

Port Hedland prays for salvation



People at St Matthew's Port Hedland are praying that God will use their outreach activities to grow his church in their town.

Revd Eion Simmons said most members of the church had been in town for less than 12 months but were keen to share the good news of the gospel with friends who don't know of salvation through Jesus.

"Last year we held three evangelistic evenings. The first was a dinner, movie and talk about 'Christ, the Ransom for all'.

"In preparation for our second evening, we asked church members to write the names of local unbelievers to pray for. We had a wonderful response and prayed for 51 people – that they might come along! We held a curry evening, with a talk about 'Forgiveness from God' and watched the movie 'I Can Only Imagine'."

The year ended with an outreach Carol Service.

Eion said that the church was united by the gospel which "is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe" (Romans 1:16). Their prayer is that, like Paul, they would not be ashamed of the gospel.

"It was wonderful to see these evangelistic events unite our church family in prayer for the work of proclaiming the gospel. They helped us grow in boldness and being unashamed of the gospel.

"God graciously answered our prayers for unbelievers to come and hear the gospel, and now we pray God will bring spiritual life."

This year the church will do some equipping with personal evangelism training and hold more outreach events.

New Mission to Seafarers Chaplain

With a range of ministries under his belt, our new Chaplain at Mission to Seafarers Geraldton is well suited to the role.

Peter Schendzielorz has previously served in the multicultural western suburbs of Sydney, worked with the Anglican mission agency CMS in Perth and in AFES student ministry on university campuses. He has a passion to share Jesus with everyone, including seafarers.

"Seafarers work hard, spending months at sea, away from family and their community. Amid the challenges, there is comfort to be offered to them in the gospel which transcends the difficulties and distance of life at sea.



Peter Schendzielorz (with family), is excited to be sharing the gospel with seafarers through the Geraldton Seafarers Centre.

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Farewell from Bishop Gary



Bishop Gary Nelson and his wife Christine

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [ESV, 2 Tim 4⁷]

Paul writes these words to Timothy as he nears the end of his life and ministry. They certainly encourage us all to finish well, to remain faithful to our Lord.

Friends, as I write, it's only a few months before I conclude my ministry in the North West on May 15. For Christine and I, it has been, and still is, a wonderful privilege to serve the Lord in this part of remote Australia.

It seems only yesterday we were leaving Sydney to drive across the continent to Geraldton. Now, we find ourselves preparing to do the reverse trip, 10 years later. We find it hard to believe our time in the North West is rapidly drawing to a close. So, Christine and I, want to thank you, whether family, friends or supporters [across Australia, and overseas, especially in America], for your constant prayer, generous giving and continued encouragement to press on.

The North West is a terrific mission opportunity for gospel work.

But, it is a hard ministry field as we face a transient population, remote locations, indigenous needs and a missionary context [it's a TRIM diocese]. As a result, we are always under resourced for the gospel task of 'making disciples of all nations'. Please keep praying for the Lord of the harvest 'to send out labourers into his harvest'.

Over our time we have met an amazing array of people that highlights the cross-cultural environment we minister in. And how exciting to see people from different backgrounds or nations or circumstances, come to faith in Jesus and grow in their love for Him. What an encouragement to meet them in other situations and find them persevering in Christ.

As bishop, I have the demanding role of recruiting ministers to serve in our parishes and chaplaincy work. Though often time consuming, and disappointing with the many who say no, yet those who come are a wonderful group of gospel hearted servants.

Ministers who preach the Bible faithfully; who unashamedly stand for gospel truth; who are prepared to sacrifice for the sake of God's kingdom – what a joy to serve with them. As well, a solid team in the diocesan office [mostly volunteers] led by the Registrar, has been built up to provide vital support for the increasing administration load and compliance regulations we now encounter.

The pandemic has affected us all, particularly here in Western Australia with its hard border. This has made it very difficult to recruit ministers or locums. We are hoping that as the border opens it will encourage more people to consider serving in our diocese.

The North West is linked to the Anglican diocese of Karamoja in eastern Uganda – a remote and poor region. It's been a real privilege to train pastors there, and support their ministry in many other ways [eg. providing resources for a school, running water projects, offering financial help].

The Covid years have prevented us returning, but we are hoping that in the next year or so we will be able to encourage our friends with a visit. Though we have a variety of needs, it's very helpful to look beyond ourselves to the wider kingdom work, and the Karamoja link enables us to do this.

What's next for us? Not sure at this stage, but we are eager to see our families on a more regular basis and meet a few of our grandchildren, especially in America. Perhaps even experiencing a white Christmas, what a contrast to the hot, 47 degree Christmas with no power or air-conditioning in December last year.

