



Prayer Update No. 35 - Spring 2019

Dear Friends

How good it is that so many people use these prayer updates to pray for our church. It is so encouraging to know that so many are bringing our concerns before God and praising and thanking him for his blessings on us. We pray that God will bless and keep you, shine his face upon you, turn his face towards you, be gracious to you and grant you peace. Thanks so much. We are truly grateful.
Dianne

The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. James 5:16

MONDAY CHURCH LIFE IN GENERAL

In the life of All Saints ANeW we are working on developing a clear vision for the future. When ANeW was commenced, our prayer was that it would be a church planting church and that part of the vision has transferred to All Saints ANeW. We now intend to develop a strategy related to church planting. In relation to day to day ministry, I continue to give thanks for the amazing ministry undertaken by the team around me. As we continue to develop the church plant in the suburb of Fletcher, we plan to significantly increase the time Beck Bishop is paid by the church so that she can follow up and develop contacts in the community in Fletcher.

Please praise and thank God for :

- The financial support of the ministry by the congregation.
- The Parish Council under our new structure - Richard Morrison (Chair), Cathy Young, Tim Walker and myself.
- The Resourcing Team under our new structure - Noelene Lentfer (secretary), John Siede (treasurer), Elvira Quill, Maggie Anseline, Geoff Scully, Eddie Page and myself.
- The amazing ministry team, who provide the prayer points in the remainder of this letter.
- The growth of the original 5pm congregation so that there are regularly around 100 present each week (and I am usually at Fletcher).

Please pray for :

- The development of a church planting vision for All Saints ANeW.
- Growth in the church plant at Fletcher.
- Beck Bishop as she increases the time that she spends church planting in Fletcher.
- The Church weekend away in mid-October.
- Continued faithfulness across our church in the preaching of God's Word.
- Wisdom in how we reach out with the gospel in our community.

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

TUESDAY ASSISTANT MINISTER – Sam Broadfoot

Praise and thank God for :

- the growth of our 5pm congregation. It's now around capacity, so please ask Him to give us wisdom about what to do next.

Pray :

- September 20 is a 'Big Youth' night. **Pray** friends would come and see Jesus clearly, as the king who lays down his life for his people (from Mark 8).
- that we would help the year 12s finish youth well, and transition into church life as adults. At the same time ask God to help the year 6 kids get excited and be keen to join youth next year.
- ask God to use Hunter Men's Conference (Rory Shiner speaking on the cross) to clarify our men's view of life this side of the cross, and strengthen them to lead as Christians in both their families and our church family.

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 **YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY – Adam Matthews**

So far this year we have been thinking about Jesus' teaching in the sermon on the mount and most recently we have been looking at the book of Daniel. Both encourage God's people to live faithfully his way in a world where it is often difficult to do so. For our young adults this has resonated particularly well. We have also been taking time out from growth groups to spend time with our non-Christian friends and will look to introduce these friends to our Christian community in various ways.

Praise and Thanks :

- For the recent night speaking with one of our link missionaries in the Middle East over Skype. It was great to hear about the work going on there; it helped our partnership in the gospel and exposed our young people to the realities of ministry in other contexts.
- For our young adult growth group leaders who faithfully serve by leading groups every week.

Prayer :

- that as we live in a world that is in many ways not dissimilar from that of Daniel in Babylon we would continue to live faithfully and boldly under Jesus as our King.
- that God would continue to raise up people who can serve others by being involved in various ministries across our church.
- that we would continue to develop deep, trusting relationships with friends and family who don't yet follow Jesus.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Prov 3:5

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Amy Soutter (on maternity leave)

Amy (with Nick and daughter Emma) welcomed Caleb into their family in early July. Amy is therefore on maternity leave. Amy has then arranged for others to lead the different aspects of her ministry during her maternity leave.

Praise and thank God for:

- The safe arrival of Caleb and Amy's time of maternity leave
- All those who have taken on extra ministries during Amy's leave.
- The recent Kidswise training weekend at New Lambton led by Sandy Galea and the 26 people from church who attended.
- All the children who attend programmes on Sunday and midweek connected with All Saints ANEW.
- Denise Rothwell's leadership of children's ministry in the Fletcher Church plant.
- The opportunity to teach SRE in local schools.

Pray that:

- The arrangements for children's ministry during Amy's maternity leave would continue to run well.
- Time Out and mainly music midweek programmes might lead to gospel conversations.
- Families would be regular in church with their children each week.
- Each Sunday programme (10.30 & 5pm) would have sufficient leaders.
- Leaders would be able to put into practise all that they learned at the Kidswise training sessions.

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

THURSDAY **Anabelle Copeman**

I continue in the process of handing on much of what were previously my responsibilities. It is wonderful to see others, both ministry team members and others, stepping up and taking responsibility. Some examples are organising the kitchen for our monthly lunches and dinners, welcoming and data base entries. I am concentrating on mentoring emerging leaders and the Monday morning mixed growth group. I personally benefitted hugely from the training on leading teams given recently by Sandy Galea from Kidswise.

Praise and Thanks for :

- the growth in confidence and maturity of Isabelle Cox, our year 13 trainee.
- the new people who have joined the Monday morning group to do Christianity Explored and the great team who make this happen. The group now numbers 25, with 6 of these in active leadership or service roles.
- growth groups serving together to facilitate our monthly lunches and dinners.

Please pray :

- that I will be given wisdom and energy to lead the 2 teams which are my responsibility; 10.30am school age kids and Monday Morning Growth group.
- that those stepping into new areas of ministry will be strengthened and equipped for the task.
- for Isabelle as she continues to study PTC and serve in a number of areas at church. May she grow in wisdom and knowledge of God and finish the year well equipped to serve God and His church into the future.

