

WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

REV DAVID REITVELD

There is a line in the Carol, O Holy Night, "thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices".

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That line captures for me the essence of Christmas this year. The world is weary. Weary of lockdowns, of restrictions, of uncertainty, of tensions between family and friends about how to respond to Covid and vaccinations.

What is in short supply this Christmas is hope. We are living a subsistence life, coping from day-to-day. We struggle to imagine things can improve. We avoid planning and hoping for things in the future because we don't want our hopes dashed again. We are in self-protection and self-preservation mode.

Note that Carol wasn't written in the past few months. It has been sung for centuries, and it captures the cries of the human condition across generations. First-century Israel was also a weary, hopeless world.

That is the world Jesus comes to. Those are the people Jesus comes to save. As you prepare for Christmas day, can I suggest you might ask yourself a question or two?

Are you feeling weary? If so why? Weary of what?

Second, how does Jesus bring hope to the weary world?

I look forward to sharing with you on a new and glorious morn the hope that Jesus brings to a weary world.

INTO THE NEW YEAR

As the end of the year draws near, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughts, help, patience and understanding through what has been another difficult year. As with so many in our community, we have had to be flexible in how we do things including the need to work from home for much of the year. A big thank you to our volunteers who have helped in the office and with maintenance around our various sites. The office will be closed from Christmas eve, through until 10th January. However, you can still contact us via email and we will be checking the phone and working off-site.

We wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and wish you blessings for the new year.

Dave, Christine, Kim

The DAC Office

- Closing midday Friday 24th
- Phones 4th 6th, 9 am to 12 pm
- Office reopens 10th Jan (Monday Friday 9 am till 4 pm)

The Cafe

- Closed from the 23rd Dec.
- Reopens 11th January, (Tuesday to Friday 9:30 am till 2 pm)

Connect Kids Sunday

- Connect Kids Sunday and Oxygen will be taking a break from the 26th to the 16th. Kid packs will be available on 26th, 2nd and 9th.
- Connect Kids Sundays and Oxygen returns 16th Jan.

DAC OP Shop

- Last Day opened for 2021 is today, the 23rd December.
- Op Shop will reopen 10th January, 2022.

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





Summer Nights is BACK! Over five nights, we'll be running workshops for all ages. We have Sausage Making with David Rietveld, Drama Improv with Matt Goodman, Bowl Cosy's with Wendy Eagleton, Cookie Decorating with Miranda and Charles Janszen, just to name a few.

The dates are Tues 11th, Thurs 13th, Tues 18th, Thurs 20th and Tues 25th of January. Each night we will run from 5:30 pm till 6:30 pm. Afterwards, we'll be able to gather in the cafe for dinner, some workshops even cover the cost for dinner so keep an eye out for that.

Head over to www.dapto.church/summernights to find out more and buy your tickets.



PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HOSPITAL

Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - Prince Alfred Hospital - has been in for over five weeks. Please continue to pray for a good recovery for Joanna, and also for peace for Daphne; Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale) - in St. George Hospital following a wheelchair accident, and injury to his leg; Continue to pray for recovery for Rebekah S; Praise God that Tarj is awake after many weeks in an induced coma. Continue to pray as he begins a long road of rehab and recovery.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people in Nursing Homes - Kath H, Elsie N, Diana M, Barbara L, Reg B (all in St. Luke's Village); Robyn K, Neville K (both at Diggers Rest at Corrimal); Gae and Allen Q ('Dorington Court', Castle Hill); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.).

<u>MA8</u>

Audrey R - had a fall and fractured her ankle. Pray for a good recovery; Pray for David H as he recovers following knee replacement surgery; Shirley S - asks for prayer as she sells her house to move down the coast to be with family; Lyn R - still struggling with her health. Has to see another specialist next year; Daphne C's neighbour has Leukemia; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her knee. Pray for patience and recovery; Arthur S - lots of pain from cancer in groin.

10AM

Vince A - recovering at home; Sue B - coping with her condition; Phil P - waiting for more treatment.

<u>6PM</u>

Shaina's son, Roman - waiting for more scans

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's father and brother still need our prayers.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God, you have given us your only Son to take our nature upon himself: grant that we, being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.