



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

AUSTRALIA – THE LUCKY COUNTRY?

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Australia had a reputation for being a relaxed, fun-loving, sun-kissed, egalitarian (everyone is equal, no one is more or less important) and harmonious culture. This was a great place to live, we were proud to be Australian, and you were lucky to live here.

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

According to research (the Scanlon Foundation Mapping Social Cohesion survey), our sense of social cohesion, national pride, and hope for the future is at the lowest since the report commenced in 2007. Why?

Before answering that question, we need to ask what makes for a cohesive society. When people (or citizens) feel like they belong to something, they are valued and connected, they and everyone else is (economically speaking) comfortable, we are safe, the rules of law is just, and our government can be trusted to lead us into the future – then we have a cohesive society.

Several ingredients go into a cohesive society. Good government, a growing economy that benefits everyone, an accessible education, medical, welfare and housing system, a shared set of beliefs and a legal system that restrains evil and encourages good, citizens who all share a common set of values and ideals, a shared narrative about why we are here and where we are going – all of which engenders goodwill between all people.

If our sense of social cohesion declines, what is going wrong? Much of the above. The rich are getting richer, while many struggle to afford basic necessities, housing, and access to medicine. Increasingly, we have a two-tiered education system. Drug use and mental illness rates are climbing. Politics is binary and divisive, and trust in our political leaders is low. And underneath all this, we are losing our shared sense of being a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Joni Mitchell sings: you don't know what you've got till it's gone. Much of the West has celebrated the shift away from Christendom as escaping from a legalistic, hypocritical, controlling, bland, suppressive era of our history. And being liberated into a self-expressive, open-minded, sky-is-the-limit new era.

It turns out the new emperor is wearing no clothes, and we all feel a little exposed.



LENT PRAYER

14TH FEB TILL 30TH MAR

Illawarra Mission Connect

Join us at Fairy Meadow Anglican Church on Thursday, March 7th at 12:30pm for Illawarra Mission Connect! Bring your own lunch and join us for a gathering where you can catch up with CMS missionaries back home, pray together, and connect with fellow supporters. It's a wonderful opportunity to stay informed, be united in prayer, and build community.



CCS Try Year 7 Day

Try Year 7 Day is back for 2024! Students currently in Years 5 and 6 are invited to join Calderwood Christian School on Tuesday, March 12 to experience life as a high school student with a day of activities and lessons geared towards incoming Year 7 students. Students will have the opportunity to meet our teaching staff, make new friends, and enjoy a day in secondary school at CCS! Rego now!



AGM 2024

Our Annual General Meeting for 2024 is quickly approaching! We would love for you to join us as we gather together as God's people and vote on important matters within our church.

The night will be hosted in our Auditorium at the Ministry Centre on Tuesday, the 19th of March, at 7pm. Nomination forms will be made available at the Connection Desk from this Sunday, or at the 2pm Service next week.

If you have any questions, please have a chat to a staff member or call the office on 4261 1001.

Connect Men go to the Movies

Men of DAC, let's go to the movies! We would love for you to join us on Friday, the 23rd of Feb, as we gather at Hoyts Warrawong to watch 'Force of Nature: The Dry 2'. We will meet near the ticket office at 6pm (look for Paul Burgess) to try and get seats together. The movie will start at 6:30pm.



