

WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

WHO IS TO BLAME?

REV DAVID RIETVELD

I read an article this week about an athlete who was blaming the system for abuse in their sport. It got me thinking about blame.

The use of the word 'blame' has tripled since about 1980. It turns out blaming is a trend.

What happens when we blame? We use our mental energy to focus on what others have done wrong. We place all the responsibility as to why things have happened on others.

Given that we did not cause it, we do not need to feel guilty or responsible. We can vent our anger at others. We can demand they fix it, and we let ourselves off the hook. If anything, we feel sorry for ourselves because we are the victims of all of this.

This is the opposite of Jesus' advice. He tells us to look at the log in our eyes before we look at the speck in our brother's. Jesus' words acknowledge there is fault on both sides, but our attention is best focused on ourselves. In his letter, Peter tells Christians who suffer unjustly because they are Christians to praise God because the process of purification begins with the household of God.

Of the 60 times, the Bible uses the word 'blame' (in the NIV) – 58 uses are about being blameless. The emphasis falls here on looking at ourselves first and keeping our own house in order. God is the only person who blames (Rom 9).

I have come to view blame, on the whole, as a counter-productive feeling. It downplays our contribution, overplays the part of others, positions us to become self-righteous and angry, and disempowers us for action and responsibility.

This week, try to catch yourself in blame mode, then stop. Instead, let us focus on being blameless, and trusting God to vindicate those who do right.

OFFICE PHONE - 4261 1001
WWW.DAPTO.CHURCH
OFFICE@DAPTOANGLICAN.ORG.AU
PO BOX 25, DAPTO NSW 2530
THE CAFÉ - 4260 9278



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

You may recall Rev David Rietveld and Rev Leigh Roberts chatted at the start of our service a few weeks ago about create connections with St Luke's Village. "It Take's a Village" is that program.

It Take's a Village to weather a pandemic and we'd love to support those at the Village who aren't connected with us or might not have many connections. We are putting together care packages for these individuals, and love you to be a part of it.

You can get involved by dropping any or all of the following off at the Cafe during community dinner pick up times (Wed & Fri nights):

- **Artwork** - from the kids or yourself
- **Individually wrapped treats** - e.g. chocolate, biscuits
- **A letter or note of care** - (with your address on a spare envelope if you would like a new penpal!)

Any questions send Rev Leigh Roberts an email - leigh@daptoanglican.org.au

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

St Luke's Church has welcomed worshippers, wedding and baptism quests, and mourners for nearly 140 years. Each of those visitors has walked up the front steps, and they are now showing considerable wear and tear, to the extent that they presented a significant safety risk.

With assistance from a Wollongong City Council Heritage Grant, we have undertaken the repairs necessary. The repairs were completed by Brad Rimmer, a local Heritage Stonemason.

Where appropriate, new sandstone blocks have replaced the most severely damaged steps. As much as possible, the existing steps were retained and releveled, paying homage to the heritage of the building. We now look forward to St Luke's continuing to welcome and serve the people of Dapto for another 140 years.

*Dave Langley
Business Manager*



Community Dinner

Meals this week:

Wednesday 22nd September

\$12 a serve of Roast Lamb, Rosemary Potatoes, Pumpkin, Peas & Carrots

Friday 29th September

\$12 a serve of Beef Cheek Tomato & Red Wine, Potato Mash, w/Veg - *limited numbers, get your order in fast :)*

To order shoot an email to: thecafe@daptoanglican.org.au

You might notice that the number has changed. If you call The Cafe on **02 4260 9278 between 9 am to 12 pm on Tuesday**, Jill will be there to take your call. Or leave a voice message and she will confirm your order later. Please order by 4 pm the day before. And remember when picking up to wear a mask & abide by current restrictions to keep each other safe.

Deliveries to St Lukes Village - Other deliveries on special request.



IT'S A SPRING Thing

It's Spring! It's a time of growth and change. Let's get together online and learn new skills together.

