

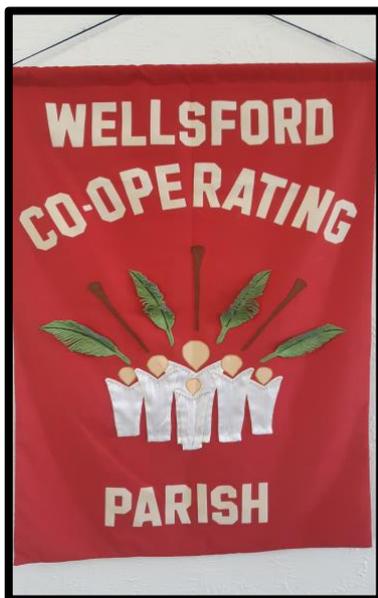
Wellsford Co-operating Parish

NOVEMBER 2020

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19

View this bulletin IN COLOUR, 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 UP IN NOVEMBER?

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: This will be held on the **10th November at 10:00 am** at the Co-operating Church. **10:30am** for the Inter Church Women's Fellowship.

Service at the Heritage Rest Home: Heritage Rest Home 1 Olympus Road Wellsford will be on the **3rd November at 1:30pm.**



Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet on Wednesday the **10th November at 4pm at the Co-Op church centre.**



PARISH MEETING: This will be held after church on the **15th November.** Come along and have your say.

Birthdays: Pauline Lorenzen's birthday is on the 13th November. If your birthday is also in November, a very happy birthday to you!



Shared Lunch: This will be held at a venue to be advised on the **1st November (please ask Jocelyn).** All are most welcome.



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

PRAYER

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the salt sea and the running water, for the everlasting hills and the never-resting winds, for trees and the common grass underfoot.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendour of summer fields, and the taste of the autumn fruits, and rejoice in the feel of the snow, and smell the breath of the spring.

Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty; and save our souls from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory, O God our creator, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

(Walter Rauschenbusch 1861-1918)

Pastor's Message for November:

Wasn't it delightful to be back in church on Sunday (the 27th September)? There is no substitute for simply *being together* as the body of Christ and a family of God. We have been resourceful during the enforced periods of lock-down, and have been viewing messages, or listening to sermons, or 'attending' services via Zoom week by week. I would have to say that these measures have been better than nothing. But virtual reality is not actual reality. Virtual reality, cannot, in the end, be a substitute for actual reality. The Lord Jesus Christ, when He said, 'I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.' (Matthew 16:18), He was not thinking about a virtual church. And when He said, 'wherever two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.' (Matthew 18:20), He did not mean, 'gathering together in a Zoom conference'. I know that some of you might object to that last statement, because Jesus is so gracious that He no doubt *does* come and be present at a Zoom conference.

I grant that. He *is* gracious, and He *is* the Altogether Lovely One, and He *does* attend wherever believers are gathered, even in a Zoom conference. But I would say that is because He understands the thinking of the church, during the first onset of the corona virus, was to obey the government (Romans 13:1), and 'do unto others as you would have others do unto you', and we didn't want the corona virus to spread through the church. But the corona virus isn't going to be around forever, and, in time, we are going to be allowed, by the government, to meet together again.

In fact, at the moment, we are already allowed to meet together. Long may it continue.

I am writing this in the hope that I will be able to persuade you that there is no substitute for physically meeting together. The year 2020 has had more than its fair share of lock-downs. Like obedient Christians, we have been obeying the government (Romans 13:1), and refraining from going to church. Besides, we did not want to be the means of spreading the virus. But now that the coast is clear, and the government has allowed us to meet again, I would beseech you to come back to church. I have heard of some people saying that 'church online' worked just fine during lock-down, so why should we resume the practice of going back to the way things were, and actually meeting in person. It's so much easier just 'going to church' in my own sitting room. In fact, I can even 'go to church' in my own bed! I beseech you, if you are thinking such thoughts, to reconsider. Jesus says, through Hebrews 10:25, 'Let us not give up the habit together, as some are the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' Jesus says, through Paul, in 1 Corinthians 14:26, 'When you come together ...' and again, in 1 Corinthians 11:18, 'when you come together...' and then again in verse 20, 'when you come together...' and then again in verse 33, 'when you come together...' So, when we come together, not only are we filled with joy to see each other again, we are being obedient to Jesus, and that is the most important thing of all.

Your brother, David

The Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

Service Schedule for November 2020

The Preaching Plan:

1st November:	Multimedia Service
8th November:	Rev. David Balchin
15th November:	Rev Verna Healy (Parish Meeting)
22nd November:	Rev Kuli Fisi'iah
29th November:	Rev. David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for November- Duty Stewards

<u>1st Nov.</u>	<u>8th Nov.</u>	<u>15th Nov.</u>	<u>22nd Nov.</u>	<u>29th Nov.</u>
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	Albert & Ria Olivier	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke

Morning Tea

<u>1st Nov.</u>	<u>8th Nov.</u>	<u>15th Nov.</u>	<u>22nd Nov.</u>	<u>29th Nov.</u>
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	W & R MacGillivray	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Steven and 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

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