



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

PETS, AND THE PANDEMIC

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Covid 19 saw a downturn for many businesses and an upturn for others. One industry that is booming is the pet industry. As people stayed home more with their pets, sales of cat toys and doggy outfits spiked. Doggy outfits?! Yes – a dog needs to look their best for their Instagram page.

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In the past pets lived outside, were fed cheap pet food, and were buried in the back yard when they died.

Now pets can have birthday parties with cakes (even dog ice-cream), themed dress-up days, send other pets cards, and host a pool party. Pet insurance is common, to fund expensive treatment and surgery. And when that fails, there are now pet funerals, cremations, or freeze-drying preservation.

Put simply, people now treat their pets like they are humans, like children.

With the growth of the pet industry, who wins and who loses? Pet food companies win. The pet food business is worth \$2.8 billion in Australia alone. And the biggest player is Mars (as in the chocolate company). You can pay \$7000 for a Cavoodle. Some farmers are switching from stock breeding to dog breeding.

You could also argue the developing world loses. We now have spoiled obese pets in the West (about 50%), while orphans still starve elsewhere in the world. As a Christian, we would see this as unbalanced. Only humans are created in God's image. This is poor stewardship.

In my view, a surprising loser is the pets themselves. Dog anxiety rates are rising, and about 40% of dogs will experience it at some time. You can now medicate your dog for anxiety.



The reasons why are complex, but an underlying cause is that dogs have lost their place in the pack. The dog who lived outside and what fed the leftovers last knew its place. It was at the bottom, and it was happy there. Life was clear, simple, predictable, and consistent. And that makes for a happy pet.

When you feed a dog first or pat it first (before you say hello to the kids) you give the dog the idea it is at the top of the pack. It is the boss. Then, when you take the kids out for the day, and not the dog, it gets confused and anxious. You didn't have permission to leave the pack. The dog can get separation anxiety.

All of this is a wonderful metaphor for God's created order. Peace follows order. Climbing up rungs brings expectations and responsibilities one is not capable of managing. Unwarranted power breeds anxiety, not joy.

When Satan told Eve she could be like God, he was lying.



We had 54 attend the second Summer Nights workshops! We had a great time learning different skills from, sausage making to watercolour painting. The final night of Summer Nights is next week. Book your spot now.

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 19th January:

- Cake Decorating (18+) **SOLD OUT**
- Butcher Workshop (18+) **22 Spots**
- Weaving (18+) **2 Spots**
- Dumpling Making (18+) **SOLD OUT**
- Line Dancing (all ages) **25 Spots**
- Kids Painting (5+) **3 Spots**



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty & Everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the prayers and requests of your people, and grant us your peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy M (10am), Loren A (7pm), and Kasey D (10am).

THOSE MOURNING

Pray for Sharon and David Langley and family, following the death of Sharon's father.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

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

8AM/2PM

Mildred A - having tests; Shirley S, Pat W & Antony and Sue - all struggling with health issues; Maureen (Op Shop customer) - Cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - surgeon consultation 28th Jan; Daphne C's neighbour - Lukemia;

9:30AM

Julia L - Cataract surgery; Robin B - pain.

10am

Elizabeth L; Ruth D; Alexis L; Sharon S; Sylvia McG; Genie C; Phillippa S; Wendy E; Ronnie VK; Michael E; Janelle S; Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatments; Dave S - recovering at home after surgery.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - more tests soon, pray for more answers and good health while monitoring and waiting, Billy H - chemo treatment; Gary M - ongoing health problems; David G - recovering from surgery.

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 or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

