

# **Wellsford Co-operating Parish Digital Bulletin JUNE 2020**

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<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 UP IN JUNE?

**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 is on-hold due to Co-Vid 19.



**Service at the Heritage Rest Home:** This month's service is cancelled due to Co-Vid 19.



**Parish Council:** The Parish Council will not meet this month.



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



**Shared Lunch:** This is cancelled due to Co-Vid 19.



**COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES:** This year Wellsford churches will continue to hold the combined evening services every two months at 7:00pm.

**28 June 7:00pm** Co-operating Methodist/Presbyterian Church, 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford. Please mark these dates in your diaries.

**Loaves and Fishes** have been available during the lockdown. We have put practices in place to safeguard everyone from Covid 19. We have done over 50 emergency parcels up to Level Two in greatly reduced area.

I wish to thank all those who have supported us during this unusual time. We are very privileged to be able to help families in need at this time. Thank you again for all your support.

## Pastor's Blurp

### JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, brothers and sisters in the Wellsford Co-operating Parish. How are you doing, in this time of the great lock-down? I hope that you are well, and filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. I can't wait till I see you all again! No – that's not quite true. I can wait, because I don't want to endanger any of you with any contagious illnesses (Luke 6:31), and I want to set a good example of a being a good law-abiding citizen (Romans 13:1), and remain obedient to the government's restriction levels. But I am hoping that the strict measures that have been so successful in restricting the proliferation of this Covid 19 virus, will soon be successful enough for the government to allow life more and more to approach normalcy. Let us pray for the small business owners that have suffered because of the virus, and everyone else who has suffered one way or another. Let us pray for the church – both our church, and *the* church, that we will soon be able, safely, to meet again. The Lord has given us technology, and we have the opportunity to do 'online church' and listen to, and watch, sermons. But virtual church, although better than no church at all, is not the real thing. I am looking forward to breaking bread on the Lord's Day. I am looking forward to giving my brothers and sisters the right hand of fellowship again. I am looking forward to the whole body, *joined and held together by every supporting ligament*, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work (Ephesians 4:16).

Two of the passages from this week's lectionary reading are Acts 7:55-60 and John 14:1-14. I quote the Acts passage here: *But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus, standing at the right hand of God. "Look", he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this, they covered their ears, and yelling at the tops of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees, and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.*

I shan't quote the John 14 passage in its entirety, but I will just quote the well-known and much beloved John 14:6: *Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Stephen was a martyr. Jesus said, at the beginning of the book of Acts, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' The Greek word for *to witness* is *martureo*, from which we get the word *martyr*. Whenever we witness to Jesus Christ, we are literally being martyrs. Witnessing doesn't mean dying. It is just that the first witnesses were so in love

with Jesus, and that love was so translated into obedience (Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15)), and the world was so opposed to this newfound faith of Christianity, that to witness for Jesus would often merit a death sentence. That is why witnessing (martyring) came to be associated with death, so that these days, a *martyr* is someone who dies for a cause. The Jewish leaders would not tolerate Stephen's words, so they dragged him outside and killed him. In New Zealand in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, people may not kill you for witnessing about Christ, but they will let us know that they don't want to hear the truth, and they will often try to silence us. But Jesus did say, 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem .. and to the end of the earth.' So let us keep honouring God in our conduct and our words. Many will turn against you and your message, and some will follow Christ. Stephen's death made a profound impact on Paul, so that even though he opposed Stephen at first, he eventually turned – and look what an influential convert *he* was! So even though there will be people who oppose you now, they may come to Christ eventually.

