



11 October 2021

The Rev Stuart Robinson
South Head Anglican Church
C/- bishopstuartrobinson@gmail.com

Dear Stuart, Brothers and Sisters

Re: New Churches for New Communities

Thank you so much for your faithful support during 2021. **We truly value your commitment to our vital work.** Thank you also for the opportunity you gave Luther and myself to speak about our endeavours earlier this year.

As you know, your support has contributed to the building of facilities at Stanhope Anglican Church, dedicated in October 2020, as well as the construction of Hope Anglican Church's ministry centre and Sunday School building, which we trust will be completed by early 2022. I have forwarded with this letter our August 2021 newsletter, which gives a brief update on the churches we support, along with some recent photographs to give you a better idea of progress.

As we stand on the cusp of a new year, we are praying for continuing wisdom and grace to support more new churches in new communities. Our next project focuses on the Life Anglican Church (LAC), Marsden Park, which launched in 2017. They are currently meeting in the Richard Johnson Anglican School, but we have plans to commence a two-phase construction of buildings on land purchased some years ago. Marsden Park is a growing development in North Western Sydney with five schools and a growing commercial hub in their area. God willing, we hope that they will be able to make use of facilities in their first phase by the end of 2022.

I recently spoke with a couple, Doug and Tanya White, who were part of the core group that planted LAC in 2017. One of the many things they told me was they believed that God helped them count the cost in being part of this pioneer work, even though they had been quite settled in their home church in Minchinbury for 17 years. They had to navigate the dynamics of a new church plant, while also considering the needs of their children, three of whom are teens. Tanya summed up their perspective, when she said:

...2

SEEKING THE WELFARE OF OUR CITY

“God hasn’t called us to be comfortable. He has called us to go out and reach other people.”

It has not been easy for them, yet they believe this is where God has called them. Doug and Tanya are just one story in the midst of many others who regularly meet as part of LAC.

Yet Doug and Tanya’s story helps us focus on the sort of people we want to support: People who have counted the cost and decided to be a light in a community that has no established evangelical church apart from theirs.

Beyond LAC, we are excited to look further into the future and consider the many other areas that will need new churches. Land is ready in places such as Bringelly. Recently, Luther told me of his burden for more churches needed in the massive development that will occur in the future city of Bradfield, around the Badgery’s Creek airport. As Jesus said to his disciples,

Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (John 4:35)

Our hope is that we will intensify our communication across our Diocese, so that together as a united people we would see sustainable planting and support of churches for the next thirty years to meet the more than 3 million additional people who will become part of Greater Sydney.

Will you please stand with us again in your prayers and financial support for 2022? It would be great to visit one of your services in 2022. Perhaps this time I could bring Mark Collins, the Lead Pastor from LAC.

I am always pleased to answer any specific questions you have about our work.

Thank you once again for your support. May you know greater hope in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ during these days, especially as we come out of lockdown.

In Christ



Gabriel Lacoba

Executive Director

Progress Photos at Leppington



Doug and Tanya White and Family



Easter Service at LAC





New Churches Update



Why do we need New Churches for New Communities?

"In my view, we are at a crucial, strategic moment for the work of the gospel in the Diocese for the future. It is crucial now because to wait will be too late.... It is no secret that the city is going through massive, infrastructural changes.

This has become necessary due to the rapid population increase that will see more than 8 million residents in the Diocese by 2056, if not sooner: 1.5 million more people by 2036, another 1.6 million by 2056. 50% of the growth will be in new land release areas – with the largest portion of these being housed in Western, North Western and South Western Sydney.

By 2056 it is forecast that the current Western Region alone will have a population two and half times that of the South Sydney Region or the Northern Region...to be frank, there needs to be re-imagining...so that these burgeoning areas have gospel ministry available to them."

Bishop Peter Lin, Presidential Address Archbishop's Election Synod, 4 May 2021

Progress Report on:

STANHOPE ANGLICAN CHURCH

HOPE ANGLICAN CHURCH

**LIFE ANGLICAN CHURCH
MARSDEN PARK**

Editor's note: Most of our churches are experiencing the difficulties of lockdown. Our prayer is that we all find the Lord's strength and hope in these difficult days. While some of our work has been slowed, we remain confident of the Lord's promise to build his church.

Gabriel Lacoba
Executive Director, NCNC



Stanhope Anglican Church

Archbishop Glenn Davies dedicated Stanhope Anglican Church's new facilities in October 2020. Pictures below show aspects of the new building taken earlier this year.



Stanhope Anglican Church is a flourishing community of over 200 people led by Rev Steve Reimer, which has a vibrant community outreach through their mid-week activities, which include an important partnership with the local Anglicare home next door, along with child and family oriented-ministries. Like all our churches their prayer is that they might be able to continue to shine their light through lockdown.

"I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" Matthew 16:18



Hope Anglican Church Leppington

Construction commenced for Hope Anglican Church in February 2021. Rev Luther Symons leads Hope Anglican Church and it currently has a regular attendance of 400 people in one of Sydney's highest growth areas. These pictures show current progress on the main auditorium, as well as a scene from their mid-week activities for young families.



"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope" Ephesians 4:4



Life Anglican Church Marsden Park

Our next project is to provide facilities for the Life Anglican Church Marsden Park, which was planted just over four years ago and has grown to a regular attendance of over 120 people. They currently meet weekly in the Richard Johnson Anglican School. These photos show the church gathered for their fourth anniversary on Easter, 4 April and the land that has been acquired for their church building.



The project has officially commenced with a development application lodged earlier in 2021. Stage one of the project aims to use temporary demountable buildings on their land, so they can commence mid-week ministries on their new site, prior to permanent facilities being constructed.



We rely on the support of people across our diocese.
To donate to NCNC go to ncnc.org.au/donate