



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS AND BEING NICE

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Christmas is a time to be upbeat and positive. It's a time to be grateful and thank others for their contribution. It's a time to be warm and fuzzy, and share the love.

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And it's a season where cyber-criminals kick into over-drive. Last year, almost \$600m was stolen in fraudulent credit card transactions. Not only are there people who scam others and make fake websites, but there are actually businesses who sell fake websites as franchises, complete with marketing campaigns and regular updates. They employ staff, set growth goals, and follow business strategies.

Some like to think the world is becoming a better place, that we now know better, and there is a general social progress underway. As appealing as this thought might be, it seems that every opportunity for progress is also a new opportunity that some use to exploit.

I am not sure if the world is getting better or worse. People remain humans with the capacity for both good and evil. The first Christmas narrative has nice shepherds, earnest wise men, an evil Herod and corrupt chief priests.

The coming of Jesus frames how we should view these dual themes. The world is fallen and needs saving. But Jesus loves the world and willingly sacrifices and gives his life to bring salvation.

We are the forgiven people, who at all times (but especially at Christmas) should be thankful, generous, and servant-hearted. We should attempt to bring the kingdom when and where we can, yet realise that Jesus will come again to bring the new heaven and new earth.

This Christmas, rejoice in the coming of our saviour, be a blessing to others as Christ is to us, and try not to get scammed.

Women's Christmas Event

Thank you to all the ladies who attended our recipe swap night last night! We had such a great time, with fellowship seen across a wide range of ages and a room that was completely filled with joy and laughter. Not to mention the huge array of delicious foods to try!



Join us for our Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December

At the Ministry Centre

9am Service
Communion Service

4pm Service
Family Service

St Luke's
11pm Service
Communion Service

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December

At the Ministry Centre

9am Service
Family Service

Christmas is quickly approaching, with now less than 12 days until Christmas! We would love for you to join us with your family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have services for everyone and would love to welcome you!

Holiday Office Hours

CLOSED

Monday 25th December
till Monday 8th January

Phone: 42 611 001

ICS Service Week

This past week, we had students from Illawarra Christian School visit our church for their annual 'Service Week'. A group of approximately 8 students, along with their teacher, very humbly and joyfully completed jobs that needed to be done all around our church spaces. They completed a wide range of tasks with much joy and energy; painting our Op Shop bins, cleaning out the kitchen, adding Christmas decorations to our main spaces, gardening, and more! It was a joy to have them and we are so thankful for all that they completed! You are all amazing!



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 FOR THE WEEK

Our Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought, and prayer; that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love, and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives more worthy of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O; Lisa and Matt G.

HOSPITAL

Please continue to pray for Ivy E (8am) who is still in St. George Private Hospital. Following her surgery, she now has Pneumonia and an infection.

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).

10AM

Please pray for Barbara H recovering at home following surgery; Please pray for mobility and pain control for Ruby D who has osteoporosis; Please continue to pray for Andrew W and Phillip P who have health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please pray for Janelle B (was a Creative Connections member and Cafe volunteer) who has Amyloid Angiopathy. Continue to pray for Lynne N's brother, Stephen, as he continues medical treatment. May his treatment have a positive outcome. Please also pray for Lynne N, as she continues to manage her health, and also for her daughter, Melissa, who is having tests done for Lupus and also Crohn's.