

**Preaching Plan**

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Rev. C. Gordon (Communion)  
 14<sup>th</sup> Rev. E. Hopner  
 21<sup>st</sup> Rev. C. Gordon (Annual  
 General Meeting )  
 28<sup>th</sup> Multimedia  
 Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Rev. C. Gordon (Communion)  
 Minister's Steward for August Ann Clegg

**Pastoral Care Team**

Lorna Nolan,  
 Nellika Duinkerke,  
 Willis & Robyn MacGillivray

**Duty Stewards**

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Ann Clegg  
 Aug 14<sup>th</sup> W&R MacGillivray  
 Aug 21<sup>st</sup> S&N Duinkerke  
 Aug 28<sup>th</sup> E&L Nolan  
 Sep 4<sup>th</sup> J.Daken / Ann Clegg

**Morning Tea**

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> E&L Nolan  
 Aug 14<sup>th</sup> S&N Duinkerke  
 Aug 21<sup>st</sup> J.Daken / Ann Clegg  
 Aug 28<sup>th</sup> W&R MacGillivray  
 Sep 4<sup>th</sup> E&L Nolan

**Parish Directory:**

**Minister:** Rev. Colin Gordon  
 Phone: 021-854-066

**Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076**

Church Centre  
 253 Rodney Street  
 Wellsford 0900

**Parish Council**

Mrs Runa Halfpenny 423 7281  
 Mrs Lorna Nolan 431 4965  
 Mr Steven Duinkerke 431 5735  
 Mr Mark Lorenzen 0226088418

**Treasurer**

Mr Willis MacGillivray 423 8273

**Secretary**

Ann Clegg, 9 Bellvue Ave,  
 Wellsford  
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# Wellsford Co-Operating Parish



## August 2016

Email us at : [wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian@gmail.com)

View this bulletin and other information on our website:  
<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com/>

**ALL SERVICES START AT 9.45AM.**

**Church Office Phone: 09 423 8076**  
 Church Centre 253 Rodney Street

## The Monthly Message

From the winter of discontent.

I wish I had a penny for every time somebody said, "Our thoughts and prayers are for ..." as we yet again see and encounter horrors here in Aotearoa and the world. I'm a 'Rev'; obviously I'm an advocate of praying. But I've tried to get inside God's head and heart, and I wonder what God makes of our "thoughts and prayers." God is grieving, to be sure. But I wonder if God wonders what we are looking for. Back in the day, Biblical times, the people were praying during national calamities. God's response? *"These people draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me"* (Isaiah 29:13). The people gathered for special worship services and sang hymns — prompting God to say *"I hate your festivals and take no delight in your assemblies. Take away from me the noise of your songs"* (Amos 5:20). And why? If God didn't want songs and prayers what did God want? The very next verse in Amos explains it all: *"But let justice roll down like waters, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."*

I can't know how God feels about our "thoughts and prayers." But I am positive God would be far more pleased if we would open our eyes, lift up our heads, get up off our knees, and go and do something. How pointless is it to continue to shudder over the news, and then ask God for comfort, when we are doing little if anything to alter the conditions under which horrors continue to happen?

Why do these things happen? It's no one thing. It's a lot of things. But we get derailed, because somebody somewhere always has some vested interest in one of the things, so each one gets shot down (literally) and nothing changes. It is the whole toxic mess of woes that bedevils us. Seems to me a lot of people are not optimistic things will change, and commonly default to *"C'est la vie"*. But somewhere deep inside each of us, and in our collective national psyche, I would like to think we are "prisoners of hope" (Zechariah 9:12)? And what is hope anyhow? Not a naïve assumption things will just perk up tomorrow, or the more naïve assumption that our prayers will cause God to do a little razzle-dazzle magic and fix things for us. St. Augustine said that "Hope has two beautiful daughters. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see to it that they don't remain the way they are."

Peace to you and yours

Rev. Colin R Gordon

### Personal Column

The passing of one of our past members.

It is with great sadness, that last month a dedicated past member of our church, Allen Simons passed away. Allen and family had been members of our church for many years, until Allen's retirement when they moved to One Tree Point.

Allen's contribution to our parish covered many different roles of our church life, from Administration and working bee's and of course who could forget the social events, especially the concerts where he was usually the star of the show. He was always one to be involved. The Congregation wish to express their sincere condolences to Lois and Family.

Please remember to contact the Pastoral Care Team or a member of the Parish Council if you or others you hear of, are in need of our care.

### Annual General Meeting

Will be held after the service on 21<sup>st</sup> August

Nomination Forms for Parish Council members are available in the foyer. Lorna Nolan & Runa Halfpenny are due for re-election. Any other people interested?

### **NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING TIME**

**Women's Fellowship Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. at 10a.m. followed by Combined Interchurch Women's Fellowship at 10.30a.m.**

**Heritage Rest Home service Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 1p.m.**

**Parish Council will meet at the Church Centre 5p.m. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

**Shared Lunch 7<sup>th</sup> August at W & R MacGillivray's home.  
5<sup>th</sup> September at Runa Halfpenny's home.**