Finally, may God bless and keep you in faithful love and service to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gary Nelson

New Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Continued from page 1



“God’s comfort is accessible at times when their families or other supports are not. You can pray to God anywhere. You can read the Bible on land or at sea.”

Peter says that each meeting is precious. “We may only have a brief encounter with a seafarer during

their shore leave, at the gangway or through online communication. So we have to make the most of every opportunity.

“The mission is more a ministry of planting and watering, rather than reaping the harvest, but it’s important work among people seeking hope.”

Peter believes it reflects Jesus’ ministry of calling fishermen to follow him – as they ask in John 6 – ‘Where else have we to go? You [Jesus] have words of eternal life?’

Peter became aware of the need and opportunities for gospel workers in the North West when he visited in 2007 as part of an SMBC student mission.

He and his wife Kate were also drawn by gospel mindedness and fellowship among NW ministry workers.

Peter thanks God for the past service of Wayne and Gladys Sutton who retired in December, along with the work of volunteers past and present, and the current partnership with Garry and Deb Frahm assisting in the shop.



Pray for seafarers amidst the challenges of COVID; for those that support them; and for individual and church partners who are keen to pray for and give towards the ministry.

New Minister from England



Allan and Jo Baird, with Sarah and Andrew, are settling well into the parish of Dongara after arriving from England and persevering through 28 days of isolation.

Gospel ministry in the North West has become international, with the recruitment of a minister from England helping to overcome the challenge of filling vacant parishes.

Allan Baird, with his wife Jo and family, were invited from the Cotswolds in England to join the North West team as Assistant Minister at Dongara Anglican Church.

He heard about the opportunity through Ridley College, where he had studied online, and was delighted to move from St Luke’s in Cheltenham.

“I pray that I can exercise a faithful, gentle, biblical ministry week by week. Dongara is a small, rural fishing community – not unlike some places in England. It’s a town where things don’t happen overnight.

“A key struggle for the church has been reaching into the community. There have been many initiatives over the years but there is perhaps a feeling that there hasn’t been much gospel fruit.

“So, for us there is a ministry of encouraging and persevering.”

Allan became a Christian while at Pembroke College in Oxford and is grateful to have been discipled by people like Vaughan Roberts. However, he is concerned that the Church of England is turning away from its gospel roots.

“It’s a joy to be here where the gospel workers all share the same theological understanding and commitment.”



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Equipping the saints for Christ's service

By Bishop Gary Nelson



Rene (L) and Jean (R) with Brendan Hurley are keen to be equipped to win people for Christ.

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ... [ESV, Eph 4.11f]

As we obey Christ's command to 'make disciples of all nations' we seek to equip Christians for ministry. This includes home-grown training of those in our assistant ministers' program. Providing resources for this program is vital for our own going sustainability as a diocese since it has become increasingly harder to recruit ministers. The assistant minister at Bluff Point, Rev Brendan Hurley, who is in his 4th year of the program is equipping others through a course called Entrust.

The course aims to help people grasp the 'big picture' of God's plan for humanity as revealed in His word. This course includes tools for understanding the Bible faithfully and accurately.

Paul encourages Timothy to intentionally train others as we read in 2 Tim 2:2: *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people, who will be able to teach others also.*

Brendan's enthusiasm for the gospel is evidenced in his desire to build up 'a big team of people to spread the gospel in Geraldton' and the *Entrust* course is one way of equipping our Christian community. Jean Davidtz signed up for the course because of her desire to win people for Christ. But Jean didn't feel she had the ability or courage to do this.

She said: "There are so many people who need to hear God's word, to hear about Jesus and his love for them. I want to develop a deeper understanding of God's word and learn how I can reach out to others."

Please pray for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, especially through the Entrust program.

If you would like to help sustain our assistant ministers' training program, please make a gift to: Diocese of North West Australia BSB 706 001 A/C no 3000 3846 Reference Training program.

T: (08) 9921 7277 | E: reception@anglicandnwa.org | www.anglicandnwa.org

Handel's Messiah



Three months after the event, Geraldton is still talking about the performance of Handel's Messiah hosted by Geraldton Anglican Cathedral.

Acting Dean David Seccombe and the Cathedral team organised for the 35-strong OpusWA Arts Orchestra and Chorale to visit the seaside city and present this Christmas masterpiece.

"The Cathedral's excellent acoustics and beautiful stained-glass windows made it a perfect venue for a grand performance like this," David said.

More than 350 people packed the venue and showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

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