

WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

FAKE NEWS

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The news coverage in the USA is a tale of two narratives. On the right-wing, pro-Trump media outlets like Fox News highlight how (before COVID) the Trump administration achieved record rates of employment (among everyone including African Americans), economic growth, forced the European Union to pay their way in NATO etc. Whereas the left-wing media outlets, like the Washington Post and the New York Times, are highly critical of Trump's foreign policy, handling of #BLM and COVID etc.

It doesn't seem to matter what the topic is, or what the evidence is – one group of people loyally follow Trump – while the other criticise him at every turn. For his part, Trump spins only one side of the story and calls everything else fake news.

I have never seen the media so divided. So lined up in one camp or the other. So partisan. This is scary. You would think the news is the news, and the facts are the facts. But it appears not. Increasingly media outlets are telling one side of the news – the side that aligns with their political and social views.

And sadly, this trend is coming to Australia. The media reports of Anglicare's Newmarch House were damning and relentless. I counted over 40 stories with 'Newmarch' in the heading on the ABC website alone. None of them positive. A common formula was interviews with distressed family members.

Contrast this with the outbreak at the Melbourne Islamic school – El Taqwa. By my count, on the ABC website, the school is named in only three headings and appears in seven stories. Sadly, 19 residents died at Newmarch house, and this makes for dramatic headlines. And rightly so. But the Al Taqwa cluster infected 183 persons and is the second biggest cluster in Victoria. It was also newsworthy, I would have thought. But it appears not.

OFFICE PHONE - 4261 1001

WWW.DAPTO.CHURCH

OFFICE@DAPTOANGLICAN.ORG.AU

PO BOX 25, DAPTO NSW 2530

THE CAFÉ - 4260 9278

CITY YOUTH RETURNS

Last Friday, saw the return of face to face Youth Group. Our first since March 13th! It was a time of great joy and celebration to be back. I am so thankful to our leaders and to God for the great pleasure that such a ministry is. We saw over 40 teenagers at the return, implementing the new safety restrictions, encouraging and spurring one another on. Please could you join me in praying for these young people, many of whom do not yet know whether they can trust Jesus, as this Term, we discuss the foundations of Christianity – of what it is we believe? Please also be praying for our leaders, as many of them are coming off increased work and study loads, including weariness during this COVID season.

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

PRAYER

A payer reflecting on Genesis 1-3

Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the wonders of your creation. Like the Psalmist, we lift our eyes to the sky, we think of the stars and planets soaring through space in the harmony of the paths you have set for them, and we ask what is mankind, that you care for us. Yet you have made us unique in our world, of all creatures the only ones made in your own image, made to love you and give you glory. You made us to represent you and to care for the world and all in it. Yet as a race, and as individuals, we have wanted to put ourselves at the centre of the universe, we have ignored you and listened to other voices telling us we can be all powerful, like you. Thank you that you sent your unique Son Jesus to enter our world, to open the way to you, through his teaching, his death and resurrection. Through him we can be made new to honour and serve you as we should. Forgive us our self-centred pride and make us what you want us to be, loving children of God. Help us to show the world around us what it is to live as God's people in God's wonderful world. In the name of our Saviour Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Raise up your great power, Lord and come among us to save us; that, although through our sins we are seriously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your abundant grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the merit of your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Ainsley R. (7pm), Mel F. (7pm), Erin K. (7pm), April A. (7pm) and Katie C. (7pm).

THOSE IN HOSPITAL

Betty B. (8am).

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S., Bruce M., Diana M., Kath H., Ella H., Jean D., Lorna B-W., Glenys N., Barbara B., Barbara L.

8AM/2PM

Helen K., Peter H. and Gordon M. all recovering. Diane L., a month free from tests, then waiting for Specialist's results. Mavis B., home from hospital, recovering well. Pat W. struggling with sciatica. Son Antony - still struggling with effects from operation, ongoing treatment with brain clinic. Antony's fiancée, Sue K - cancer has gone into spine. They are all so grateful for your prayers.

9:30AM

Judy W. going to physio and going much better.

10AM

Ronnie VK, Michael E, Janelle S, June C - all ongoing conditions and treatment. Michelle S. peace and strength as she undergoes treatment. Jason R. home recovering. Chris W - recovering from surgery; Adrian-Ryde W - Surgery next Tuesday; Georgia-Louise W - surgery next Friday.

7PM

Shaina J. son, Roman, waiting for appointment. Pray for good health while waiting. Billy Harvey - chemo treatment. Gary McDougall - ongoing health problems.

FRONT OFFICE

The front office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9am till 4pm. The office phone will be available from Monday to Thursday, 4261 1001.



2020 HALF YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW

As we commenced 2020 our Church faced significant financial challenges. During congregational meetings late last year the Wardens presented plans for a solid financial foundation to support sustainable growth in our ministry and - by God's grace, his kingdom. Staff levels were set that reflect these priorities, supported by reliable giving. At the same time we established a five year capital and maintenance plan to care for our properties and the people who use them.

By March it appeared that our plans would face significant challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to stop meeting together and closed the Café and the Op Shop – two income generating activities. We saw an initial drop in live giving, and anticipated a 40% decrease in overall income!

It is with great thankfulness that we are able to say that this dark picture has not become a reality. Our gracious God has been watching over us and has provided for us in ways that we could never have imagined. Giving from our church family has exceeded our budget target over the last three months. For the six months of this calendar year we are only \$2,700 behind target. In addition, in June we received donations of \$42,500 in the Building Fund and \$5,800 in the Religious Education Fund.

We have also benefited from two schemes provided by the Federal Government in response to the pandemic. We have received \$111,000 from the JobKeeper Scheme and \$16,700 from the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers scheme. These schemes will continue until September. We anticipate receiving a total of \$237,000 from JobKeeper and \$42,000 from the Boosting Cash Flow scheme. It appears unlikely we will qualify for JobKeeper beyond September.

As required under the Government scheme, we have had to use some of the JobKeeper money to top-up some staff salaries to a minimum of \$1,500 per fortnight. Yet we have seen savings in other areas such as electricity, cleaning, printing and op shops rents. We continue to work on our capital and maintenance plans. Parish Council also approved expenditure of \$12,000 on items related to the pandemic, mainly focused on online streaming of services etc.

Given the strong giving, the Parish Council has the confidence to proceed with plans to employ a youth worker. We are exploring our options and look to advertise the position in the near future.

We thank every member of our Church family for your commitment, faithfulness and generosity as we have moved through these uncertain times. Thank you for your part in ensuring that we are able to lay a solid financial base on which to build for the future that will enable us to grow God's kingdom here in Dapto.

Our God has been gracious and compassionate to us. He has been watching over us and providing for us and we give Him thanks and praise for this.

DAVID RIETVELD, SENIOR MINISTER

JIM BAILEY, NIKKI SULLIVAN AND SIMON WEBB, CHURCH WARDENS

