

WELLSFORD CO-OPERATING PARISH

MARCH 2024

*View this bulletin, view video clips and
other information on our website:*

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>

Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076

**253 Rodney Street,
Wellsford 0900**

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*If you know of someone who
was absent from church
today, or who is new to our
community, would you kindly
deliver a copy of this bulletin
to them... To Show We Care...
Thanks.*



What's Happening in March?

PASTORAL: Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are sick and recovering currently. If you know of any person who is ill or would particularly appreciate a visit, please contact a member of the Pastoral Care team.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council Meeting for this month will be on the **10 March**.

We are on **FACEBOOK!** Please like the page for important updates at this link, or go to Facebook and search for Wellsford - Methodist Presbyterian Co-Operating Church.



HERITAGE REST HOME SERVICE:

The Heritage Rest Home service will be from **10:00am** until Noon on the first Friday of each month. The next service is on the **1st March**.

BIRTHDAYS: If your birthday is in March, a very happy birthday to you!



SHARED LUNCH we are having a farewell luncheon for Chris, Rebecca & Jack on the **10th of MARCH** at the Church Centre.



Our Mission: 'Love God, Love Each Other, and Extend that Love beyond our Church'

Monthly Hour of Power online service:

Pastor Bobby teaches... "Refiners Fire: How Obstacles Fuel Success." <https://hourofpower.org/episode/refiners-fire-how-obstacles-fuel-success/>

The Story behind the Hymns

History of Hymns: In Christ Alone, Source: Chat GPT

"In Christ Alone" is a modern Christian hymn written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. It was composed in 2001 and has since become widely popular in Christian worship services around the world. The hymn reflects on the core doctrines of the Christian faith and the centrality of Jesus Christ in the life of believers.

The inspiration behind "In Christ Alone" stems from the desire of the songwriters to articulate the foundational truths of Christianity in a clear and profound manner. The hymn focuses on themes such as salvation, redemption, the atoning work of Jesus Christ, and the hope that believers find in Him.

The lyrics of "In Christ Alone" explore the significance of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It emphasizes that our hope, strength, and salvation come solely from Him. The hymn also highlights the victory of Christ over sin and death, proclaiming Him as the cornerstone of faith and the source of eternal life.

"In Christ Alone" has resonated with Christians across various denominations due to its rich theological content and powerful melody. It has become a staple in worship services, conferences, and gatherings, uniting believers in their devotion to Christ and their shared confession of faith.

Overall, the story behind "In Christ Alone" reflects the timeless message of the Christian faith and the profound impact that music can have in expressing and reinforcing spiritual truths.

Use our digital edition to listen to...Link is hyperlinked

[Sing along here](#)

[Or this Version](#)

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

O Lord God, our Father.
You are the light that can never be put
out;

And now you give us a light that shall drive away all darkness.
You are love without coldness, and you have given us such
warmth in our hearts that we
Can love all when we meet.

You are the life that defies death, and you have opened for us the
way that leads to eternal life.

None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary.
But your grace is enough for us.

Arouse in us that wholeness of life which you have prepared for us
through the death and resurrection of your son.

Do not allow us to remain indifferent to the wondrous glory of
Easter.

But let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our hearts.

Karl Barth, 1886-1968 [adapted]

The Resurrection: A Story of Easter Hope

In the quiet of the dawn, as the sun began to peek over the horizon, the world stirred with anticipation. It was a morning unlike any other, pregnant with the promise of something miraculous, something transformative. It was the morning of Easter Sunday.

In the heart of Jerusalem, within the ancient city walls, the streets whispered tales of the events that had unfolded just days before. The city had been filled with an air of tension and sorrow as Jesus of Nazareth, the beloved teacher and healer, had been crucified on a hill called Golgotha. His followers wept bitterly as they laid him to rest in a borrowed tomb, their hopes shattered, their spirits crushed.

But on this morning, as the first light kissed the earth, everything changed.

Mary Magdalene, a faithful disciple of Jesus, made her way to the tomb.

To be continued next page...



Grief weighed heavy on her heart as she approached the place where her beloved teacher lay. But as she drew near, she found the stone rolled away from the entrance, and her heart quickened with fear and confusion.

Rushing to tell the others, Mary found Peter and John, and together they raced back to the tomb. As they entered, they found the burial cloths lying empty, discarded like the remnants of a cocoon from which a butterfly had emerged. Jesus was gone.

Confusion turned to wonder, and wonder turned to awe as they began to realize the truth: Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he had promised.

