



Wellsford Co-operating Parish

DECEMBER 2019- JANUARY 2020

View this bulletin IN COLOUR, view video clips 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, Wellsford 0900**

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 UP IN DECEMBER/JANUARY?

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

Women's Fellowship: Women's Fellowship meets **Tuesday 3rd December at 10:00am** followed by the inter church Women's Fellowship at **10:30am** at the church.



Service at the Heritage Rest Home: This month's service will be held on **Tuesday 10th December at 1.30pm**. Heritage Rest Home, 1 Olympus Road, Wellsford.



Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet at the church centre on **Tuesday 10th December at 4pm**.



Birthdays: If your birthday is in December or January, a very happy birthday to you!

Shared Lunch: This will be held on the **1st December** at the home of **Jocelyn and Denis Daken**. You are cordially invited. There will be **NO** shared lunch in January.



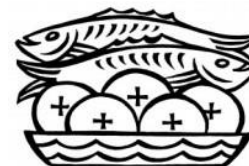
Programmes for Shine Television are in the foyer and on the notice board. Thanks to Pat Bennett who supplies the programmes.



Combined Churches' Carol Service will be at the Wellsford Community Centre on the **15th December at 7:00pm**.

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

Loaves and Fishes: We are extremely busy at Loaves and Fishes. We have done 64 parcels in the last 3 months. By November 13 we had supplied 16 parcels. We are now in the process of arranging Christmas boxes for Organisations to distribute. We require donations of food for these boxes. Please if you can help drop any food at the Hospice Shop or The CAB at the Community Hall. With the change in plastic bags we do find that a shortage of large bags for freezing are in short supply. If you can help with this please let me know. Let me wish you all A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Thank you to all our helpers and supporters. We would be unable to do our parcels without you all.



Resurrected Lord, make us one in you.
 May our love for you and for one another
 Witness to your love and grace.
 Grow us together by the power of your Holy Spirit.
 Amen

CHRISTMAS

O Lord our God,
 as we celebrate again the festival of Christmas, we ask you to make us
 humble and loving like Jesus,
 who did not come to be served but to serve, and who said that it is
 better to give than to receive;
 so that, in his name, we may devote ourselves to the care and service
 of all those who are in need.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.
(Stephen S. Smalley)

BIBLE QUESTIONS:



Matthew 2:8 says that Herod asked the wise men to inform him where the baby Jesus was. Why does this verse say he wanted to know?

What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Emmanuel?

Pastor's Blurb: Children's Talk: 4 Interesting Things About Christmas

1st Interesting Fact Do you ever hear people say that you should have Christmas because Christmas is based on a pagan tradition? Well, they do! People (Christians) say that the 25th December was celebrated by the Romans, and then the Church came along and that the 25th December was a good date to celebrate Jesus' birthday. But in the year 202 AD, Hippolytus wrote that Christians were already celebrating Jesus' birthday on the 25th December. And we know that in AD 274 (72 years later) the emperor Aurelian said that the 25th December should now be the date for celebrating the unconquered sun (Sol Invictus). So the Roman date is the copy cat one!

2nd Interesting Fact We celebrate Jesus' birthday on the 25th December, but it probably wasn't the date He was born on. I still in my mind think of the 25th December as the date when Jesus was born, even though I know that it probably wasn't. The reason the church decided it was the 25th December was from a rule that they used to believe in. They thought (it's not in the bible), that a prophet died on the same date that he was conceived on (not that he was born on). So for example, he didn't die at 70 and a half, or 70 and a third. They calculated that Jesus died on the 25th March. So what date was He conceived on? That's right – the 25th March. And you count forward 9 months from the 25th March, and you get the 25th December.

3rd Interesting Fact I know that you know that Santa Claus used to be called Sinter Claus, and that was a shortened form of Saint Nicolas. And I know that you know that he was a very kind man. But did you know that he was the bishop of Myra (in Turkey). And did you know that he gave a poor man who had 3 daughters the money for 3 dowries and he put the money in three stockings that were hanging by the fireplace. So I believe that that's the origin for gifts in the stockings, and 'coming down the chimney'. Why can I not say that it's the origin of gifts? That's right – the wise men. But now for something really interesting: Santa Claus (Saint Nicolas), the bishop of Myra, was at the council of Nicea, and at the council of Nicea was a man called Arius, who said that Jesus was the eternal Son of God - God created Him. And St Nicolas slapped him in the face.

