current ministry trainees to two.
- **Thank** God for Tom's gospel convictions to make this big change, and **ask** Him to help Tom adjust from the Monday-Friday pattern of work.

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

SATURDAY: Cinta Chapman - MTS
(Ministry Training Strategy) TRAINEE

How lovely it is to be back face to face! It has been so encouraging to meet as God's people in person again. I am thankful that God has sustained us through this season, and that all of the time He is God, and He is good!

Praise & Thank God for :

- *the continued relationships with families from mainly music through the last few months. It has been so great to meet back with them and see them engage with the good news of our Saviour at Christmas. I had a great conversation with a mum who is wanting to enrol her kids in scripture next year. Praise God!*
- *the encouraging time meeting with and reading through Romans, Philippians and 1 Corinthians with some of the Young Adults each week. I am so thankful for how God is growing these beautiful ladies in their love for Him and His word.*
- *the opportunity to have time studying God's word and think about how to teach it to people through my ministry traineeship.*
- *Claire, Sam & Ben, Young Adults who are moving away next year. They have all been such an encouragement in their time at All Saint's ANeW, serving in music, kids and youth ministry. We will miss them, but hope and pray that God will use them as ambassadors for Christ in this next season.*



THURSDAY : Kate Rogers – 5pm
Team, Welcoming and Care Ministries

Praise & Thank God for :

- God's precious gift of Jesus and everlasting gifts of LOVE, PEACE, JOY and HOPE through Him.
- great times of Bible learning, growth and connection in Growth Groups and Book Club as ladies have prayerfully and practically encouraged each other in the faith.
- loving and generous *care* shown by our church family to those in need (both church and community) in many and varied ways.

Pray for :

- gospel opportunities over Christmas and the holidays to show friends and family the "wonders of God's love", and tell them that Jesus saves!
- everyone joining us at All Saints ANeW to be warmly *welcomed* and lovingly encouraged as God's Word is faithfully taught and lived out....and that people's lives are transformed by Jesus.
- people's wholehearted willingness to *serve* in various capacities and ministries (LOTS of opportunities across our many children's ministries!)
- wisdom, enabling, grace and zeal for the *Pastoral Team* and rest and refreshment during holiday breaks.
- our Church Prayer Chain that continues to faithfully persevere in prayer (email care@anew to be put in touch).



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

FRIDAY : Beck Bishop – 10am Team & Outreach

Praise & Thank God:

- that my energy levels have survived as we have come out of lockdown. The pace was very fast as we tried to catch up.
- We finished our Knowing Jesus course followed by Christianity Explored and a lady gave her life to Jesus. Pray that she would be connected into Church well with her 2 precious children.
- that we were able to host a number of outreach Christmas events; Gingerbread House making and 0-5s Christmas Party. Then Host a mission team from the local University Christian group. Pray for the Luke's gospel booklets that were handed out and the challenge we gave people to read the Christmas story for themselves.
- for joyful Christmas Celebrations at Ladies Craft group Fletcher and Mainly Musics at New Lambton and Fletcher. Pray that the Children's story books about Christmas and the Christmas books given to the craft ladies would be well read and treasured.



Pray :

- It was wonderful that I was able to teach two Christmas lessons for school Scripture. Many schools didn't allow this to happen. I am saddened by how little of the Christmas story the kids know but joyful that the story was accepted with great joy.
- for our Christmas services - especially 5.30pm and 8pm Christmas eve where many non-churched people attend. Pray we have a bumper crowd this year to hear the good news story.
- for refreshment for myself and my husband Darren (we have seen growth in the Church, growth in his business and growth in the many ministries we are involved in - so much joy in this but we are weary).
- that God might raise up another Scripture teacher to teach two classes at the school where I teach - the school is growing and nearly every student does SRE. Praise God!

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 95:2

Pray for :

- *my scripture classes at Glendore Public School. I haven't been able to go back to teach or visit since the lockdown. Please pray that they would know and delight in the true story of Jesus at Christmas, and that I might be able to reconnect with the students next year.*
- *all of the exciting things happening in the lead up to Christmas. Please pray that through programs, events, and personal relationships, that many people would hear of the good news of great joy in the gospel of Jesus, and hope in Him.*
- *perseverance in ministry and joy in Christ.*

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

SUNDAY :Michael Marklew - Minister at Stockton Anglican Church

Merry Christmas brothers and sisters, thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

Can you believe that it has been 4 years since my family left All Saints ANeW to mission at Stockton Anglican Church? That in this time many prayers have been answered and that we are now looking at a healthy ministry with a bright future of preaching the Gospel and honoring our great God.



Honestly it is hard to take it all in, to sit in parish council meetings with our books in the black and a group of people wanting to do more and more to serve our community and the world. Praise God!

Please join us in giving thanks to God for :

- financial stability. Please **thank** God for the growth and generosity that has enabled the parish to now be able support a full-time minister, half-time assistant, and a casual children's worker. You were praying for our financial stability and God has answered, so please join us in **thanks and praise** of Him!
- the other side of Covid. We give **thanks** that Covid has not diminished ministry here. That people haven't stopped in fear or worry but are thriving in the community and the hope that we have in Christ.

- the Evangelism team. Please give **thanks** that we are back on the streets sharing the good news.
- Funerals. For the **opportunity** to preach the Gospel to non-believers and for those who have joined our community through this ministry.
- for the Children's ministry. Our casual Children's worker is a blessing; please give **thanks** for her and for this ministry.

Please join us in praying that :

- we would have faith like little children, totally reliant and trusting in God for everything.
- our live streams would reach more people and that more people would join the community post-lockdown.
- more families would engage with mainly music over Zoom and that those that do would be encouraged to join the community and become followers of King Jesus.
- restrictions would ease, allowing our Evangelism team to return to Pub, door-to-door and street ministry in Stockton.
- a great many people would come to a saving faith in Christ from our community and be baptized here throughout 2022.
- for the NTE Mission team coming to Stockton in December.
- that our leadership would be sustained and given wisdom to choose the right things to invest their time in and the right things to encourage the parish to invest in.

There is so much more to be thankful for and to pray for.

Your Brother in Christ,

Michael Marklew, 0417 263354, Stockton Anglican Church.