

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

FEBRUARY 2023

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

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>

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 Happening in February?

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 Sunday 12th February at 1.30 pm.



Birthdays: If your birthday is in **February**, a very happy birthday to you!



SHARED LUNCH FEBRUARY will be at Gerald & Sharon North place 4825 Kaipara Coast Highway Wellsford on the **5th of February**.



PARISH MEETINGS FOR 2023

26 February 21 April
20 August- AGM 19 November

Do you have a church related event? Let us know so we can include it here.

Morning Prayers for the Month of February: Starting the month with some heartfelt prayers gives us the confidence and inspiration to begin and get through each day of the month. The following link includes a monthly short prayer for every day of this month. Even though the website is from 2022, the prayers are still relevant. [Use the digital edition on the church website to gain access by clicking anywhere on this sentence.](#)

PASTOR'S BLURB FOR FEBRUARY 2023

Happy New Year everybody (although by the time this, my greeting will sound strange, as you will no doubt have the feeling that already the year is picking up speed, and it will be Easter before we know it. But I'm writing this at a time when everybody is saying 'Happy New Year'). I have read in some places that if we take the view that seven periods of the Church Age correspond to each one of the seven churches in Revelation, this age would correspond to the Church at Laodicea (this is a view of Revelation which I don't hold to, by the way). But I can see why a lot of people think that this age is characterized by lukewarmness. At the same time, I don't want to judge any church, because that church is answerable to Jesus alone.

Anyway, I believe that each church should examine itself to see if the Lord Jesus Christ would say that it resembles the Church in Laodicea (I don't think the underground church in persecuted countries would fit the description of the Laodicean church). But I believe that a hallmark of Laodicean churches is that such churches do not like to dwell on the judgement passages in the Bible. But they are there, and I believe that all scriptures are God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16). We are reading Zephaniah in our family devotion in the mornings after breakfast and were struck with the opening few verses: 'I will sweep everything from the face of the earth' declares the Lord. 'I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea – and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.' At first, I thought, 'You tell them, Zephaniah. The godless bunch won't know what hit them'. But that was a proud and Pharisaical way to read the Bible. I read it again and again, and I'm working on memorizing it. But the line that really struck me was '... and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble'. And the Word of God started to do its work. I applied it to myself. 'Idols that cause the wicked to stumble'. I don't regard myself as falling into the category of 'the wicked' purely because of God's grace in choosing me to be saved. Otherwise, literally, it is a case of 'there, but for the grace of God, go I'. So, I don't believe that God sees me as being one of 'the wicked', because I claim the promise that 'There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus' (Romans 8:1). But if I'm not careful, I will fall into the trap of worshipping idols – just like the wicked. All too readily I absorb myself for hours watching something on YouTube or reading secular novels. I know that one must relax, but if I'm not careful the 'relaxation' can all too easily slip into idolatry.

So, I'm glad that Zephaniah is in the Bible. I am glad to have that word of warning about idolatry. It prepares me to be weaned from creaturely comforts, which the Lord may do to all of us in years to come. So I leave you with that salubrious and antiseptic word: 'I will sweep away the idols that cause the wicked to stumble'. Have a good and idol-free February, everybody.

Your brother, David

Prayer

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to the worship of
your son:
we pray you to lead to yourself the wise and great of every
land,
that unto you every knee may bow, and every thought be
brought into captivity.
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Epiphany collect from the Church of South India (adapted)]

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

Missing your fix of Hour of Power? Never fear! Weekly
episodes screen every Sunday morning on Prime TV at 7.30am.
You can also watch past episodes online at this address:
<https://houropower.org/episode/> You can also watch the
services LIVE at this address: <https://houropower.org/watch-live/>

Bible Study Tools
29-Day Scripture Writing Challenge

God speaks to us through His Word, so take some time each day this month to write down the following Scripture. If you have time, you might want to also write a prayer that the Scripture leads you to pray, or your reflections as you write.

February

<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1	Psalm 3:2-4	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 16	John 3:16
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 2	Psalm 3:5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 17	Zephaniah 3:17
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 3	Ecclesiastes 7:9	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 18	Jonah 2:2
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 4	Proverbs 3:5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 19	Psalm 22:19
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 5	Psalm 34:14	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 20	Malachi 1:11
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 6	Matthew 11:28	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 21	1 Samuel 2:2
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 7	Psalm 37:37	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 22	1 Chronicles 16:11
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 8	Titus 1:15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 23	Isaiah 40:30-31
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 9	James 1:5	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 24	2 Timothy 4:7
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 10	Mark 12:30-31	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 25	Jude 1:20
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 11	John 13:34	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 26	Hebrews 11:1
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 12	1 John 4:7	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 27	Galatians 5:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 13	Ephesians 4:2	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28	Matthew 21:21
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 14	Isaiah 54:10	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 29	1 Peter 1:21
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 15	1 Corinthians 13:4		

Come back next month for a new Scripture writing challenge!

