

# All Saints ANew

Prayer Update No. 34 - Winter 2019

Dear Friends

All Saints ANew has been part of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' global prayer movement. This movement started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, to Christians in the Church of England to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It has grown into an international call to prayer. All of us at All Saints ANew have been encouraged to pray regularly for 5 others to come to know Jesus. We know that persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. At All Saints ANew we so appreciate all of you who pray regularly for us as a church. Thank you for your prayers, which continue to have a powerful effect on All Saints ANew, both at New Lambton and at Fletcher. Blessings to you all. Dianne Douglass

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

## **MONDAY ARTHUR COPEMAN & CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL**

Since our last prayer letter the formation of All Saints ANew has been completed. This now gives us a clearly Evangelical Anglican Parish in the city of Newcastle, with a good central base in buildings in New Lambton. This is something for which to give God great praise. All Saints ANew also has had approved by the Bishop and Diocesan Council an experimental governance structure, which is now in place. This consists of a small Parish Council (3 people elected plus me) with a Ministry Team consisting of the ministry staff and a Resourcing Team, who are concerned with finance and property. This arrangement has commenced well.

The original Parish of New Lambton (now part of All Saints ANew) administered a small retirement village near the church. This was able to sold at the end of March to Baptist Care, which has been a great result for all concerned. This has left All Saints ANew with a cash legacy plus four two bedroom units, which were removed from the retirement village, and continue to be owned by the Parish. These are currently rented out. This is an outstanding result for All Saints ANew and we praise God for this. As a church we are now considering a refurbishment of our church building. This is in early stages, but needs much prayer, as we look to provide a space that will serve the congregations for the next sixty years (the building is sixty years old this year).

Since the last prayer letter I have commenced attending our church plant in the suburb of Fletcher most Sunday nights, leaving other team members to care for the congregation at New Lambton. The congregation at Fletcher usually consists of around twenty people, most of whom live around Fletcher and some of whom have never been to church in New Lambton. I am indebted to those who are part of the Fletcher team, who work hard to ensure that these are warm encouraging meetings.

On a personal level I have recently attended a meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Hong Kong. This is a meeting of one lay person, one minister (that is me) and one Bishop from each of the forty Provinces of the Anglican Communion (Australia is a Province) with the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a great privilege to meet with Anglican sisters and brothers from around the world. I sat for eight days at a table where I was the only person whose first language was English. In the midst of this conference I met Anglican clergy who were planting churches in Spain and Mexico. Praise God for raising up people to undertake these tasks.

Someone recently asked me what excites me most about All Saints ANew. My answer was that it is the amazingly gifted team of people I minister alongside in our church, whose prayer points follow in this letter.

In July fourteen of us from All Saints ANew and six from St Paul's Stockton are heading to Manado in Indonesia to visit churches where we have links through the Christian aid agency Compassion and where a number of people from our churches sponsor children through Compassion. Thirteen of us went two years ago and found it a very valuable Christian exercise, which is why we are heading back again.

Give thanks for;

- The completed formation of All Saints ANew.
- The experimental governance structure.
- The Fletcher Church plant and the team who are ministering there.
- The staff team at All Saints ANew, now including Donna McCann, organising administration.
- The opportunity Arthur had to meet with brothers and sisters from around the Anglican Communion at the Anglican Consultative Council.
- The sale of the All Saints Close Retirement village to Baptist Care.

Please pray for All Saints ANew that:

- We would be seeking every opportunity to proclaim the gospel of the saving news about Jesus to those around us.
- The Bible would be faithfully taught in all our meetings.
- God would bring people to the Fletcher Church plant to establish that congregation, and, at the right time, that we would be able to engage a pastor for that congregation.
- the Parish Council, Ministry Team and Resourcing Team would lead the church well.
- We will know how to refurbish our church building in the most appropriate manner for the future.
- The twenty of us heading to Manado to spend time in Compassion projects would learn from the experience.

**TUESDAY** *FULL TIME ASSISTANT – Sam Broadfoot*

I'm leading youth, co-pastoring our 5pm congregation, and looking to support and train up Growth Group leaders.

**Praise and thanks :**

- for KYCK - one of our youth-friends prayed to commit herself to Jesus, and the rest of our members were encouraged in their faith.
- June 24-26 is my Moore College cohort's first weekend away since graduation - thank God for a time to reconnect and pray that it will also recharge us for the rest of the year.

