



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## RETELLING THE STORY

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Oprah's interview with Meghan and Harry was a sad event, on so many fronts. It reflects poorly on the Royals, on the couple, on the media, and on us at large.

The Royals are coming out of this looking like fuddy-duddies. Out of touch, aloof, and disengaged. Racist? Perhaps. Having said that, I did like the line from the queen that "recollections may vary". There is a lesson here for the Anglican Church. Many will see us as out of touch.

Meghan and Harry do not escape critique. They stepped back from the spotlight, only to step back into it.

Over the past week, I have noted a story about a footballer, a surfer, and a swimmer, not to mention a litany of female staffers who were all victims of discrimination. The powerful, the popular, the machine somehow marginalised them. None of this was right. Some evils ought to be called out and opposed. The media is right to do this.

But what perplexes me is how victim after victim telling and retelling their story constitutes news. Does not this attention risk reinforcing a victim mentality or a victim identity? It reinforces a narrative where some are defined by the injustice done to them. This may, in turn, further disempower the victim's ability to prevail.

In the past, we may have quoted maxims like 'What does not kill you makes you stronger'. There is a kernel of truth here that has been lost. Life is not fair. It is hard for some, and harder for others. Turns out it's even hard for royalty!

I heard one commentator suggest that Harry and Meghan are unhelpful for each other, in that they reinforce the belief that they are victims of a great injustice. And that they ought to speak out against injustice. But they do so in ways that become unbalanced and represent less than the whole truth.

*Cont...*



The media, who loves conflict, and scandal – particularly when tall poppies are in view – have a feeding frenzy around this. They look like carnivores.

And we love to watch. We look like voyeurists.

The Bible is a story, with many sub-plots. There is scandal and family breakdown. This is not exceptional, in a sad and broken world.

The gospel solution is not one of blame, or self-righteousness, or understanding yourself to be the victim. Rather it entails a recognition that sin taints us all. That in and through Jesus we can find forgiveness, and the power to forgive others. And yes – we have a responsibility to help others – the lame and the crippled. The path towards wholeness is a path towards holiness and helping others. It focuses on Jesus and becoming like him. That is our identity and our heritage.

## LISTENING TO FEEDBACK

If you attended the previous Sunday services at either 8am at St Luke's, or 9.30am at St Aidan's, or if you currently attend the 8am service at Moombara St, David Rietveld would love to hear from you.

David is hosting three feedback sessions, and you can book in for one. The options are

- **Wednesday 17th March at 10am**
- **Wednesday 17th March at 2pm**
- **Wednesday 24th March at 10am.**

If you can't make this timeslot but like to provide some input about our services going forwards, please email [office@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:office@daptoanglican.org.au) and we will email you a blank questionnaire. Contact the office to book in.

## RECOMMENCING

### Midweek Service at St Luke's Brownsville

Following Easter, we will recommence a weekly service at St Luke's Brownsville. The service will be held every Wednesday, at 2pm. It will be a service of Holy Communion, and we will follow the Lectionary. Afternoon tea will follow in the hall.





Please help support this ministry by ordering some Hot Cross Buns this Easter.

Last day for orders is **Sunday 21st of March**. The Buns will be delivered or picked up on **Friday the 26th of March**.

**1 pkt \$8.00**

No orders will be taken without payment.

Name

Phone

Type of Easter Bun	Quantity	Cost
Plain Easter Buns		

Please return form and money to the front office by  
Sunday 21st March.

# CONNECT MEN

Saturday 20th of March Connect Men are meeting at Little Park in Shellharbour Village from 3pm. Bring your own snacks or buy fish and chips when you get there.

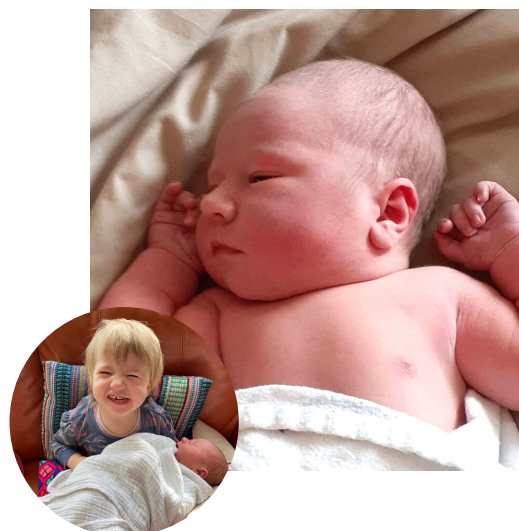
Connect Men seeks to meet monthly to provide men an opportunity to hang out and connect. If you would like to know more about Connect Men, or want to join their email list, chat to Warren Southwell or email the office and we'll put you in contact with him.



# WELCOME ELAINE

Join us in celebrating with Calvin and Loren Adlington the safe arrival of their daughter Elaine Celeste. Elaine arrived on Thursday 4th March weighing a very healthy 4.170kg (9lb 3oz). Both Loren and Elaine are doing well, and big sister Eilish was very excited for her first cuddle.

Although it may be some time before we get to meet Elaine, as Loren and Calvin are in Canada, we pray over them as they raise their daughters.



# COMING UP

- 13th Mar Empty Nesters - Picnic
- 20th Mar Connect Men
- 24th Mar Seniors Luncheon
- 1st Apr Tenebrae Service
- 2nd Apr Good Friday Service
- 4th Apr Easter Sunday Services





# PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God, grant that we, who justly deserve to be punished for our sinful deeds, may in your mercy and kindness be pardoned and restored through the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S; Diana M; Kath H; Ella H; Jean D; Barbara B; Barbara L; Reg B;

### HOSPITAL

Sue B (10am) - due home on Friday following surgery. Elizabeth L (10am) - hoping to have plastic surgery done soon. Jeanette B (10am) - hopefully home on Friday. Graham Steele (10am) - recovering slowly from bowel and chest infections. Going to Port Kembla Hospital for rehab. Daphne C's (8am) daughter, Joanne awaiting surgery in Westmead Hospital.

### 8AM/2PM

Wal S; Glad A; Betty B; Margaret T; and Mildred A; - all recovering at home. Pat W and son Antony still struggling with health issues; Maureen (Op Shop Customer)- Cancer; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia.

### 10AM

Nelson S - waiting for surgery on eyelid; Jeanette R; and Sharon S; - both home recovering; Hilary B - seeing hand physio this week; Ruth D; Alexis L; Phillippa S; Ronnie VK; Michael E; Michele S; - all ongoing conditions and treatments.

### 7PM

Jamie M - recovering from surgery. Jim B - home and recovering well; Shaina J's son, Roman - waiting for more tests; Gary M - ongoing health problems; David G - unwell, kidney issues; Calvin A mother - diagnosed with cancer.

### CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Blake M (Janelle's 8 year old grandson) - having chemo for Leukemia.

## SAFE MINISTRY



Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help. Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email [safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

