



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A “SWIFTIE”

SARAH DOUGHTON AND LINDA THOMSON

We all just want to feel a part of something, included and a little bit special.

For the last couple of weeks, the entire country, whether you like it or not, has been captivated by Taylor Swift. To be a “Swiftie” is to be a part of a community of people who relate to Taylor’s music and feel connected to the superstar and, therefore, glued to each other. When you ask a Swiftie why they love her (yep, it’s love), they say, “She is authentic”, “relatable”, and “she gets me”. We have to say, having just experienced her concert, we now understand.

You see, while the concert itself is incredible and the production amazing, it’s the way each and every one of the thousands of Swifties, along with the Swiftie Mums, Dads and those just along for a good show, are all part of the atmosphere, culture and even the concert itself. From the constant outfit complimenting and swapping of friendship bracelets to the light-up bands everyone has (these light up to the songs during the concert and give a sense that you are not just now a part of the show but perhaps the heartbeat), everyone that attends feels included amongst the feel-good energy in the stadium. Taylor herself remains quirky and down to earth, stopping each night to look out and sit in awe and thank all who came to see her and her team. Her mediocre dancing helps even the most uncoordinated feel free to let go and move to the beat.

We can’t help but wonder... how can we capture that sense of belonging as we worship in our weekly church services?

As the people of God, what is it people feel when they walk through our doors and sit in their seats? When they encounter God’s people? It seems clear that people want to feel connected, welcomed and part of a community; what we have to offer, the love of God and the saving message of Jesus is the only thing that will ever truly meet the yearnings of this world. We must seek to create a culture where we aren’t merely spectators at a show but deeply committed to the worship of the King as we stand alongside each other in the family of believers.

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CHRIST FOR THE COAST

FRIDAY 8TH
MARCH

6:30PM - 9PM

@ Figtree Anglican
Church



@christforthecoast



Stacks of fun activities,
BBQ, friends, Bible

\$10
entry



Please be praying for Dapto Youth, as they head to Christ for the Coast next Friday. Pray for all the youth in the Illawarra who will hear about how amazing Jesus is!

If you have a youth who is interested in attending or have any questions, please email Nathan at nathan@daptoanglican.org.au or talk to him at our youth programs.



REGO NOW

WOLLONGONG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

A great day of teaching,
music, food and friendship!

TCC

Saturday 25th May
9:30am - 3:30pm

Speaker: Grace Jones
Figtree Anglican Church



A one-day conference to inspire
women through preaching,
testimony and fellowship.



Saturday 24th August, 2024
9:30am - 4:00pm

Speaker: Blair Linne
Hillsong Convention Centre

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 busyness of life, dedicating your time and prayers to God. The labyrinth invites you to walk its path at your own pace, three times (to allow you to focus on different things), offering a space for reflection and spiritual connection.



Church and Mental Health Survey

This short survey (5 mins) created by Anglicare is designed to gain an understanding of the extent that Mental health issues are evident in a Parish context. If you have the time, please scan the QR and complete the survey. The survey will close 5pm on the 4th of March.



AGM 2024

Our Annual General Meeting for 2024 is quickly approaching! We would love for you to join us on Tuesday, the 19th of March, at 7pm, as we gather together as God's people and vote on important matters within our church.

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.

New Lawn

Check out our newly laid lawn! This is the first step in our fence installation process. We kindly request that congregation members avoid stepping on it while it takes root and establishes itself. It looks fantastic, and we are excited about its future uses!



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.

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



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?

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!



A joint churches of Dapto project to provide scripture for local High Schools



Please help **support this ministry** by donating to the Dapto Schools Scripture Board this Easter.

Give a special donation of \$10 and we will give you a pack of 6 Hot Cross Buns.

I will make a donation of \$_____.

I would like _____ pack/s of buns.

Last day for orders is **Sunday 17th of March.**

The Hot Cross Buns will be delivered or picked up on **Friday the 22nd of March.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Dapto
Schools
Scripture
Board

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
triumphed in death on the cross
that he might win life for the world:
help us in the power of his victory

to triumph over all evil
and to glory in his cross alone;
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. 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 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 still in rehab in Wollongong Hospital following surgery on his 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, broken nose and bruising 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 / WED 2PM

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

10AM

Please continue to pray for Andy H that his hand will heal following a severe laceration and surgery. Also, please continue to pray for Ruby D that her health will improve. Please continue to pray for Andrew W and his health issues.

6PM

Please pray for Anna P who will be facing surgery in the next week or two. Christine L is thankful for your prayers and is now up to rehabilitating her Achilles.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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