

Pipeline for church leaders



Geraldton Cathedral Dean Lachlan Edwards (R) has appointed Nathan Hiscock (L) the first NW ministry apprentice.

Geraldton student Nathan Hiscock has been appointed the first Ministry Apprentice in the North West Anglican Church, in a major push to raise up homegrown gospel workers.

The position is part of the new 3-stage Ministry Training Pipeline which includes theological studies and a stint as a curate before graduating to lead a church.

Dean of Geraldton, Lachlan Edwards, said Nathan will serve God at the Cathedral for two years discerning his suitability for long-term ministry.

"One of the biggest challenges to ministry here is attracting gospel workers to locations that are isolated, far from family, with extreme weather conditions and highly transient populations," he said.

"Through the pipeline, we aim to raise up able, godly, and trained workers from our own backyard who are familiar with the particular demands of ministry in our region. We pray that this means they will stay long-term.

"We thank God for Nathan – a faithful, humble, teachable young man who yearns for more people to know Jesus and grow in their relationship with God."

Nathan's role will include leading music ministry and playing the organ, co-leading a weekly Bible study with Lachlan, service leadership, pastoral visits as well as opportunities to preach.

To date, the Cathedral has pledged totalling \$37,500 of the \$40,000 needed each year for the 4-day/week apprenticeship. If you would like to help, please scan below.



First North West ministry apprentice

The first Ministry Apprentice appointed in the North West is a 26 year-old organist who describes himself as 'gap filler'.

Nathan Hiscock volunteered last year to learn the organ to fill the gap left by the retirement of Geraldton Cathedral organist Marjorie Smith after 40 years. For Nathan, it was the third time he'd picked up an instrument to ensure the Cathedral had a music team. The organ and choir play a key role in the traditional 8am weekly Sunday service.

"I know it's pretty unusual for a young person to play the organ but I appreciate the hymns.



St Andrew's Cathedral Music Director Ross Cobb (R) shared music and ministry wisdom with NW apprentice Nathan.

MOTIVATION



Bishop Darrell Parker

Motivation is a strange thing.

Without motivation, we would very likely do nothing, nothing at all – ever !! Behind everything, almost without exception, is some form of motivation. When we climb out of bed in the morning, there is something motivating us to do so. It might be as simple as the smell of brewing coffee, the pain in your back that demands you get moving, excitement for the day ahead or the pressure that if you don't get up, there'll be even more to do tomorrow.

Going deeper, our motivations tell us something of who we are. They're an insight into what drives us.

Take the famous New Year resolution for example. It's widely known this rarely leads to major

change in behaviour. Whether it be reducing your drinking, weight loss or improving a relationship, the strength of your motivation is key to your success. At the time you can feel deeply committed to the change, yet motivation can quickly wane and be overtaken.

If human beings are to do something that is hard and requires cost and sacrifice, the motivation needs to be strong. Indeed, it needs to be strong enough to overcome all manner of fears, desires, comforts, needs and inner conflicts. This idea is at the heart of the Bible's concept of hope. In order for our Lord Jesus to endure the cross, he had to have a powerful motivation to suffer the physical and relational pain of being crucified and being afflicted and smited by his Father. Hebrews 12:2 addresses this very question: ... *'Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, despising its shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God'*.

Our Lord's powerful motivation was nothing less than the salvation of his people and the perfect fellowship he would share with them in the Kingdom of Heaven.

It takes powerful motivation to do the things that are hard.

So just what is it that keeps our workers in the North West going? What motivates them to do the hard things: to push through the isolation, the high cost of fuel and groceries, the extraordinary temperatures, the frustrations of church being small. What empowers them to persevere despite not having enough people to cover the jobs, lack of schooling options for their children, regularly losing key people from their congregations, and the constant red dust that penetrates houses, beds, clothes, carpets, cars, and kitchen cupboards.

It takes a powerful motivation to endure all that. Only knowing Jesus as Lord and Saviour, knowing what it cost him to purchase them out of sin and death, and knowing Jesus as the one true answer to the deepest need of the towns they serve. Only that is strong enough to push them on every day.

By your ongoing prayer and financial support, you too demonstrate that it's Jesus who also motivates you.

Darrell Parker
Bishop

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"They are a form of serving God and talking about him. I see a benefit of my playing is to prolong the life of hymns in our church."

Nathan's willingness to serve the body of believers prompted the Cathedral Dean Lachlan Edwards to encourage him to begin a ministry apprenticeship and consider full-time ministry.

Nathan said: "It breaks my heart when I see people getting confused about things or misjudging God's character or deeds."

"I want to serve and love people and the best way to help them is to help them grow in their knowledge and love of God."

"I genuinely believe that the Bible is sufficient for people to come to salvation through faith in Jesus."

He explained that the two year apprenticeship will help discern his suitability for full-time gospel ministry.

"We will look at character, conviction and competency. Is my character fit to serve? Is my conviction in God well placed? And finally, am I competent? Am I skilled or capable of developing what is required for ministry?"

"These two years are sort of a test run. I get experience and I see what it's like on the job."

Nathan started with a bang when he and Lachlan attended the January Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) national training event, CMS Summer School in Katoomba and deputised at churches.

"A highlight was having a session in Sydney with St Andrew's Cathedral Music Director and organist Ross Cobb. I picked up a few ideas to improve my organ playing and also about ministry in general."



