

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

*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 December/January?

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.

PASTORAL: Our thoughts are with David, who has had a heart-attack and was rushed by ambulance to Auckland hospital recently. They have put three stents in, and David is now recovering.

Women's Fellowship: This will not be happening at present.

Service at the Heritage Rest Home: Under present lockdown levels this will not be happening.



Parish Council: Tuesday 7th December @ 2:00pm. (Note that this is one week earlier than usual). This will be held either inside at the church, or, in the garden of the Balchins' home, 34 Matheson Road Wellsford.



Birthdays: If your birthday is in **December or in January**, a very happy birthday to you!



ZOOM MEETINGS: While we have been under lockdown, those who were able to, have had meetings each Saturday. Thank you to Rheychille, Eulene, David and any others who were able to join in. The rest of us had to watch the Sunday church programmes on, Prime (including the Hour of Power, 7:30-8:30am), on Sine (all the mainstream denominations) and TV Three (including Charles Stanley 7:00-8:00am).

BIBLE STUDY: The Know Your Bible study has recommenced. It is currently being held outside in a member's garden. If you are interested, please contact Jocelyn Daken 423 7088

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD BANK

During this quarter of a year of lockdown, the workers of the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, under the leadership of Irene Rockell, have been our church's missionaries to the wider community.

The need for Food Bank Support is growing. During the first two weeks of November (1-16th) the Food Bank packed 90 parcels.

Because of health concerns, unvaccinated people are not allowed inside the building.

During the months of lockdown, one of the Food Bank workers, Mary Partington, died on 16 September. Mary's funeral was held on 7 October. Because of Level 3 lockdown restrictions, 10 congregation members were permitted at Mary's Requiem Mass.

Mary was my friend, she was a staunch member of the Women's Fellowship, the Wellsford Library Book Club and for a year, Mary and I attended the lunchtime Bible Study run by Father Bill Fletcher.

Other Food Bank Workers had bereavements, health issues for themselves or their families during lockdown.

This has been a tough time for many people. The Food Bank workers have shown the love of God in a practical, non judgemental way. They deserve our prayerful support.

Living in a pandemic is the nearest our generations have to living during wartime.

I found this poem in an old copy of the Association of Presbyterian Women: Book of Devotions, Volume 2.

It is with sadness that we learn of the death of one of our previous ministers, Rev. Jim Pascoe.

Rev Jim and his wife Rev Mollie Pascoe were much loved ministers at our church, and also good friends with the previous minister at the Co-operating Church, Rev Irene Smith. Jim and Mollie had retired to Nelson, Jocelyn Daken had visited them in their retirement there.

We remember Jim as a lovely, kindly man. He will be sorely missed.

Jim & Mollie moved to Stoke Nelson after spending some time as ministers in the Wellsford Co-Op Parish Church & the Mangawhai Anglican Church.

They eventually brought a Unit at the Summerset Retirement Village in Stoke where Jim soon made his presence felt there. Jim got into playing Bowls which he thoroughly enjoyed. He soon got called the 'Hallelujah man' for obvious reasons. Mollie was quite content to stay in their unit doing jigsaw puzzles & going for walks & getting to know people in her own way. They both joined the choir & would go on some of the outings that Summerset would organise for the people living there. They would join into other activities as well. They found a Church that they fitted into really well & were very happy there. They loved the lifestyle that the Retirement Village gave them. Their family were close by which enabled them to spend quality time together with each other. When they could no longer drive they got a motorised buggy each, boy, did they enjoy them. The buggies gave them the freedom they still longed for. Jim made a sign for his that said 'Blessings' on it.

Jim would often say, 'This is the best thing we have done, moving into the Retirement Village'. And it was.



REMEMBERED WITH LOVE

Death is nothing at all.

I have only slipped away into the next room.

I am I, and you are you.

Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no difference in your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.

Pray, smile, think of me.

Let my name ever be the household word that it always was,

Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of a shadow in it.

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was; there is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?

I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well.

HENRY SCOTT HOLLAND (1847-1918)

Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral

I hope you and each of your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas, Ann Clagg

PASTOR'S BLURB FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

And there were shepherds living in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the city of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.’” (Luke 2:8-14).

Because we can't meet, and hear these words together, I thought the next best was to write them down for you to read. And here is another passage: 'Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:34-35).

Here are two passages which can be said to inform our thoughts this Christmastide. The speech from the angel which overrides and trumps everything else. The angel brought news of *eternal* joy and *eternal* peace. That has to transcend all earthly considerations, no matter how grim they are. But the second speech, by Simeon, gives the stern dimension to the heavenly news. 'A sword will pierce your own soul too.' Mary was so overjoyed that she sang the Magnificat: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.'

And she would never, at any time, renege on these words. These words are forever true. But she was warned that 'a sword would pierce her soul' too. And it did. She had to stand and look up at her Son hanging on a cross. But she would never have reneged on the words when she sang the Magnificat.

And that gives us a picture of the church in these dark days of covid. It's still Christmas time (or it soon will be). The angel's words to the shepherds never stop being true, just because there's a pandemic doing the rounds. 'Glory to God in the highest. And on earth, eternal joy and eternal peace to those who believe in Jesus.' But a sword will pierce (is piercing) our souls too. Two strokes of that sword, for example, are (a) you will *have to* witness to your neighbour who's scared of death. It's what you're there for: to witness that you are *not* afraid of death. And why you are not afraid of death. It's hard. It might be like a sword piercing your vitals. But we have to do it. (b) We haven't been meeting for four months, and counting. We're missing Jesus who can only be met with a special in the gathering of His people. Sometimes that can feel like a sword-stroke piercing our vitals too. But we have to do our part in the whole business of fighting covid.

In the News Hub that I am constantly seeing on my computer, there is a prominent picture of a city with two or three covid virus molecules hovering over the city. On the one hand it's a clever graphic because it tells you that Auckland is in the midst of a pandemic. But on the other hand, it's a bit of a depressing picture. I want to leave you with the thought that every time you see that

gigantic covid virus molecules hovering over the city, you imagine a picture of the angels in the sky, hovering over the shepherds, a myriad angels, singing with heavenly joy, a piece of news that completely trumps any shadow hanging over the earth. 'I bring you GOOD news of exceeding GREAT joy! A Saviour has been born, and He is Christ the Lord. That's the *real* news.

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

The Preaching Plan:

12th December:	Rev David Balchin
19th December:	Ann Clegg
25th December:	Rev David Balchin
26th December:	Rev David Balchin
2 January 2022:	Ann Clegg
9 January 2022:	Rev David Balchin
16 January 2022:	Multi Media
23 January 2022:	Rev David Balchin

30 January 2022

Rev David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for December- Duty Stewards

<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>		
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg / J Daken	Albert & Ria Olivier		

Wellsford Duty Schedule for January- Duty Stewards

<u>2 Jan</u>	<u>9 Jan</u>	<u>16 Jan</u>	<u>23 Jan</u>	30 Jan
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	Albert & Ria Olivier	E Nolan/ K Lennon	Ann Clegg / J Daken	

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: iresyn@yahoo.co.nz

Other Members of Parish Council: Ria Olivier: 423 9396
Eulene Goddard and Irene Rockell, 27irock@gmail.com