

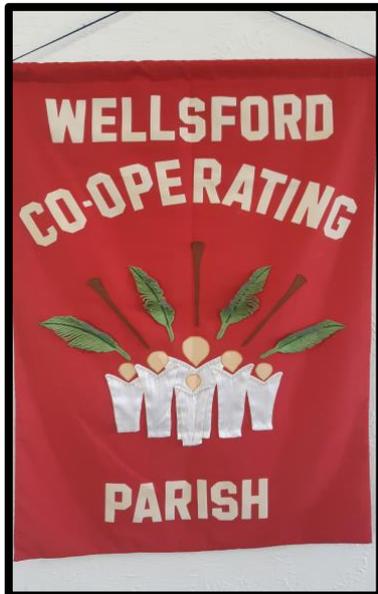
Wellsford Co-operating Parish

MARCH 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 MARCH?

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 March** at **10:00am** followed by the inter church Women's Fellowship at **10:30am** at the Co-Op church.



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



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



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



Shared Lunch: This will be held on the **1st March** at the home of Albert & Ria Olivier at 11 Batten Street Wellsford. You are cordially invited.



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

5 April 7:00pm at the Catholic Church, Matheson Road, Wellsford (Scriptural Stations of the Cross)

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

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



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



BIBLE QUESTION: Lent is said to be of 40 days even though from Ash Wednesday to last Saturday of the season it is 46 days. Why?

- a) Sundays are not included
- b) Mondays are not included
- c) Counting error
- d) Saturdays are not included



Pastor's Blurb: March

I want to paraphrase Spurgeon in this Lenten meditation: he is reflection on Psalm 4:2 'How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?' Regard how the people treated their long-awaited King: (a) They gave Him a procession of honour in which Roman legionaries and Jewish priests and men and women took part. Derisive shouts were His only acclamations, and cruel taunts were His only praise. (b) They presented Him with the wine of honour. Instead of golden cup of generous wine, they offered Him the criminal stupefying death-draught, and when He cried 'I thirst' they gave Him vinegar to drink on a sponge. Oh wretched detestable inhospitality to the King's Son! (c) He was presented with a guard of honour who showed their esteem of Him by gambling for His garment which they had seized as their booty. (d) A throne of honour was found for Him upon the bloody tree; no easier place of rest would rebellious men yield to their King, The cross was, in fact, the full expression of the world's feeling towards Him. They seemed to say, 'this is the manner in which God Himself should be treated, if we could only reach Him'. (e) The title of honour was nominally 'The King of the Jews' but in fact, the blinded nation distinctly repudiated this title, and really called Him 'the King of Thieves' because they preferred Barabbas to Him, and placed Him in a place of highest shame between two thieves.

His glory was in all ways turned into shame. Yet it shall still gladden the hearts of saints and angels world without end.

I thank and acknowledge Charles Spurgeon for the above piece, by I give praise and thanks and glory to God for sending His Son to save us.

David Balchin

Spotlight on our Living Bible

Blessed Be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
Ephesians 1: 3

Bible Quiz Question Answer: BIBLE QUESTION:

Lent is said to be of 40 days even though from Ash Wednesday to last Saturday of the season it is 46 days.
Why? a) Sundays are not included



Featured Story behind the Hymn-

Hymn Stories: Just As I Am <https://www.challies.com/articles/hymn-stories-just-as-i-am/>

“Just As I Am” is one of the few hymns for which we know not only the author’s story but also the exact circumstances in which it was written. Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England (1789–1871) was either born, or in early life had become, an invalid. Her life was a testimony to patient endurance in suffering, not only physical, but also emotional and spiritual. This was the context in which she wrote the hymn, as her nephew the Rev. Handley C. G. Moule recounted it in 1897:



But ill health still beset her . . . it often caused her the peculiar pain of a seeming uselessness in her life while the circle around her was full of unresting service-ability for God. Such a time of trial marked the year 1834, when she was forty-five years old, and living in Westfield Lodge, Brighton. . . .

Her brother, the Rev. H. V. Elliott, had not long before conceived the plan of St. Mary’s Hall, at Brighton — a school designed to give, at nominal cost, a high education to the daughters of clergymen. . . . In aid of St. Mary’s Hall there was to be held a bazaar . . . Westfield Lodge was all astir; every member of the large circle was occupied morning and night in the preparations, with the one exception of the ailing sister Charlotte — as full of eager interest as any of them, but physically fit for nothing.

The night before the bazaar she was kept wakeful by distressing thoughts of her apparent uselessness; and these thoughts passed — by a transition easy to imagine — into a spiritual conflict, till she questioned the reality of her whole spiritual life, and wondered whether it were anything better than an illusion of the emotions, an illusion ready to be sorrowfully dissolved.

The next day, the busy day of the bazaar, she lay upon her sofa. . . . The troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, his power, his promise. And taking pen and paper from the table she deliberately set down in writing, for her own comfort, ‘the formula of her faith.’

Hers was a heart which always tended to express its depths in verse. So in verse she restated to herself the gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven. (Quoted from Louis Benson, *Studies of Familiar Hymns, Second Series*, 201-202)

Within a matter of years Ms. Elliott had the hymn published in *The Invalid's Hymn Book*, and from there it spread and gained in popularity.

Many people associate “Just As I Am” with the life and ministry of Billy Graham as for years it was sung during altar calls at his crusades; it is also the title of his autobiography.

Listen to this hymn

[hymn here](#), or [another version here](#), or this [version](#).

Download this copy of the bulletin on our [church website](#) and read the lyrics on the next page...

Shirley Murray- Rest in Peace: If you didn't already know this incredible Methodist New Zealander hymn writer died recently on the 25 January. You can read about her life here https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Murray. Next month's bulletin will feature one of her hymns. Read her [obituary here](#) and listen to some of her [hymns here](#). Her full funeral service is [available here to watch](#). It's a beautiful service.

Just as I am – without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to
Thee,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse
each spot,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
– O Lamb of God, I come!



Just as I am – poor, wretched,
blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and
height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Cruising on the Queen Elizabeth to Melbourne: In late January two of our past members went on a cruise. Pauline and Mark Lorenzen had a spectacular time. If you have never done a cruise before I encourage you to do one as they are incredible.



Service Schedule for March 2020



The Preaching Plan:

First Sunday in March is the first Sunday of Lent

March 1st : Multimedia Service

March 8th : Rev David Balchin (Communion)

March 15th : Ann Clegg

March 22nd : Rev David Balchin

March 29th : Andrew Balchin

5 April Rev Verna Healy (Palm Sunday)

5 April Wellsford churches combined evening service. 7:00pm at the Catholic Church, Matheson Road Wellsford (Scriptural Stations of the Cross)

Wellsford Duty Schedule for February- Duty Stewards

March 1st	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd	March 29th
Ann Clegg	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Albert & Ria Olivier

Morning Tea

March 1st	March 8th	March 15th	March 22nd	March 29th
Ann Clegg	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Albert & Ria Olivier

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

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