4th Interesting Fact In the 16th century there were mystery plays. One of them had an evergreen tree hung with apples, one of which was plucked. The date of this mystery play was the 24th December. The 24th December was a 'name day' and it was Adam and Eve's name day. (Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree to England in the 19th century). Isn't it wonderful that Adam and Eve were remembered on the 24th, and Jesus is remembered on the 25th of December.

With warmest season greetings, David Balchin



**NEW YEAR
During 2020 –**

Loving God,
may your Spirit make us wise;
may your Spirit guide us;
may your Spirit renew us;
may your Spirit strengthen us
so that we will be
strong in faith;
discerning in proclamation;
courageous in witness;
persistent in good deeds.

This we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Church of the West Indies)

A prayer for the New Year

The Wesley College School Prayer

God help me to:
Do all the good I can
By all the means I can
In all the ways I can
In all the places I can
At all the times I can
To all the people I can
As long as I ever can.
Amen

**Parish Meetings
for 2020:**

16th February
17th May
16th August (A.G.M)
15 November

Parish Directory: For Ministry please contact a member of the Parish Council. **Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.**

Phone: 09 423-8076

Bulletin: Mr Mark Lorenzen

Minister: Rev David Balchin 423 7150

Ria Olivier: 423 9396

Treasurer: Mr Willis MacGillivray: 423-8273

Secretary: Ann Clegg: iresyn@yahoo.co.nz

Featured Story behind the Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

The hymn, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” was written by John Francis Wade, an 18th century Catholic layman involved in the music business in France. Copies of the hymn migrated to Portugal and then to England. First written in Latin — the original version begins with the words, Adeste Fideles — an Anglican clergyman, Frederick Oakeley, translated it into English. Today it is one of the most popular Advent/Christmas hymns, and is sung by Christians around the world.

One of the reasons for its popularity is the joyful character of its words and music. “O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,” it says — and the music has a joyful, triumphant lilt to go with the joyful, triumphant words.

The hymn calls us to come to Bethlehem to behold the baby Jesus. It calls us to come and adore him. It reminds us of the angel choir that accompanied Jesus’ birth — and of the shepherds who gathered around his cradle. It reminds us that God calls us, too, to sing Christ’s praises — and to give him glory in this Christmas season.

Christmas is a busy season, and we have a thousand things on our minds and a thousand things to do. But through it all, let us remember to come and adore the Christ who came into the world in this season to bring us light for our darkness — and joy — and life eternal.

Copyright 2006, [Richard Niell Donovan](#) Credit:

<https://sermonwriter.com/hymn-stories/o-come-ye-faithful/>

Listen to this hymn and read the lyrics on the next pages...

Bible Quiz Question Answer: BIBLE QUESTIONS:

Matthew 2:8 says that Herod asked the wise men to inform him where the baby Jesus was. Why does this verse say he wanted to know? **So that he could worship the child. But we know that his intentions were far from worship. Matthew 2:11-18.**



What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Emmanuel? **Jesus means Savior and Emmanuel means God with us. Jesus is the same name as the Old Testament name Joshua which also means Savior. Matthew 1:21, 23.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God
Begotten, not created
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born
this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be glory given
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

Listen to this [hymn here](#), or [another version here](#), or this [version](#). Download this copy of the bulletin on our [church website](#)

Service Schedule for December 2019

The Preaching Plan:

- December 1st:** Multimedia Service
December 8th: Rev David Balchin (Communion)
December 15th: Ann Clegg
December 22nd: Rev David Balchin
December 25th: Rev David Balchin
(Community Christmas Day Service)
December 29th: Rev David Balchin



Service Schedule for January 2020

The Preaching Plan:

January 5th: Multimedia Service

January 12th: Rev. Kathy Clifford (Communion)

January 19th: John and Rosemary Cavander

January 26th: Rev David Balchin



Wellsford Duty Schedule for December 2019- Duty Stewards

Dec. 1st	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 29th
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

Morning Tea

Dec. 1st	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 29th
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

Wellsford Duty Schedule for January 2020- Duty Stewards

Jan. 5th	Jan. 12th	Jan. 19th	Jan. 26th	Feb. 2nd
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

Morning Tea

Jan. 5th	Jan. 12th	Jan. 19th	Jan. 26th	Feb. 2nd
S and N Duinkeke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	S and N Duinkeke

For contributions, e-mail the editor Mark at marklorenzen73@gmail.com