

HELPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE GOD



www.illawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au

SEPTEMBER 2026

People change because they 'want to', not because they 'have to'. A compelling 'want to' will motivate and encourage us to keep going when times get tough.

One of the most compelling 'want-tos' is seeing a life that exhibits something we desire. For me, Jesus is a compelling 'want to' and so I 'want to' be more like Him. But I also need 'flesh and blood' people to provide examples to me of what Jesus is like.

One of my joys here at Illawarra Church of Christ is that I have found others who model to me what it is like to be like Christ.

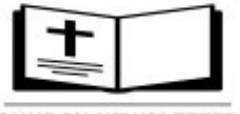
My prayer is that you find someone who models Christ to you, and that you are modeling Christ to others, so we make 1 Corinthians 11:1 a reality: 'Follow me as I follow Christ.'

Pastor Peter Watson

To subscribe to this monthly newsletter go to
www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/resources or scan QR code.



Key Info At A Glance

 TOILET Toilets in outside block. (Should be unlocked, but if locked then key is on wall in kitchen.)	 LUNCH 11:45 at Dapto Citizens' Bowling Club 102-104 Fowlers Rd.	 Visitor QR Code to let us know your contact details so we can stay connected.	 Next Soup Sunday 13th September	 AGM Annual General Meeting After service on 13th September
 CHURCH NEWSLETTER Signup for monthly newsletter on website under the resources tab.	 Pick up a FREE copy of 'Experiencing God' or 'The Gospel of Being Human'.	 Kids packs available in the foyer.	 Next Guest Speaker: 30 August Ian Forrest-Jones	 BAPTISM OR MEMBERSHIP Take a Step: Talk to Pastor Pete about baptism or church membership.

New to Church

So we can connect please either scan this QR code to complete this form to provide your name & contact details **OR** fill out the contact form on the information desk **OR** text details to Peter at 0407-278-175.



Website

www.IllawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au

GROUPS

DISCUSSION & GATHERING



www.IllawarraChurchOfChrist.com.au/connect

- One-to-one discussions through 'Experiencing God' or 'The Gospel of Being Human' with Pastor Peter Watson, 0407278175.
- Monday 5pm Women's Online Scripture Study. Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- Tuesday 1.45 Men's Coffee & Chat at Passionate Palace Cafe, 1 Stanthorpe Dr, Kanahooka NSW 2530. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- Tuesday 5pm Online Book discussion: Beth Robinson 0412047146.
- Tuesday Evening fortnightly Youth Bible Study: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- Wednesday Monthly Social Event: Venue and times vary. Brian Healy 0417296983
- Wednesday 10am 'Knit & Natter' at Church: Robyn James 0402460795.
- Wednesday 7.30pm Bible Study at 32 Brooks Terrace, Kanahooka. Peter Watson 0407278175.
- Thursday 10am Women's Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursday at 4 Breynia Street, Figtree. Contact: Narelle Blue 0402032547.
- Friday evening (fortnightly) Christian Bikers 7:00-10:00 at Church. Contact: Gary Dronfield 0413915553.
- Friday evening Youth Events. Times and venue varies. Contact: Catherine Green 0427038640.
- Friday / Saturday Evening Visiting Tribute Bands. Stephen Corry 0402892552.
- Sunday 10am Sunday Service.
- Sunday 12pm lunch at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club 102-104 Fowlers Road, Dapto

Before attending check with leader as to time and venue.



Special Offering

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Every 4 months we take up a special offering to support those outside our congregation.

Our next special offering is on the
20 September 2026 for Noel Bolero in the
Philippines.

Contribute on the day or by giving to John Piper OR via church bank account. (Put in the reference the ministry you are contributing to.)

Pastoral Contact

My normal contact hours for the church.

- I'm available anytime for hospital visits.
- For catchups I'm normally available Tuesday or Thursday but can do other times as well - contact me to arrange a time and convenient venue.
- Tuesday bible study 2pm at church building.
- Wednesday bible study 7.30pm at our home, 32 Brooks Terrace.
- Regular Friday night BBQ events at our home.
- Sunday lunch at Dapto Citizens Bowling Club.