BCA Boxes

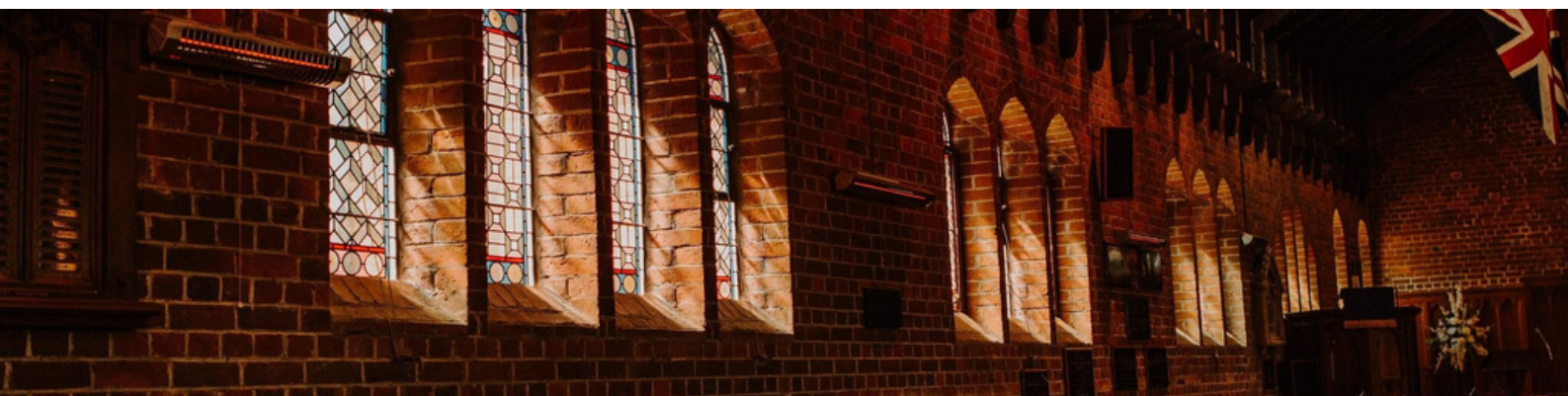


We are almost in the month of March, which means it's time once again to bring in your BCA boxes so that the money may be counted and sent off to the Bush Church Aid. We encourage you to drop off your boxes at the church office so that they may be counted and sent off. A big thank you to Ron and Maureen, who volunteer their time to make this happen.

World Day of Prayer - Palestine

An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together to come up with this year's theme "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

Please join us for this World Day of Prayer, on Friday the 1st of March. This year we are hosting at St Luke's, Brownsville (Prince Edward Drive, Dapto). Everyone is welcome to attend. We will gather at 10am for morning tea, with the service starting at 11am. We are asking that you bring a plate of food to share. See you there!



Working & Cleaning Bee

Could you help us out? We have tasks suitable for all ages. Why not come as a Growth Group or Family. We'll need help with:

- Window Washing
- Dusting
- Weeding
- Vacuuming
- Painting
- Fixing Chairs
- Sorting Hardware
- Trips to the Tip
- Steam Cleaning Chairs

We will hire one, but would also appreciate the loan of any household steamers.

Friday 1st March, 10am till 12pm
Saturday 2nd March, 9am till 12pm



All ages and stages welcome, bring the whole family.



Do you have a spot steam cleaner?

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 LABYRINTH

AT ST LUKE'S BROWNSVILLE

The Prayer Labyrinth was set up on Wednesday afternoon and is ready for you to use at your leisure. Take a moment to detach from the hustle and bustle of life, dedicating your time and prayers to God. The labyrinth invites you to walk its path at your own pace, offering a space for reflection and spiritual connection.

Upon entering, follow the instructions to walk through the labyrinth three times. The first round prompts you to quiet your mind, acknowledge your emotions, and conclude with a moment of confession. In the second round, center yourself by reading a provided passage, remaining open to the insights that God may unveil to you. Finally, in the third round, broaden your focus beyond yourself, lifting up individuals and circumstances to God in prayer.

Embrace this opportunity for deep introspection and communion with the divine during this Lenten season.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord God, our Creator, we thank you for this wonderful world and universe. We praise you for its diversity and beauty, and we also see in it decay and destruction. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and its resources for the good of all mankind and for future generations. Help us also to remember always that one day Jesus will return, and you, who made it, will one day destroy it, and create a new and permanent heavens and earth. May this reality govern our attitudes and actions. We pray in his name, Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Lisa and Matt G; Katie and Phil C.

MOURNING

Please pray for Mary J (10am) and family following the recent death of her husband, Michael.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Brian L (2pm) who is in hospital with respiratory problems. Please continue to pray for Alan C (8am), who is in rehab in Wollongong Hospital following surgery on his broken leg.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R (please pray for Audrey who has a broken arm following a fall), 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.); Wendy C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM/2PM

Please continue to pray for Jill S who is recovering slowly following a fall and a fracture to her back. Please pray for Mavis B's daughter-in-law, who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer and has just started Chemotherapy. Also, please pray for Deb P's brother who is very unwell with Cancer.

10AM

Please continue to pray for Andy H following surgery due to a severe laceration to his hand. Also please continue to pray for Margaret G who is recovering from surgery. Also, for Ruby D that her health will improve. Please continue to pray for Andrew W and his health issues.

6PM

Please pray for continued healing for Christine L, who has a tear in her Achilles Tendon.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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