Please pray for Nathan to serve faithfully and see people mature in their faith.

Discipleship has no barriers



Luke Harris (L) was discipled in the North West before joining CRU West as a cadet in Perth.

North West churches have developed a unique model of discipleship to ensure young people in outback churches mature in their faith despite isolation.

Geraldton Cathedral's assistant minister Mike Welham meets regularly one to one with teens in Year 12 to help prepare them to launch into life elsewhere.

Four young men are serving in church in new places following Mike's discipleship.

"Meeting one to one creates a unique opportunity to talk on a much deeper level and to give intentional encouragement," he said.

"By this I mean, helping them prepare to move onto the next phase of their life and stand strong in the Lord apart from their parents' influence."

They look at the Bible's blueprint for relationships and for those heading to the city, Mike helps link them to a church and Christian groups at university.

Darcy de Vries (19 years) appreciated the sacrifice Mike made to commit to regular catch-ups before he moved to Kununurra in 2022. Motivated by the desire for Kununurra teens to have the same opportunity that he had enjoyed,

Darcy started a youth bible study at his new Anglican Church.

"Since Year 7, I had had a bible study to go to with Cathedral youth and I really valued it.

"It's helpful to meet in a group, to hear other people's views and learn from others."

Darcy is now discipled by an older brother in Christ who meets regularly with him over coffee to read the bible together, discuss life and pray.

"It's encouraging to have someone else I can go to for advice, someone who cares enough about me to make time available," he said.

Luke Harris (18 years) met weekly with Mike before moving to Perth. He is doing a cadetship at CRU West, which runs camps and bible studies for young people to consider the claims of Christ.

Luke said he was nervous about moving to Perth but Mike helped him think through issues, especially to prioritise his relationship with Jesus and to keep up bible reading and prayer.

The team grows

We welcome new ministry workers and new life into the North West.

Dongara, Rector



DAVE THOMPSON, WITH EMMA, REUBEN AND PAIGE FROM MOREE NSW

Port Hedland Seafarers Centre, Business Manager

PHIL DONNAN WITH SHARON

Formerly Salvation Army, & St Vincent de Paul, Northern NSW



Kununurra Assistant Minister



HENRY TREWREN WITH RYDAL, JUDAH, ABEL AND DANIELLA FROM HOBART

Karratha

FRANK AND JO NICOL WELCOME TABITHA



Leonie and Matt Morrison, Broome, welcomed baby Joshua.

NSW Information, Prayer, and Support Event

All Soul's Anglican Church,
126 Norton Street Leichhardt, Sydney

Special Guest
Darrell Parker
Bishop of the North West
Monday 6 May 2024
12 noon to 3pm

BYO Lunch
Tea, Coffee, Treats Provided
Opening The Bible Together
North West Presentation, Prayer

RSVP reception@anglicandnwa.org

Ageing one of life's great challenges



Hospital Chaplain Jeremy Rice urges more talk about getting old

Hospital Chaplain Jeremy Rice urges young and old alike to talk more about 'ageing' to help people embrace the enormous challenges that come with this stage of life.

"It's not all bleak in old age. There are special times, family times, pleasures, memories and things we can keep enjoying.

"But it's hard for the younger generation to understand the enormity of the journey the elderly face – the most challenging stage of all.

"Thinking about it, talking about it can help younger people to understand a bit what it's like. And it helps older people to understand more about themselves."

Jeremy has visited the sick, dying, grief stricken and those who care for them, in hospitals, aged care facilities and in their homes for the past 10 years.

He is compelled by 1 Peter 3:15: Always be ready to give an account to anyone who asks you about the reason for the hope that you have in Jesus, and do so with gentleness and respect.

"I meet and talk with a lot of older people and their family and carers.

"It's heartbreaking at times. There are people struggling with loss of independence, falls, a catalogue of medical conditions and pain; people living alone, or worried about not being able to live at home.

"There are families worried about elderly parents or grandparents; carers becoming exhausted; loved ones making decisions about nursing homes."

Jeremy says old age has been touted as the golden age, but it's not the golden age for everyone.

"It's also been said that ageing takes courage. To preside over the disintegration of your own body, or to watch the same process taking place in a loved one, requires a kind of heroism."

One development that Jeremy has observed and regrets, is what he calls the medicalisation of ageing. "One of the most dreaded diagnoses is Alzheimer's. In a previous era, we might have become old, slower and forgetful. However, now we are more likely to be defined by a checklist of things we can't do.

"Medical research is important, but so is learning more about holistic approaches to ageing and Alzheimer's and seeing it as part of what it means to be human – an ageing human."

Jeremy says that, while old age and dementia in particular can seem as life-minus, relationships remain the meaning of life.

"One thing I've noticed several times is that, though a person may be in a world of pain and difficulty, if they reach out graciously to others, with a word of care and interest, it can somehow bring them healing and blessing. They blossom.

"I think that is the way God wired us. It is in giving that we receive.

"Relationships are the meaning of life and the ultimate is relationship with our Creator God. We fall short of his righteousness so he sent his Son. Jesus came and died in our place and rose again.

"If we trust in Him we are forgiven, adopted and He will never let us go."

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Please send me the North West Network & Prayer Diary

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BSB 706 001 A/C No 3000 3846

☐ Credit card _Mastercard _Visa

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Card number _____

Expiry ____/____

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