Pastor Peter Watson

Email: peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

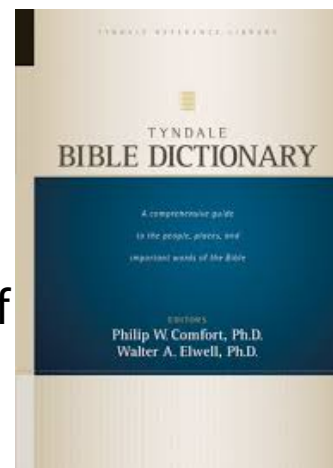
Phone: 0407 278 175

On annual holiday 14/9-27/9

Recommended Resource:

I recently purchased the 'Tyndale Bible Dictionary' and have been finding it helpful to look up ideas that I read about in my daily bible reading.

I found this article of JOY illustrative of the usefulness of this type of resource which can be purchased at koorong.com/products/tyndale-bible-dictionary-267842



JOY Positive human condition that can be either feeling or action. The Bible uses "joy" in both senses.

Joy as a Feeling Joy is a feeling called forth by well-being, success, or good fortune. A person automatically experiences it because of certain favorable circumstances. It cannot be commanded.

The shepherd experienced joy when he found his lost sheep (Mt 18:13). The multitude felt it when Jesus healed a Jewish woman whom Satan had bound for 18 years (Lk 13:17). The disciples returned to Jerusalem rejoicing after Jesus' ascension (24:52). Joy was also the feeling of the church at Antioch when its members heard the Jerusalem Council's decision that they did not have to be circumcised to keep God's law (Acts 15:31). Paul mentioned his joy in hearing about the obedience of the Roman Christians (Rom 16:19). He wrote to the Corinthians that love does not rejoice in wrong but rejoices in the right (1 Cor 13:6; see also 1 Sm 2:1; 11:9; 18:6; 2 Sm 6:12; 1 Kgs 1:40; Est 9:17-22).

Psalms 137:1-6 shows that the emotion cannot be commanded. The Jews' captors wanted them to sing in the land of their exile, something they were unable to do. Faraway Jerusalem was their chief joy.

Joy as an Action There is a joy that Scripture commands. That joy is action that can be engaged in regardless of how the person feels. Proverbs 5:18 tells the reader to rejoice in the wife of his youth, without reference to what she may be like. Christ instructed his disciples to rejoice when they were persecuted, reviled, and slandered (Mt 5:11-12). The apostle Paul commanded continuous rejoicing (Phil 4:4; 1 Thes 5:16). James said Christians are to reckon it all joy when they fall into various testings because such testings produce endurance (Jas 1:2). Joy in adverse circumstances is possible only as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, who is present in every Christian (Gal 5:22).

This Month's Big Question:

How can I forgive?

Extending forgiveness, says Jesus, is the key to being forgiven.

This is one of the most astonishing of the many remarkable spiritual and relational principles revealed to us in the pages of Scripture. It's also one of the most difficult to put into practice.

But while this teaching may be hard to grasp and even harder to implement, it wouldn't be unreasonable to suggest that forgiveness is among the greatest remedies for pain known to man. How strange, then, that so many people avoid it.

We receive hundreds of calls here at Focus on the Family every day. Many of them come from wounded people. Profoundly wounded people. The depth of their brokenness is often astounding. They come to us seeking relief, but what many of them don't realise is that one of the most important parts of healing is also one of the most misunderstood — forgiveness. Forgiveness is about letting go of our anger toward someone who has hurt us. This can be tough for some people because they've confused "forgiving" with "excusing." They have the idea that they're being forced to consider the wrong done to them as acceptable. But this is not true. Forgiveness never waters down the awful nature of an offence. In fact, forgiveness really isn't about the offending person at all. Instead, its purpose is to release the heart of the offended party from the resentment that often accompanies emotional pain.

Another hurdle to overcome is the idea that forgiveness always occurs in a single moment and that our pain will instantly disappear as soon as we say, “I forgive you.” The truth is forgiveness is often a process of letting go. It’s okay to forgive someone to the degree that you’re able at the time. Then, as you move forward, your healing will allow you to forgive more, and your forgiveness will, in turn, lead to more healing.

Remember the words of psychologist Arch Hart: “Forgiveness is surrendering my right to hurt you for hurting me.”