We are not without help! Let me remind you of John 14:6: 'Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” As *the way*, Jesus is the path to God. As the *truth*, Jesus is the reality of all of God's promises (2 Corinthians 1:20). And as *the life* Jesus joins His divine life to ours, both now, and for eternity. In our witnessing, we can know that we aren't leading people astray, because Jesus really *is* the only path to God. Without Jesus, they are lost. And in our witnessing, because Jesus is the reality of all of God's promises, we can take 1 Chronicles 12:8 to heart, and own it, “The Gadites were brave warriors, ready for battle and able to handle the shield and spear. *They had the faces of lions*, and they were swift as gazelles in the mountains.” Claim *that* promise, and have the face of a lion! And in our witnessing, because Jesus has joined His divine life to ours, your friend, or whomever you are witnessing to, will hear heaven calling to them, with the promise of all joy. So let us witness for Jesus, because it won't be long before we see Stephen, and Paul, and it won't be long before we see .... Jesus.

Your brother,

**David Balchin**

Video Sermon-

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScE9\\_SyV9Gw&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScE9_SyV9Gw&t=2s)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScE9\\_SyV9Gw&t=173s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScE9_SyV9Gw&t=173s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kpwp3s1rDbs>

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

Dear Saints at Wellsford Co-operating Parish,

Greetings, best beloveds! Let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Let us give thanks for all that we have learned during this time of crisis. Let us give thanks for all that we have accomplished during this compulsory shut-in period. Let us give thanks to the Lord for keeping us safe during this health crisis. And let us give thanks that we are now out of Level 3, and enjoying the comparative freedom of Level 2. Let us give thanks that 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'! When we eventually are able to congregate, on one blessed Lord's Day soon, it will be a merry and joyous meeting.

Meanwhile, let us give thanks for our government, and the way they have handled this whole crisis. And let us pray for continued wisdom for the government.

I have preached a sermon called 'The Security of a Christian'. I'll copy and paste the link below, just in case you've got the time to listen to it.

Know that you are all in my and Chris's prayers every night (at least).

Love in Christ,

David -- and Chris says a great big hi, and gives you all an incredibly big hug.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkCfvxofXgQ&t=282s>

# Prayer for Today

Like many prayers and quotations attributed to famous persons, the authenticity of the claim is sometimes almost impossible to verify.

Sir Francis Drake (1540 –1596) was an English sea captain, slave trader, pirate, naval officer and explorer of the Elizabethan era. He was famously known for having carried out the second circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition from 1577 to 1580, and was awarded a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth I. As Vice Admiral, he was second-in- command of the English fleet in the battle against the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Although his exploits made him a hero to the English, the Spanish considered him a pirate and a reward of (in today's values) about \$11 million was offered by Spain for his capture or death. He died in 1596 of dysentery (then, a common disease in the tropics) when anchored off the coast of Portobello.

There is however, a classic prayer from across the centuries attributed to Drake. There are first glimpses of it in a letter written by Drake to Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary of State, on May 17, 1587.

However its words do fit this particular moment when, with our days currently on pause, we dream dreams of the future. A moment in which we reconsider whether our abundance of possessions is truly worth more than an abundance of life; and make plans for a better new world: where we might dare more boldly, love more bravely and offer a vastly expanded horizon of hope for all. **“Disturb us Lord...”** we pray...

Disturb us, Lord, when We are too well  
pleased with ourselves, When our dreams  
have come true Because we have dreamed  
too little. When we arrived safely Because we  
sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when With the abundance of  
things we possess We have lost our thirst For  
the waters of life; Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity And in  
our efforts to build a new earth, We have  
allowed our vision Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, To  
venture on wider seas Where storms will show  
your mastery; Where losing sight of land, We  
shall find the stars. We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes; And to push into  
the future In strength, courage, hope, and love.

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

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

## **Service Schedule for June 2020**

**Due to COVID-19 these notices are subject to change**

### **The Preaching Plan:**

MAY due to Co-Vid 19 there are no physical services

### **Wellsford Duty Schedule for June- Duty Stewards- Cancelled**

Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	Albert & Ria Olivier	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke
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### **Morning Tea- Cancelled – have it at your place**

Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke
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***Parish Directory:*** For Ministry please contact a member of the Parish Council. **Church Centre Office: 253 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900.**

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