

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

MAY 2023

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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 Happening in May?

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. Irene Rockell is receiving dialysis at Whangarei Hospital. We keep Irene in our prayers.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council Meeting for this month will be on **Sunday 14th May.**

BIRTHDAYS: If your birthday is in **May**, a very happy birthday to you!



SHARED LUNCH after Church will be at Nelleke and Steve Duinkerke's home at 119 School Road, Tomarata on the **7th of May 2023.**



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Sunday 14 May 2023.

REMAINING PARISH MEETINGS FOR 2023

21 May 20 August- AGM 19 November

PRAYER FOR TRINITY SUNDAY

O God, the source of our being
and the goal of all our longing,
We believe and trust in You.

The whole earth is alive with your glory,
and all that has life is sustained by you.
*We commit ourselves to cherish your world,
and to seek your face.*

O God, embodied in a human life,
we believe and trust in you.

Jesus our brother, born of the woman Mary,
you confronted the proud and the powerful,
and welcomed as your friends
those of no account.
Holy wisdom of God, firstborn of creation,
you emptied yourself of power,
and became foolishness for our sake.

You laboured with us upon the cross,
and have brought us forth to the hope of
resurrection.

We commit ourselves to struggle against
evil,
and to choose life.

O God, life-giving Spirit,
Spirit of healing and comfort,
of integrity and truth.
We believe and trust in you.

Warm winged Spirit, brooding over
creation,
rushing wind and Pentecostal fire,
we commit ourselves to work with you,
and renew our world.

"Holy Spirit, Come"

As Pentecost draws near, we wait in hopeful prayer,

For the promised gift of God's Spirit, His
presence rare.

Like rushing wind and tongues of fire, the
Spirit came,

To empower
and equip us,

in Jesus' precious name.

Renew our hearts, revive our souls, and
make us new,

Empower us to boldly witness, all that's
true.

Guide us in truth, and convict us of our
need,

To follow Christ, our Saviour, and to His will give heed.

May we be one in Spirit, united in Your love,

Reflecting Christ's compassion, as we journey from above.

May our lives be filled with praise and adoration,

As we celebrate Pentecost, with joy and jubilation.

So, Holy Spirit, come and fill us now,

With Your presence and power, to You we humbly bow.

Ignite our hearts with passion, for Jesus' name,

And may we walk in step with You, for Your eternal fame.

Amen.

Poem Source: Chat GPT



PASTOR'S BLURB FOR MAY 2023

The 28th of May is Whitsunday or Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is Greek for '50th day'. As we all know, day of Pentecost is found in Acts chapter 2. In a nutshell, Acts 2 tells of the Holy Spirit falling on the apostles when people from all around were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. The Feast of Weeks commemorated a stupendous Theophany when God gave Moses the Law on Mount Sinai. The Law was given fifty days after the first Passover. Now, about fifteen hundred years after the first Passover, there was a highly significant Passover when 'Christ our Passover' was put to death to pave the way for the real Exodus, the delivery of God's people from their real bondage of sin and death. Fifty days after this most significant of all Passovers, there was another great Theophany, but instead of the giving of the Law, God the Holy Spirit came down to write His Law in His people's hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33-34). The parallel between the giving of the Law at Sinai and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, with both sublime events happening fifty days after the Passover, is breath-taking. I want to share two things we can learn from Acts chapter 2. 1. Acts chapter 2 is the Pentecost chapter, the Holy Spirit chapter. The Pentecostal denomination was formed because of its important recognition of the Person and role of the third Person of the Holy Trinity. But even though Acts chapter 2 contains the glorious out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, we must bear in mind who is still central in that chapter. Jesus is central in the chapter. Peter preached about Jesus, that He was the Christ, the Son of David, He died but He rose again, and ascended to the right hand of God and is reigning now. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to draw attention to Jesus (John 16:14). I get a bit concerned when I see meetings which are devoted entirely to 'the Holy Spirit', and neither Jesus nor the Father get a mention. The Holy Spirit's role is to magnify Jesus. The Holy Spirit's ministry is a spot-light ministry, in which He turns the spotlight on Jesus. If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, concentrate on Jesus: listen to Him speaking, obey His commands, do costly service which glorifies Him. 2. It is a well-known fact that Peter was timid at the time of Jesus' trial, but now he is as bold as a lion. He was an unschooled fisherman, but now he is speaking with learning and authority. What made the difference? He had received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit applies the salvation that Jesus has achieved. Jesus died and rose again, and, because of God's divine magnanimity, the Holy Spirit puts your old sinful self to death, and, uniting you to Christ, gives you a new self, which will never die. Jesus said, 'Because I live, you also shall live' (Jn 14:19). But there's more. The Holy Spirit, uniting you to Christ, gives you access to everything that is in Christ. He is infinitely brave, so Peter availed himself of the divine bravery, and he spoke out boldly. Jesus is infinitely wise, so the apostles availed themselves of that infinite wisdom, and wrote the New Testament. He is love, so every Christian, being united to Christ, can avail themselves of that love, and start to love the unlovely. He said, 'Father forgive them...' and you, if you are united to Christ, can avail yourself of that divine ability, and forgive those who have hurt you. Praise the Lord for giving us the Holy Spirit, through whom we can be united to Him. Your brother, David.