We are hosting Zoom workshops over the Spring School Holidays. The workshops will go for approx 1 hour and be limited to 7-8 participants per Zoom. You'll provide you with a list of what you'll need and you'll collect your own resources.

Book your Spring Thing at www.dapto.church/springthing

IT'S A

SPRING Thing

Book your Spring Thing
www.dapto.church/springthing

MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
20TH SEPT Ice Cream Slice Garlic Naan Bread Japanese Character Drawing and Calligraphy	21ST SEPT Sew your own Facemask Coconut Raspberry Bread & Crunchy Lemon Muffins	22ND SEPT Design a Room Mood Board	23RD SEPT Easy Formal Hair Hair Styles Sew Your own Face Masks Dumpling Making	24TH SEPT Air Dry Clay Vase Bucket Drumming for Kids Poi Twirling for Youth	25TH SEPT Learn to Crochet Squares	26TH SEPT
27TH SEPT Photography 101 Easy Formal Hair Hair Styles	28TH SEPT Japanese Character Drawing and Calligraphy Bread Making	29TH SEPT Minecraft Tutorials for Kids Design a Room Mood Board	30TH SEPT Coconut Raspberry Bread & Crunchy Lemon Muffins Book Club	1ST OCT Make it, Bake it Crochet Squares Bucket Drumming for Kids	2ND OCT Dumpling Making	3RD OCT

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty and eternal God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the church is governed and purified: receive our prayer which we offer before you for the many different members of your holy church; that every one of them in his vocation and ministry may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy S (10am)

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Gail R (8am) in Shellharbour Hospital awaiting future placement. Pray for John also as he is unable to visit Gail. Neville K in Coledale hospital for rehab and Graham S in Bulli Hospital.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Molly B, Diana M, Kath H, Barbara L, Reg B, (all of St. Luke's Village, Dapto); Robyn K (Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, AP); Jean D (Farmb Grove, Unanderra) continue to pray for Jean who has been quite unwell.

8AM

Shirley S - back at home after respite; Pat W - please continue to pray for Pat and her sons; Wendy R - please pray for relief from back and leg pain; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - still waiting for surgery. Lyn R - needs prayer for recovery from the problems caused by Coeliac Disease.

10AM

Phil P - recovering well; Merrilyn R - recovering well; Sue B - coping after treatment; Gwyn and Ruby D - coping with Gwyn's health; Paul B - home dialysis; Joan D - pray for healing; Graham & Linda B - asks for prayer for their son-in-law, Pat (living in Canada) who has severe symptoms of Covid 19.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - still waiting to have scans; Gary M - ongoing health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's father - please pray for healing from cracked vertebrae. Lynne N's brother, Stephen, in America, has started treatment plan; Continue to pray for Janelle and Ken M.

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

CORRECTION

Last Sunday, quoting Matthew 3, I said that Jesus and those in the heavens saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and remaining on Jesus. I then went on to suggest that no one else saw this. I received an email this week from someone who noted that John the Baptist says in John 1:32 that he also saw the dove.

I am grateful that people listen, then check what it is I say against the Bible. This happened to Paul, and he describes such action as noble. The Bereans “examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” (Acts 17:10)

In my defence, I read two commentaries and cross-referenced Matthew with Luke’s account of Jesus’ baptism. John’s gospel does not retell the story of Jesus’ baptism, so I did not think to check it. But in John’s gospel, John the Baptist does mention that he had seen the Spirit descend onto Jesus.

What then are we to make of Matthew’s account of the baptism? What ought I have said, and not said last week? Matthew does emphasise that Jesus and those in the heavens saw this. Matthew is focusing on Jesus’ hearing and seeing God’s affirmation of his Sonship. This is a precursor to Jesus commencing his public ministry. Second, Matthew is setting the scene for the spiritual battle that is about to take place between Satan (who sees this) and Jesus – now publically declared as the Son of God. Because this is the focus of Matthew, he (and Luke) do not mention what John the Baptist may have seen.

Thanks, Ruth for your pick-up.

Rev David Rietveld