I recently came across this great story about small parishes like ours and thought I'd share some of the key points of it here...

Historic Canterbury church kept alive by tiny congregation

[By Thomas Mead, 1News Reporter](#)

Once a month, the sound of 15 voices united in song drifts across the paddocks of Irwell. Here, surrounded by sheep in the corner of a quiet field, a congregation regularly gathers to worship at one of Canterbury's oldest churches.



The beautiful historic building is named St Mary's, and has no running water or toilet system. It's a classic white wooden frame, with a bell powered by a rope, and an open sanctuary that only seats around 30 people. But these days, that's more than enough.

At a time when older venues have gone out fashion, the Anglican Parish of Ellesmere has continued its services.

"It's the feel of a place like this, you just walk in here and you know you're in something that's been here for a while and is treasured," said Michael Morley-Bunker, a parishioner who has been attending services for more than 20 years.

"I find being in a small church really uplifting, it allows me to think and meditate."

Services usually only consist of 15 to 20 people with plenty of empty pews. But many of the parishioners have been attending for a lifetime. Keith Gilbert, 80, has been farming the paddocks that surround St Mary's for 52 years.

"When we first came here in 1968, we saw the church here on the farm on the back corner of the paddock," he said.

"We decided there was only one church to go to and that was the church at Irwell, and we were made very welcome."

Read the full text by [clicking here](#). View the video from [1News here](#)

The Story behind the Hymns – [Credit Link](#)

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Attorney Horatio Spafford and his wife, Anna, had a wonderful family of four daughters. Tragically, the great Chicago fire destroyed most of his business in 1871. Then, two years later, his wife and daughters were aboard the ocean liner Ville du Havre when it was struck by another vessel. All four daughters drowned.

His wife survived and nine days later was able to contact her husband by telegraph with this question: “Saved alone—what shall I do?”

Spafford took the next available ship to join his wife. During the passage, the captain of the ship notified Spafford they were crossing the place where the Ville du Havre had sunk. After those moments of reflection and over the course of the rest of the journey, Spafford penned the words of this beloved hymn.

May God teach us that “whatever our lot” we can still say, “It is well.”

In all three of these stories, a circumstance of life confronts the child of God. And, in all three, God’s grace enables his child to trust the heart of the Father.

Life will confront us too. The songs we sing in the darkest of midnight will be the very songs that show the world the unwavering faithfulness of our Father who loves us so much.

The darker it gets, the more we should sing.

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

Sing along with this hymn [here](#)

Guy Penrod, David Phelps - [It Is Well With My Soul](#)

It Is Well | [The Tragic Story Behind the Amazing Hymn | Horatio Spafford](#)

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

Prayer for Ourselves and Others

**Faithful God, we give all these prayers to you.
Give us the wisdom to leave with you all the things we can do
nothing about and the courage to address the matters you still
want us to attend to.**

Amen

The Grace

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
The love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit'
Is with us all.**

Amen.

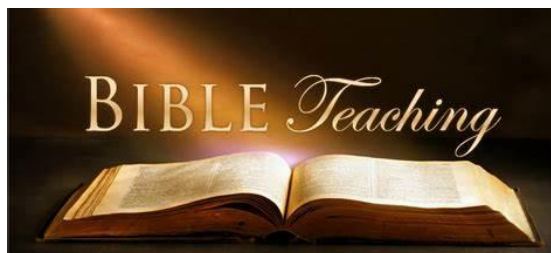
Spotlight on the Bible

Before the reading:

In the beginning was the word.

And the Word was with God

And the Word was God.



Ecclesiastes 9- A Common Destiny for All

2 All share a common destiny—the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. As it is with the good, so with the sinful; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them.

3 This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead.

6 Their love, their hate and their jealousy have long since vanished; never again will they have a part in anything that happens under the sun.

7 Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do.

After the reading:

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us; **Thanks be to God.** (*Word of God*'- page 21. *A Wee Worship Book*)

The Preaching Plan for February 2023:

5 th February	Multimedia (Rheychille Reguyal)
12 th February	Rev David Balchin
19 th February	Jonty Coop
26 th February	Rev Verna Healy (Parish Meeting)

Wellsford Duty Schedule for February Duty Stewards

5 th Feb	12 th Feb	19 th Feb	26 th Feb	5 th March
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke

Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule

5 th Feb	12 th Feb	19 th Feb	26 th Feb	5 th March
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	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: Rev David Balchin 423 7150
Secretary: Ann Clegg - email: annclegg@proton.me
Treasurer: Willis MacGillivray

Other Members of Parish Council: Rheychille Reguyal 021 1796 158

Parish Bulletin/Website Admin: Mark Lorenzen marklorenzen73@gmail.com

If you have any contributions for the next bulletin,
please e-mail Mark using the address above.