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. Mark 11:25

Adapted from <https://families.org.au/article/how-forgive/>

Recommended Resources:



Podcast: <https://theologyintheraw.com/podcast/trauma-justice-and-the-power-of-christian-forgiveness-with-dr-amy-l-orr-ewing/>



Book: Forgiveness: Reclaiming Its Power in a Culture of Outrage and Fear
by Amy Orr-Ewing

BIBLE IN A YEAR: September

A Navigators Bible Reading Plan: Each month has 25 days of reading so you have a few 'free days' in case you get behind. You can read all four readings each day to read the whole bible in a year or select less columns to read over a longer period. For more resources and Bible Reading plans check out

<https://illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/how-do-i-understand-the-bible/>

	New Testament		Old Testament	
	LUKE	HEBREWS	PROVERBS	ISAIAH
1.	☐ 20:27-40	☐ 1:1-9	☐ 18	☐ 1-2
2.	☐ 20:41-47	☐ 1:10-14	☐ 19:1-14	☐ 3-5
3.	☐ 21:1-19	☐ 2:1-9	☐ 19:15-29	☐ 6-8
4.	☐ 21:20-28	☐ 2:10-18	☐ 20:1-15	☐ 9-10
5.	☐ 21:29-38	☐ 3	☐ 20:16-30	☐ 11-13
6.	☐ 22:1-13	☐ 4:1-11	☐ 21:1-16	☐ 14-16
7.	☐ 22:14-23	☐ 4:12-16	☐ 21:17-31	☐ 17-20
8.	☐ 22:24-30	☐ 5	☐ 22:1-16	☐ 21-23
9.	☐ 22:31-38	☐ 6:1-12	☐ 22:17-29	☐ 24-26
10.	☐ 22:39-46	☐ 6:13-20	☐ 23:1-18	☐ 27-28
11.	☐ 22:47-53	☐ 7:1-10	☐ 23:19-35	☐ 29-30
12.	☐ 22:54-62	☐ 7:11-28	☐ 24:1-22	☐ 31-33
13.	☐ 22:63-71	☐ 8:1-6	☐ 24:23-34	☐ 34-36
14.	☐ 23:1-12	☐ 8:7-13	☐ 25:1-14	☐ 37-39
15.	☐ 23:13-25	☐ 9:1-10	☐ 25:15-28	☐ 40-41
16.	☐ 23:26-31	☐ 9:11-28	☐ 26:1-16	☐ 42-43
17.	☐ 23:32-37	☐ 10:1-18	☐ 26:17-28	☐ 44-45
18.	☐ 23:38-43	☐ 10:19-39	☐ 27:1-14	☐ 46-48
19.	☐ 23:44-49	☐ 11:1-16	☐ 27:15-27	☐ 49-50
20.	☐ 23:50-56	☐ 11:17-31	☐ 28:1-14	☐ 51-53
21.	☐ 24:1-12	☐ 11:32-40	☐ 28:15-28	☐ 54-55
22.	☐ 24:13-27	☐ 12:1-13	☐ 29:1-14	☐ 56-58
23.	☐ 24:28-35	☐ 12:14-29	☐ 29:15-27	☐ 59-61
24.	☐ 24:36-44	☐ 13:1-8	☐ 30	☐ 62-64
25.	☐ 24:45-53	☐ 13:9-25	☐ 31	☐ 65-66

Financial Support



One of the ways that regular church attendees support the work of the church is through their financial contributions. You can do this by:

- Giving cash during the offering time in the Worship Service.
- Giving online contributions via our bank account. The details are as follows: Bank Account Name: 'Illawarra Church of Christ'*; BSB: 112879; Account Number: 477353233

Sermons

Audio & YouTube versions of our Sunday message can be found at

www.illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au/messages.

At Youtube.com/@IllawarraChurchofChrist you will find the audio with the PowerPoints from Sunday added.



Meaning of our logo

Our logo represents key ideas behind what we believe and are committed to as a church. Each triangle represents one of the 5 key practices we invite everyone into.

