



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

RESPONSE TO JOHN DICKSON #2

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Last week we printed John Dickson's reflections on Christianity and the Census. I agreed with his comments but wish to reflect further on one of his points.

John's third point was: "As the Church has lost its social respectability - for obvious reasons - the civic motivation to tick "Christian" has declined...."

The church is losing its social respectability in public opinion – agreed. Why? I suggest this for three reasons. First, our shortcomings or mistakes are well publicised: abuse, bullying, discrimination, misogyny. Second, we are seen as negative. We are against abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, etc. Third, we fail to wholeheartedly affirm the politically correct moral issues of our culture: supporting LGBTIQ+, giving voice to minorities, etc.

How to respond to this is a simple and complex issue. Our first response ought to be to repent and apologise. Where we have failed to love and protect, we should admit this freely, be humble, and seek to put right and change. The wider church's track record in certain areas is poor. Peter tells us that "For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household...." (1 P 4:17).

Is the church's record in these areas worse than it has been in the past? Is it worse than it is in other areas of culture - in sport, scouts, or politics?

In some sense, it matters not. Peter's point is that we must look in our backyard first and repent. Whether others have their house in more or less order than ours is not our concern.

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At the same time, I suspect the reporting and publicity of the church's failings are more newsworthy. They are more enticing clickbait. Australians see us as power-hungry tall poppies.

Part of what we get in the media is fair; part is not. Don't be surprised if we are misunderstood and judged – Jesus was.

Family Days this School Holidays

The first of our Family Fun Days was seen today with many excited faces as they bowled strikes and spares. Many families came and shared in a time of community and fun. We are so thankful! It proves even more that you do not want to miss our next adventure day!

Symbio Wildlife Park (Helensburgh), Wednesday, 13th of July

Symbio was rained out last holidays (and yet again last week), but we are hopeful for some good weather and are going to try one more time!

Families will be meeting at Symbio Wildlife Park at 9:30am. From there we will work our way through the animals and have lunch together. Entry fees will be paid by each family at the door and for lunch you can either bring your own or buy it there.

We are so excited to see many families there! If you haven't already, please RVSP to Matt Goodman (email - matt@daptoanglican.org.au) and make sure you keep a eye out on our social media platforms for any changes which may be made closer to the day (particularly if the weather affects our plans).



Pop-Up Café



Our next pop-up Café event has been booked for Wednesday, the 20th of July.

Coffee and Muffins will be available from 10:30am, followed by a delicious fish and chip lunch from 12:00pm. Come and join us for a delicious hot meal on these cold, rainy days. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Camp is Coming!



Our most exciting event of the year is coming up for our youth aged children!

Youth Camp 2022, also known as 'Forever Changed', will be held from July 22nd - 24th at Wedderburn Christian Campsite. Each year, youth camp is the absolute highlight of the year and after two years of covid interruptions, we are more excited than ever!

We are inviting all of our families to register their teens with the QR code attached.

Come and discover how Jesus impacted the lives of many in the Bible and how our lives are truly forever changed by Christ!

For more information, please contact Jamie Mackenzie on 4261 1001 or jamie@daptoanglican.org.au

FOREVER
CHANGED

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things, graft in our hearts deep love for You, increase in us devotion, nourish us with all blessings, and so by your mercy keep us steadfast in faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

MOURNING

Please pray for David Masters, family and friends, as they grieve the death of Shirley Masters. The funeral will be held on Thursday the 14th, at St Luke's.

HOSPITAL

Jeanette B (10am) is in Wollongong Hospital following a fall from a ladder. Please pray for healing and freedom from pain, and pray for Paul as he visits her; Pray for Rosie S (10am) in Wollongong Hospital with Lymphoma - she is beginning chemo treatment this week. Also, please pray for Philippa and Janice, as they support her. Pray for Trevor W (10am) in Port Kembla Hospital for rehab.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people in Nursing Homes: Audrey & Alan R; Gae & Allen Q; Kath H; Elsie N; Diana M; Barbara L; Reg B; (all in Piper House, Dapto); Robyn & Neville K; (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S; (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H; (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Graham S; (Carino Care, Rockdale).

8AM

Barbara H - recovering from shoulder surgery, pray for freedom from pain; Mildred A - recovering from knee surgery; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her legs; Lyn R - still struggling with her health problems; Ray McP - still struggling with his health; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne, needs ongoing prayer for upcoming medical procedures;

10AM

Elizabeth L - waiting for results from tests; Nelson S; Carl C; Paul B; Pat McK - all recovering. Sue B - coping with her condition;

6PM

Continue to pray for Tarj, and also for Roman, Shaina J's son.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Continue to pray for Lynne N's brother, Steven, as he is still having his treatment.

COVID

Continue to pray for those people from our congregations struggling with Covid.