



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH



INTRODUCING AYAAN HIRSI ALI

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Ayaan was born in Somalia in 1969 and raised in a moderate Islamic family. Her father left Somalia as a political refugee, eventually settling the family in Kenya in 1980.

Ayaan attended an English-speaking private girl's school. But she also came under the influence of teachers who radicalised students under the influence of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood, and she began wearing a hijab.

Fleeing an arranged marriage, Ayaan ended up living in the Netherlands in 1992. She was granted political asylum. She attended university and worked as an interpreter supporting other Somali women who were victims of abuse.

September 11, 2001, marked the end of transition and a turning point for Ayaan. Her progressive Western education and her experience with the abuse of females in side Islam, confounded by the actions of Osama Bin Laden, caused her to denounce her Islamic faith.

In 2003 she successfully ran for elections in the Dutch parliament on the platform of overlooked rights for female Muslims. In 2004, she worked with Theo van Gogh on a film documenting the mistreatment of Islamic females. Theo was murdered, and a death threat to Ayaan was stabbed to his chest. Ayaan had to live in hiding.

During her rise in Dutch prominence, Ayaan befriended Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, and became the foremost female New Atheist. Her disdain for the evils of religion is understandable. From 2006 onwards, Ayaan has mostly lived in the US.

In November of 2023, Ayaan announced that she had converted to Christianity. She believes there are four dominant worldviews vying for ascendancy. In her opinion, Islam and authoritarianism (as in China and Russia) are evils we need to stop. The other two options are Christianity and Western woke-ism.

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For Ayaan, atheist woke-ism is an insufficient worldview to combat evil. In its origin, it is a reactive idea against the notion of a sovereign God, and instead champions human freedom. Only in Christianity do we find the raft of ideas, values, and institutions we need to “safeguard human life, freedom, and dignity”, she writes.[1]

Only in Christianity do we find a meaningful unifying story that secures freedom, opposes evil, and promotes greater good. And so Ayaan now describes herself as a lapsed atheist.

[1]. Ali, 'Why I am now a Christian' on unherd.com

Welcome Baby Oliver

We are delighted to announce that Nathan and Tara welcomed their baby girl, Isla Jane Oliver, into the world on the morning of the 22nd of December, weighing 3.470kg and measuring 48cm long. Tara and Isla are doing well, and Nathan is looking after his girls.

Please join us in giving thanks for the Oliver family. Pray that Nathan and Tara will settle into being new parents, and that baby Isla will continue to grow and be healthy, always knowing the love of her amazing God.



Growth Group Sign Up

Each week, men and women of our church meet together to share in the joys and heartaches of life, open God's word and discuss how we might follow Jesus better, and pray together. Growth Groups are a highlight for so many people here at DAC!

This Sunday, we will have a signup opportunity for you to join a growth group. We ask that you pray about what Growth Groups might look like for you. We hope you may take this opportunity to foster a deeper relationship with God and connect with our awesome church community.

Growth Groups will return from Monday the 5th of February.

DAC SUMMER DIARY

We have been loving all of our DAC Summer events so far. We have seen people meeting for bush walks, painting walls of our church, catching up for some tennis and more. We still have so much to come! There is something for everyone. Check your calendar, find an event that interests you, invite your friends and family!



Fri 12th
Big Bash



Tues 16th
Lawn Bowls



Weds 17th
Barn Dance



Sat 27th
Train to Berry



Weds 24th
Night Markets



Sat 20th
Lawn Games



2024 Calendar

If you haven't already, grab one of our 2024 Calendars from the Connect Desk this coming Sunday! Also, available at our 2pm service. It outlines all of the exciting and fun things we are doing this year. Save the dates to your phone and write them up on your wall planner so that you can plan early!

Prayer and Praise Night

Please join us on Thursday, the 1st of February, from 7pm in the Main Hall, as we launch our year singing praises to God and coming before Him in prayer.

Psalm 95:1-2; "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Prayer at the start of the year: (Philippians 3:10-11)

Lord, whatever other resolutions we may make, in fun or seriously, may we have your strength to pray honestly with Paul, 'That I may know Christ and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection of the dead'. In the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Lisa and Matt G.

MOURNING

Please pray for Denise A (10am) following the recent death of her husband Brian. No funeral details have been set as yet. Please also pray for Nelson S and Jeanette R following the recent death of their sister-in-law, Sandra S.

HOSPITAL

Please continue to pray for Ivy E (8am), who is still in St. George Hospital.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Gordon M, Beth W, Betty B (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendye C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM

Please pray for Deb P's brother, who is very unwell.

10AM

Please continue to pray for Ruby D, for mobility and pain control; Also, please continue to pray for Andrew W and Phillip P who both have health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N and her family with health problems.

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

