



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

LESSONS FROM AFGHANISTAN

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After 20 years, 241 000 deaths (71 000 being civilians), and more than 2 trillion dollars, America and its allies have given up on winning the war in Afghanistan. Within weeks the Taliban is back in control. Why could the West not solve this problem?

This week I read a famous article about 'wicked' problems. Wicked in the sense that they are cancer like: they evolve, they are aggressive, they attack, and they take over and distort existing cells. Wicked as opposed to tame problems. Wicked problems are persistently untameable.

Tame problems are like maths, or chemistry, or engineering, they have the following features, the problems are definable and can be solved. Everyone agrees that a solution has been achieved. The solution is either right, or wrong. If you get the solution wrong, you just go back to the start and try again.

For the past 250 odd years, Western societies have made great progress in solving tame problems. We have worked out how to mass-produce goods efficiently. We have invented machines that can replace manual labour. We can educate the masses and make medical treatment available to most people. In each case, a problem has been defined, an agreed solution achieved, and the public good advanced.

We imagine all problems are tame. But they are not! What exactly was the problem in Afghanistan? That it harboured terrorists? That it abused human rights? That it was the source of opium? That it was a militant form of Islam?

If we cannot nail the exact problem, we cannot set a clear goal as to its solution. Then comes debate about the outcomes. Would more people have died if we did not intervene? Would terrorism have been greater or less? Thousands of Afghan girls now have education and hold down professions. Was that worth it? Is the average Afghani better off under allied occupation or Taliban rule? How would they know? How would we know? Commentators will announce different levels of success, given their relative interests and perspective. We cannot agree if the war was good or bad.

cont...



Now we hit another feature of wicked problems. They are not like maths problems where you can just start again. Afghanistan is now different. Can we just leave? And have we left it better, or worse? In many ways, you cannot know. But that will not hold people from holding strong opinions. A mother who lost her American son in the war will have a different opinion to a mother whose daughter will now be forced to marry a Taliban soldier.

Now we have left Afghanistan. But what was the 'deeper cause' we were fighting against? Was it terrorism? Militant Islam? Drugs? Human rights abuses? And if these were valid causes to fight against – how do we continue the good fight? And where?

We expect our leaders to know the answers and to solve these problems. Is Biden doing the right thing by leaving? Was Bush wrong to intervene? Leaders will be voted in or out by how they frame, attempt to solve, or walk away from wicked problems. Is that fair?

As I find myself overwhelmed and swamped by my own questions to the point of almost giving up, I realise many other problems are probably better understood to be wicked problems, rather than tame ones. Can you tame a COVID virus? What will the new 'normal' look like? How do you tackle addiction? Abuse? Racism?

And as a Christian and a minister, I ask what does it mean to follow Jesus and lead a Church in the Post Christian locked-down world? To be honest, I don't know all the answers, let alone all the questions. Is it a wicked problem? Or a tame one? Or parts of both?

But I do know this. God knows. He is loving and powerful, and his Spirit is in me and us. Today I need to follow Jesus. That will do.

Playpatch Parcels

Our Playpatch team have continued to be busy sending our packs to our community families. The little members of our community check their letter boxes each day to see if their letter or parcel has arrived!

This week they got a Nature Scavenger Hunt! Going for a walk and exploring outdoors, they had to keep an eye out for the different items on their bags.



Thankyou to the Playpatch Team: Heather, Deb, Judy, Cheryl, John, Peter, Michael & Henry. Thankyou for hard work you are doing to stay connected with the young families of Dapto.



Community Dinner

Meals this week:

Wednesday 25th of August

\$12 a serve for Roast stuffed chicken breast Potato Bake Peas, Carrots, Cauliflower.

Friday 27th August

\$12 a serve for Lasagna, garlic bread & Greek salad.

You can order for next week, simply email **thecafe@daptoanglican.org.au** or alternatively, you can **text 0414 935 643**. You will be able to pick up your meals from 5:45pm. When you arrive to pick up your meals please ensure:

- Only ONE person enters the building to collect your order.
- They are masked.
- They sign in using the QR code.
- Physical distance of 1.5m is maintained at all times.

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

For those needing to drop off their offering envelopes, Jim will continue to be at the church between 6:00pm and 6:30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Blake Moulds

This Friday the 20th of August, the funeral for Blake Moulds will be held. Due to COVID restrictions, it will be held online. Livestreamed on 20th August from 9.55am to 11.25am and you can view the recording for up to 90 days.

Click this link to view: **<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1628791998663715>**

OR use these login detail:

Login Page: www.oneroomstreaming.com/login

Email: kathi.hull@hansenandcofunerals.com.au

Password: QTLP53

NEW DATE!

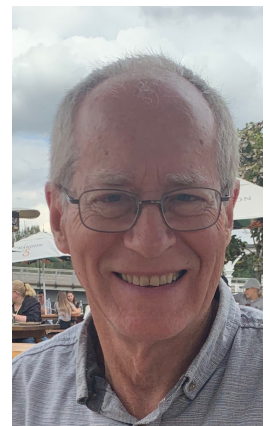
Women's Weekend New date announced!! February 18th - 20th, 2022. If you had already registered for the weekend your registration will be moved over for the new weekend.

If for any reason you can't make the new date and need a refund please contact the church office at **office@daptoanglican.org.au**.

THIS IS US

Here we are again! This is Us. This week you get to meet me, Christine Lane (the one who sends you the Newsletter each week), along with Rev Rick Miller and Blake Bailey. In the email we talk through what has been keeping us occupied during lockdown. Hopefully we can give you new resources and new ways to connect. If you missed the email let us know and we'll make sure you get it next time, or click [here](#).

Jamie Mackenzie interviewed Blake Bailey this Wednesday live on YouTube. It was encouraging to hear how a young boy from Dapto High came along to Youth Group and is now a Head Leader in our Youth Minister. If you missed it head over to [Youtube](#) to watch.



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

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy S (10am)

MOURNING:

Pray for Trevor and Jill P and family, following the death of Trevor's mum at the weekend.
Pray for Janelle and Ken M as they have Blake's funeral on Friday, 20th.

HOSPITAL

Neville K - Wollongong Hospital following a fall and broke a rib and his hip. Pray for healing following his surgery. Graham S - Bulli Hospital.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Molly B, Diana M, Kath H, Barbara L, Reg B, (all of St Luke's Village); Robyn K (Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, AP); Jean D (Farmb Grove).

8AM/2PM

Shirley S - recovering well from her stroke; Lyn R - continue to pray for Lyn's health; Pat W - problem with her eyes, and please pray for her sons, David, who has an enlarged aorta, and for Antony, who is still grieving; Arthur - coping after his treatment; Wendy R - please continue to pray for relief from pain in her back and leg; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia, plus another rare cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - still waiting for her surgery.

10AM

Pray for Trevor W still waiting for knee surgery; Pray for Phil P as he recovers from his surgery; Sue B - please pray for peace and freedom from pain; Gwyn D - pray for peace; Joan D - still unwell; Michael T - recovering; Paul B - home dialysis; Pray for Matt S as he settles into his new job.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - waiting for Covid to be over to have his scans. Gary M - ongoing health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's brother, Stephen, in America, has stage 3 Melanoma which is confined to his foot. He will have surgery this week to remove the melanoma. Lynne N's father, Trevor, is out of hospital. Please pray for healing for him. Virginia C - recovering well from a knee replacement.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many great dangers that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all our life choices and carry us through all temptations; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**