Throughout that day, Jesus appeared to his disciples, his presence radiant with life and love. He walked with them on the road to Emmaus, breaking bread and sharing fellowship. He stood among them, his wounds bearing witness to the reality of his resurrection. And with each encounter, their hearts burned within them with the fire of hope reborn.



The resurrection of Jesus Christ is more than just a historical event; it is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. It is a testament to the power of God to overcome even death itself, to transform sorrow into joy, and to turn despair into hope.

For Christians around the world, Easter is a time of celebration and rejoicing, a reminder that the darkness of Good Friday is always followed by the light of Easter Sunday. It is a time to proclaim with boldness and conviction: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

As we gather in our churches and homes to commemorate this sacred day, may we be reminded of the profound truth at the heart of the Easter story: that death has been defeated, that love has triumphed over sin and darkness, and that through Christ, we are offered the gift of eternal life.

And so, let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, for the tomb is empty, and our Savior lives. Alleluia! Amen. (Chat GpT).



Monthly Reflection:

We have just suffered the death of our Pastor, Rev David Balchin.

What does hope look like, when the ground shifts between our feet? We need to remember that others have suffered even greater loss.

The ancient Israelites suffered two deportations (2 Kings 24: 10-17, & Kings 5 25: 1-22). The second deportation was when Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, advanced on Jerusalem with his entire army.

He pitched camp in front of the city and threw up earthworks around it. For 18 months, the city was besieged. In the extremity of their suffering, some inhabitants were so starving some of them resorted to cannibalism. The people had previously believed that Jerusalem had divine protection from the Temple in Jerusalem. Then the Babylonians burned Jerusalem and the Temple to the ground. The city walls were destroyed. The people were deported.

What does hope look like when the ground shifts under us? Even in exile - hope can be born. The exile gave the Hebrews an opportunity to reflect on what had happened. The prophet Ezekiel addressed these questions by turning the tragedy of the exile into an opportunity for spiritual reflection.

As all of us, today, need to do.

The exiled priests and scribes compiled the many disparate traditions of Jewish history and law into one comprehensive set of books of Hebrew scripture. These books would serve as a vital guide book in Babylon, and later the diaspora.

When the exile ended, after the defeat of Babylon and the reign of the new King, Cyrus, those Jews who wished to, were able to return home. What does life look like when the ground shifts under us?

Hope can be born. Judaism was transformed by the exile. Out of disaster - hope can be born.

Ann Clegg

Bible Ecclesiastes Quiz,
Brought to you by Chat GpT

**The answers are printed on the back cover of this
bulletin.**

1. What is the overarching theme of the book of Ecclesiastes?
 - A) The importance of wisdom
 - B) The pursuit of pleasure and wealth
 - C) The vanity of life under the sun
 - D) The promise of eternal life

2. Who is traditionally believed to be the author of the book of Ecclesiastes?
 - A) Solomon
 - B) David
 - C) Isaiah
 - D) Jeremiah

3. According to Ecclesiastes, what is the conclusion of the matter?
 - A) Fear God and keep his commandments
 - B) Seek pleasure and wealth
 - C) Pursue wisdom above all else
 - D) Live life to the fullest without concern for consequences

4. Which phrase is repeated throughout Ecclesiastes to emphasize life's fleeting nature?
 - A) "All is vanity"
 - B) "Life is a vapour"
 - C) "The end is near"
 - D) "Time is of the essence"

5. What metaphor does Ecclesiastes use to describe old age?
 - A) A fading flower
 - B) A broken vessel
 - C) A tree in winter
 - D) A silver cord being loosed

The Preaching Plan for March 2024:

3 March	MM Rheychille Reguyal	
10 March	Chris Balchin	
17 March	Gerald North	
24 March	Chris Balchin	
29 March	GOOD FRIDAY	<i>Speaker to be advised</i>
31 March	EASTER SUNDAY	Rowan Smiley (Communion)

Wellsford Duty Schedule for March Duty Stewards and Morning Tea

3rd March: Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke,
10th March: Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison
17th March: Eryl Nolan
24th March: Jocelyn Daken
31st March: Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke.

Parish Directory for Ministry, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.
Phone: 09 423-8076

Minister: TBC

Secretary: Eulene Goddard- email:

eulene.goddard@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Willis MacGillivray

Parish Councillors:

Ann Clegg, Eulene Goddard, Gerald North, Rheychille Reguyal

Bible Book Quiz answers:

1. C) The vanity of life under the sun
2. A) Solomon
3. A) Fear God and keep his commandments
4. A) "All is vanity"
5. D) A silver cord being loosed