So, neither the one who plants or the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 1 Cor 3:7

FRIDAY WOMEN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT 5pm – Kate Rogers

*In Christ we, though many, form one **body**, and each member belongs to all the others. Rom 12:5*

Praise and Prayer for:

Christianity Explored : This excellent course has been running this term on Monday and Thursday mornings, helping people discover (and rediscover) the best news they've ever heard. Our regular group members have been encouraged and equipped, and guests have joined us to watch the videos, look at the Gospel of Mark together, get to know Christians, ask questions, and discover who Jesus is, what He achieved, and how He calls us to respond.

- Pray people will respond in repentance and faith, and for faithful follow-up and discipling afterwards.

TimeOut :

- Pray for wisdom and opportunity to show and share Jesus with these families.

Our church mums are strategically and faithfully building relationships with these ladies outside of TimeOut. Some of the mums have accepted the invitation to the High Tea, which is great gospel opportunity in the context of ongoing relationships.

Book Club : "God is Enough", by Ray Galea, explores 10 psalms that give core Biblical truths, in the context of prayer and praise. He challenges us about where we look for hope, joy and satisfaction.....he encourages us to refocus our hearts and lives on our loving, faithful, sovereign and saving Creator God,so that we can say, with absolute conviction, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." Ps 73:25

High Tea : Our Ladies Spring High Teas at New Lambton (Saturday September 21) and Fletcher (Saturday September 28) are fast approaching.

- Give thanks for the team-work-and-spirit that makes these evangelistic events possible.....and
- pray that ladies who don't yet know Jesus will come and hear the good news about Him.
- Please keep our speakers Bec Norha (New Lambton) and Cathy Young (Fletcher) in your prayers as they prepare faithful and clear gospel messages.

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. Isaiah 42:3

SATURDAY Fletcher and 10.30am SERVICE – Beck Bishop

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:11-14

It has been a wonderful encouragement to journey through the Pastoral Epistles in our Monday evening Growth Group at Fletcher.

Praise and Thanks :

- Give thanks for answered prayer for Fletcher mainly music leaders. Our new leaders are passionate, full of joy and love community.
- Very thankful for Young Adults Growth Group at Fletcher and for their desire to grow, also their heart to connect with the local community through our last Monday of the month Community BBQs held at the Fletcher Tennis courts.
- That SRE teachers in the 7 inner city Primary schools which Beck co-ordinates are Godly, well prepared and prayerfully dedicated to their schools and students. They are a joy to work with.
- Carol and Beck get to see the Ladies from Fletcher Craft Club weekly now. One fortnight is craft and the next week is coffee at the local coffee shop.

Prayer :

- As we get to know mainly music contacts that a way might be made for these families to explore the good news of Jesus for themselves.
- for SRE - give thanks for the opportunity to dedicate a week to Prayer - 21st - 28th September. Pray that the preparations for SRE Christmas assemblies might go well and that the Christmas message might be clearly explained.
- Give thanks for Bec Nohra and Cathy Young who will be speaking at our Spring High Teas at New Lambton and Fletcher respectively. Pray that the good news of Jesus would be clearly explained, that we would have many visitors and that some would respond to Jesus.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High: to declare Your loving kindness in the morning, and Your faithfulness every night. Ps 92:1-2

SUNDAY Michael Marklew – Minister at St Paul’s Church Stockton

Hello to our Family at All Saints ANeW,

Thank you for your prayers and support. It encourages me greatly to know that you are praying for ministry in Stockton.

Prayer, Praise & Thanks :

- **Breeze JR** – In response to everyone’s prayers God has grown our Junior High children’s program with at least 6 children now coming reliably and as many as 12 the other week! We have adjusted the outreach to include School Years 3-6 (with some year 7’s joining us on the occasion as well). Almost all of the parents and children do not go to any Church so please be **praying** that we glorify God and impact them positively for the Gospel. Please also be **praying** for Harry and Alison and now Tamika as they run this program week after week.
- **Home Groups** – Our home groups continue to struggle this year. Please be **praying** for people to put this time ahead of other commitments and that our leaders would lead well.
- **Sunday Services** – Apart from last Sunday we haven’t grown much over the past few months. This happened last year during the winter months as well, so it may just be a feature of our beach side village culture. Please be **praying** for accelerating growth leading up to Christmas.
- **Praise Team** – Please **give thanks** for all those involved in music ministry here. We have been greatly blessed with a consistent and ever improving band under Harry’s leadership.
- **Alpha** – **Give thanks** for all those and particularly the non-Christians sticking with the current Alpha course and please pray they come to a living faith in Jesus Christ. Please be **praying** that the next course that starts on the 9th of October would be well attended.
- **Evangelism** – Please be **praying** for Godly conversations and conversions as a number of us door knock and do walkup evangelism in Stockton on Mondays. Please **pray** people will accept our invitations to join the next Alpha course and to be part of our various outreach ministries.
- **Staff Team** - Please be **praying** for Alison as she continues to juggle family, ministry and a diploma in early childhood learning; please be **praying** for Harry as he continues to lead several ministries here alongside a master’s in theology and please be **praying** for me as I continue to struggle having a consistent day off. Matthew 9:37-38 comes to mind as I write this!

As our second year in Stockton is coming to an end, I have become acutely aware of just how much I have underestimated what God would do, and at the same time how much I have overestimated how much we could do. God is good and we continue to be humbled by his presence and blessing, and as always, we continue to write our plans in pencil!

God Bless and thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Your Brother in Christ, Michael Marklew, Stockton Anglican.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ Isaiah 52:7