**Please pray :**

- for June 28 Onward Youth conference; that many of our core and fringe members would come and be emboldened to live publicly as Christians.
- In July school holidays we're doing a 3-sermon series explicitly on Biblical Theology.
- Pray our church would grow in their appreciation and grasp of the Bible's consistent, unfolding witness to Jesus.
- Term 3 can often be a fatigued term. Pray our Growth Groups would not dwindle but power on in the gospel.

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

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

This year we have welcomed a number of new young adults into church and we are getting to know them more and more. We are focussing, this year, on using our growth groups as a platform for evangelism – either in groups or individually. This means that we take one or two nights a term out of regular Bible study and intentionally use that to spend time with non-Christian friends. We have spent this year looking at the Sermon on the Mount and considering what it is like to be in the Kingdom of God; the holy people we have been made to be, and called to be.

**Praise and thank God for :**

- the new people we have welcomed in and their willingness to contribute to the life of All Saints ANeW.
- the efforts of those in our groups who are seeking to engage friends and family with the truths of the gospel.

**Pray :**

- for those we are intentionally spending time with outside of church that they might come to know Jesus.
- that young adults would grow both in knowledge and holiness as we read about Jesus' high standard in the Sermon on the Mount.

*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*

*CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter (on leave as this is written – prayer points by Arthur)*

Amy (with Nick and daughter Emma) is expecting her second child in early July. She will then take six months maternity leave, as she did with Emma. Amy has been working on arrangements for children's ministry while she is on this leave. A variety of people across our church have been asked to take on additional children's ministry duties for this period of time.

**Praise and thank God for :**

- Amy herself and the great leadership and focus she gives to this area of ministry for All Saints ANeW.
- the team of children's ministry leaders across the crèche, pre-school, 10.30 School age and 5pm School age groups.
- the children who come to church each week to learn of the gospel in this programme
- the opportunity to teach SRE in local schools
- midweek opportunities to connect with mothers and children through Time Out and mainly music.

**Pray that:**

- Amy's new baby would be born well, settle into the family well and grow up to know and love the Lord Jesus
- The arrangements for children's ministry during Amy's maternity leave would be completed well.
- Families would be regular in church with their children each week.
- midweek connections might lead to gospel opportunities with families.
- new people to step up and lead in children's ministry.

*Therefore, who ever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matt 18:4*

## **THURSDAY** *YOUTH and ADMINISTRATION – Anabelle Copeman*

I have now handed everything to do with youth to Sam Broadfoot and have scaled back my involvement with the Thursday Ladies ministry. This change has allowed me to focus on the Retirees' group on Monday mornings. I have been so encouraged by the enthusiasm of everyone involved with this group. There is a fantastic team of leaders who are taking responsibility for different areas of the group's life. This makes my job as co-ordinator so much easier.

I continue to lead the 10.30am kids church school age team.

We are now into team preparation for our Compassion Partnership Insight trip to Manado, Indonesia in July.

After 12 months living on site, Arthur and I are continually thankful for the lovely home and the opportunities it brings to be more involved in ministry in New Lambton.

### **Praise & Thank God for :**

- the energy and enthusiasm amongst the retirees' group and the great team making it happen.
- the opportunity to grow in our understanding of God's work in the world as we prepare to go to Manado.
- the many opportunities I get to connect with local people as I live in New Lambton.

### **Please Pray for :**

- more consistent attendance of school age kids and that new families will join. Our numbers have been down which makes running a programme difficult with very few kids.
- incorporation of new people into the retirees' group. That people who haven't been involved previously will get involved and that it will be a place for new people to connect.
- bonding of the team going to Manado as we meet together for 6 weeks. That we will all learn and grow through this experience.

*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*

## **FRIDAY** *WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT 5pm – Kate Rogers*

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)*

### **Praise and Thanks for :**

#### **Women of Truth**

It was a great blessing to be together with ladies from across the Hunter hearing from God's Word, singing, praying, and growing in love for God and each other. Susan Ravenhall faithfully and clearly shared with us the riches and responsibilities of the Lord's Prayer. We heard about the *very* "Good Thing" School Scripture is and raised money to support that vital ministry..... and were able to ask a panel of godly women some searching questions about prayer in the Bible and the everyday. A wonderfully encouraging and practical time to help us grow in our understanding and practice of prayer!

#### **Book Club**

"*The Gospel Comes with a House Key*" helped us explore what Biblical, practical, regular and costly hospitality looks like - intentional and inclusive, prayerful and powerful - as God calls us to open our hearts and homes and church, to show and share the gospel.