Grace-filled **Welcome** (Romans 15:7)

Awe-struck **Worship** (Psalm 95:6)

Joy-filled **Wonder** (Psalm 145:5-7)

Life-transforming **Word** (Romans 12:2)

Kingdom-building **Works** (Matthew 16:18)



ILLAWARRA
CHURCH OF CHRIST



ROSTERS



Date	Speaker	Bible Reader	Communion	Prayer	Morning Tea	WELCOME
30/08/2026	Ian Forrest-Jones	Robyn James	Brian Healy	Cath/Youth	Dianne Kavanagh / Lorraine Graham	Robyn James
06/09/2026	Peter Watson		Anne Tresize	Linda Watson	Sue & John Piper	Iwan & Joyce Jones
13/09/2026	Peter Watson	Allie Clark	Video: Communion with quote	Brian Healy	Soup Sunday	Bronwyn Halpin & Bronwyn Felger
20/09/2026	Dallas Thom	Lee Pring	Cath/Youth	John Piper	Robyn and Joyce	Robyn James
27/09/2026	Dallas Thom	Shirley Mapispoc	John Piper	James Magispoc	Catherine and Family	Iwan & Joyce Jones
04/10/2026	Peter Watson	Graham Barker	Iwan Jones	Stephen Corry	Soup Sunday	Bronwyn Halpin & Bronwyn Felger
11/10/2026	Peter Watson	Robyn James	Brian Healy	Linda Watson	Linda	Robyn James
18/10/2026	Carol Preston	Bron Halpin	Anne Tresize	Brian Healy	Sue and John Piper	Iwan & Joyce Jones
25/10/2026	Peter Watson	Allie Clark	Linda Watson	Anne Tresize	Di and Lorraine	Bronwyn Halpin & Bronwyn Felger

Increase Church Profile

You can help increase our church profile by taking a few minutes to give a review on our Google Profile in Google. Positive reviews rank us higher in Google searches for a local church. You can do this by going to

<https://g.page/r/Ce6WB6vsY0RPECA/review>



Church Statistics

	Worship Attendance	Average Weekly Giving
2022	35	\$1,495
2023	39	\$1,756
2024	45	\$1,874
2025	41	\$1,642
Our current 3 month average	43	\$1,550

PRAYER



PRAYER CHAIN

To be added to the church prayer chain let Peter know at 0407-278-175. The prayer chain is a list of people willing to be sent a text about important prayer issues.

LOCAL PRAYER

We are committed to praying local churches in the Illawarra. Here is a list of churches and their key details:

www.5icm.org.au/Attachments/Illawarra_Churches.pdf

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

Operation World at <https://operationworld.org/prayer-calendar>

Open Doors at www.opendoors.org.au

The Voice of the Martyrs at www.persecution.com

Global Mission Partners at www.gmp.org.au/

COMMITMENT PRAYER

Thank you, God our Creator, for inviting me into your family.

I believe Jesus is who He said He is: the Son of God from the beginning.

I believe Jesus was crucified and died for my sin.
I believe You raised Him to life again to show he is your Son.

I commit to You as the Lord of my life, seeking to live as the Spirit guides and empowers me.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for making me your child.

Becoming a Church Member



Membership is open to all who have openly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9), and who support the church and regularly attend. We recommend that all follow the Bible's teaching and follow Christ in the waters of Believer's Baptism by immersion. (Information below.)

Membership requires that you indicate you wish to be a member which can be done by completing this form.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-qpPCl23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

Contact details or updating contact details



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-qpPCl23gLrkPtnoDaQ24lhfZV--vMT7RLJV1Ws8GvQReaA/viewform>

There is also a paper version on the resources table. If you complete the paper version please give it to Pastor Peter Watson or John Piper.

Social Media Links

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@IllawarraChurchofChrist

Facebook: www.facebook.com/IllawarraChurchOfChristWollongong

Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/illawarrachurchofchrist

KEY CONTACTS:

Pastor Peter Watson: 0407-278-175,

peter.watson@illawarrachurchofchrist.com.au

Board Chairperson: Anne Trezise, 0434-350-913, anne@planningplus.net.au

Board Secretary & Treasurer:

John Piper, 0409-808-119, john@piperpiper.com.au

Board Members: Robyn James, 0402-460-795; Bronwyn Halpin, 0415-366-977

Mercy Ministries Coordinator: Catherine Green, 0427-038-640,
shimmerc1@hotmail.com

Safer Kids

We are committed to ensuring the safety of everyone, especially our kids and youth. If you have any questions or concerns regarding keeping our kids and youth safe you can contact either John Piper (Board Secretary) , Anne Trezise (Board Chair) or Peter Watson (Pastor) at the numbers listed above.