The Story behind the Hymns
History of Hymns: 'Standing on the Promises of God'
Source: Chat GPT

"Standing on the Promises of God" is a popular Christian hymn written by Russell Kelso Carter in 1886. The hymn is based on the promises found in the Bible and expresses the author's deep faith and trust in God's unwavering faithfulness.

The story behind the hymn begins with Russell Kelso Carter, who was a prominent figure in the Holiness movement of the late 19th century. Carter was a Methodist minister, evangelist, and educator who experienced a personal spiritual revival and became deeply committed to living a life of holiness and faithfulness to God.

In 1886, Carter was inspired by the Bible verse 2 Peter 1:4, which says, "Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires" (NIV). This verse spoke to Carter's heart, reminding him of the unchanging promises of God that provide hope and assurance to believers.

Carter put his thoughts and emotions into words and composed the hymn "Standing on the Promises of God" as a declaration of his unwavering faith in God's promises. The hymn expresses the joy, confidence, and security that come from standing firmly on God's promises, even in the face of challenges and difficulties.

"Standing on the Promises of God" has since become a beloved hymn in many Christian denominations and has been widely sung and recorded by various artists. Its lyrics proclaim the timeless truth of God's faithfulness and the assurance that believers can find in His promises, serving as a source of comfort, encouragement, and inspiration to countless individuals throughout the years.

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

Sing along with this hymn [here](#)
Or this version from [Alan Jackson](#)

Missing your fix of Hour of Power? Never fear! Weekly episodes screen most Sunday mornings on Prime TV at 7.30am. You can also watch past episodes online at this address:

<https://hourofpower.org/episode/>

JOHN WESLEY'S ON PENTECOST...

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, had a strong belief in the work of the Holy Spirit, including the concept of Pentecost as recorded in the New Testament of the Bible. He held a high view of the Holy Spirit's role in the life of a believer and emphasized the need for personal experience and transformation through the Holy Spirit.

Wesley saw Pentecost as a pivotal event in the history of the Church, where the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus, empowering them for ministry and enabling them to boldly proclaim the Gospel. He believed that the same Holy Spirit was available to all believers, equipping them with spiritual gifts, and empowering them to live holy and godly lives.

Wesley also emphasized the importance of personal and corporate spiritual revival through the work of the Holy Spirit. Wesley believed that the Holy Spirit's work was not limited to a one-time event but a continuous process of sanctification, transforming believers from glory to glory.

Wesley's teachings on Pentecost and the Holy Spirit have had a significant impact on the Methodist tradition and continue to inspire and guide many Christians today. His emphasis on the need for personal experience with the Holy Spirit and the importance of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a believer is reflected in his writings and sermons and continues to be influential in the understanding and practice of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity as well. **SOURCE: Chat GPT**

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.

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

Spotlight on the Bible

Before the reading:

In the beginning was the word.

And the Word was with God.

And the Word was God.

Romans 15

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,

6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, to bring praise to God.

8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed.

9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."

10 Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."

11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him."

12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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*)

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

The Preaching Plan for May 2023:

7th May	Multimedia, Rheychille Reguyal
14th May	Rev David Balchin
21st May	Rev Verna Healy (Congregational Meeting)
28th May	Rev David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for May Duty Stewards

7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May	June
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke

Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule

7th May	14th May	21st May	28th May	June
Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg / Maria Harrison	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, Eulene Goddard

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