### **Pray for :**

#### **Welcoming**

A welcoming team is being developed - more welcomers are needed as well as ongoing training to equip, encourage and build a welcoming culture within our church.

#### **TimeOut :**

New mums and new bubs means we have more opportunity to share Jesus with these families in word and deed.

#### **High Tea :**

Planning & preparation are under way for our Ladies Spring High Tea at New Lambton (3pm Saturday September 21). Very excitingly, this year we are planning one at Fletcher too (Saturday September 28/9).

*For he will command his Angels concerning you, to keep you in all your ways. Ps 91:11*

## **SATURDAY** *OUTREACH and 10.30am SERVICE – Beck Bishop*

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*" In SRE (Special Religious Education) in our local schools we have been learning this memory verse and it has been an incredible encouragement to us as SRE Teachers.

**Praise and Thanks for :**

- the wonderful Hope we have in Jesus. Such a solid and faithful foundation in the storms of life.
- the rich fellowship we can have in the Church family around Jesus.
- especially mainly music teams, SRE teachers and my Growth Group who encourage me to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus.
- the recent Women of Truth Conference and for the faithful and extremely practical teaching on the Lord's Prayer.
- Also, we give praise for the opportunity to promote SRE and the need for more teachers. So thankful for moneys raised for SRE that can be used to further equip and train teachers and promote SRE as a Good thing in our local schools.
- So very thankful for the interest at Fletcher in our last Monday of the month Community BBQs.
- Also, for all the new people who have been visiting Church, mainly music and craft groups.

**Pray for :**

The Newcastle SRE Board that I work for, has taken on two new Schools - Carrington and Hamilton North.

- please pray for the teachers there, that they would be strengthened and encouraged to keep going. Our Board now looks after 8 Primary schools in the inner city.
- Pray for extra energy for me and wisdom to deal with many new Department of Education policies and training requirements for the teachers.
- continue to pray for the Fletcher mainly music team that we would always have enough leaders.
- And give thanks for the many new leaders who have joined this year - many of them from New Lambton. Please pray for energy and encouragement for them.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would be working in the lives of our many community contacts at Fletcher and New Lambton and many would be drawn to knowing Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

*And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears, we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 1 John 2:28*

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

Hello to our Family at All Saints ANeW and all who pray using this letter. Thank you for your prayers and support. Thank you especially to Arthur who gives so much of his time to assist me and my ministry in Stockton.

**Praise, Thanks & Prayer for :**

- **volunteers** – Please give thanks for the families that have joined us over the past few months, a number of which are already committed Christians and keen to serve and do ministry here.
- **our Retirement Villas** – Arthur has been instrumental (along with the prayers of many people) in seeing a very difficult resident of our retirement village moving on. We are most thankful to see an end to what has caused many problems for the Parish over the past 10 years.
- **Finances** – we are thankful for the slow and steady growth that continues to bless Stockton (I'm somewhat impatient, but that's me, perhaps pray for me in that!). Our monthly compounding growth in giving has now hit 10% and shows a steady monthly increase, beginning in January last year. The Parish needed 6% monthly compounding growth to be finically stable! The financial hit that I asked you to pray for last quarter has not changed anything! This is quite astounding considering the expense was over \$100k! Praise God!
- **preachers** – Please give thanks for Andrew McKeown (from All Saints ANeW) who came and preached one Sunday while I was away. His message was well received and much appreciated.
- **Breeze JR** – Our Junior High Youth group had a few "Trial" Fridays last term that went well with 3-6 children at each. Please be praying that it grows quickly, that the children enjoy their time, that they invite their friends and come into a life changing relationship with Jesus. Please also be praying for Harry and Alison who lead this ministry.
- **Home Groups** - Please be praying that our home groups would be well attended and that 3 more would be established this year.
- **Sunday Services** – Please keep praying for growth in Sunday services and that we would be a welcoming and loving parish to all.
- **Alpha** – We have made a commitment to run the Alpha Course continuously into the future; that's 4 times a year with 2 to run this year. Alpha is a 10-week evangelistic course. Our next course starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July at 7pm. Please be praying it is well attended and that those who attend come to faith in Jesus.
- **My Family** – Please be praying that I would be diligent and consistent in taking time off ministry, that we would be sustained in everything we do and for protection from the work of the enemy.

*Your brother in Christ, Michael Marklew, St Paul's, Stockton*

*For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philipians 2:14*

*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)*