

# **WELLSFORD**

## **CO-OPERATING**

### **PARISH**

*Season's Greetings*

***DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024***

*View this bulletin, view video clips and other information on our website:*

<http://wellsfordmethodistpresbyterian.weebly.com>



**Church Office Phone:**

**09 423 8076**

**253 Rodney Street,**

**Wellsford**

**0900**

**[Like us on Facebook!](#)**

***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 and January?

**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.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** The Parish Council Meeting for December will be on the **10<sup>th</sup> December**.

We are on **FACEBOOK!** Please like the page for important updates at this link, or go to Facebook and search for Wellsford - Methodist Presbyterian Co-Operating Church.



## **HERITAGE REST HOME SERVICE:**

The Heritage Rest Home service will be from 10:00am until Noon on the first Friday of each month. There will be no Heritage service in January. It will restart in February 2024.



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

**SHARED LUNCH** after Church on the **3rd December** will be at the Daken's home, 206 Meikle Road Tomarata. **There will be no shared lunch in January.**



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

## **Monthly Hour of Power online service:**

The #1 Reason you're Not Fulfilled.

<https://hourofpower.org/episode/the-1-reason-youre-not-fulfilled/>

**Christmas Hope - Hour of Power with Bobby Schuller-**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGA9k4WFqB8>

## **Advent Bible Verses**

Here are some of the most popular Bible verses that are often used during the Advent season:

1st Sunday of Advent: Hope - [Isaiah 9:2-6](#)

2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace - [Isaiah 40:3-5](#)

"A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy - [Isaiah 12:2-6](#)

4th Sunday of Advent: Love - [Luke 1:46-55](#)

These verses help to focus on the different aspects of the Advent season and the anticipation of the arrival of Jesus. Many churches and individuals incorporate these passages into their Advent devotions and worship services as a way of preparing their hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas.

Learn more about the traditions of Advent and introduce some of them into your own family celebrations!

**Read the full text here:**

[https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/advent-bible-verses/#google\\_vignette](https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/advent-bible-verses/#google_vignette)

## **PASTOR'S BLURB FOR DECEMBER 2023**

Brothers and sisters, this month I step aside to make room for a truly great saint and writer, Charles Spurgeon, and quote his Christmas meditation, on Isaiah 7:14 Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see Him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in Him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. Let us notice at first glance His miraculous conception. It was a thing unheard of before, and unparalleled since, that a virgin should conceive and bear a Son, The first promise ran thus, "The seed of the woman," not the offspring of the man. Since venturesome woman led the way in the sin which brought forth Paradise lost, she, and she alone, ushers in the Regainer of Paradise. Our Saviour, although truly man, was as to His human nature, the Holy One of God. Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to manhood its ancient glory; and let us pray that that He may be formed in us, the hope of glory. Fail not to note His humble parentage. His mother has been described simply as "a virgin", not a princess, or prophetess, nor a matron of large estate. True, the blood of kings ran in her veins; nor was her mind a weak and untaught one, for she could sing most sweetly a song of praise; but yet how humble her position, how poor the man to whom she stood affianced, and how miserable the accommodation afforded to the new-born King!

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendour.

Happy Christmas,

Your brother David

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



**The Story behind the Hymns**  
**History of Hymns: Beauty for Brokenness**  
**Source: Chat GPT**

The hymn "Beauty for Brokenness" is also known as "God of the Poor" and "Let Your Glory Fall." It was written by Graham Kendrick, a British Christian singer and songwriter who is well-known for his contributions to contemporary Christian music.

"Beauty for Brokenness" is a hymn that focuses on themes of God's mercy, compassion, and the transformation of broken lives. It acknowledges the brokenness and suffering in the world and expresses a longing for God to bring healing, restoration, and beauty out of the brokenness. The hymn calls for God's justice to flow like a river and for His love to cleanse and renew the world.

The hymn is a powerful expression of the Christian faith's emphasis on God's ability to bring hope and transformation to those who are broken and in need. It has been widely used in Christian worship services and has resonated with many people who find comfort and inspiration in its message.

Graham Kendrick wrote "Beauty for Brokenness" in the 1990s, and it has since become a popular and enduring hymn in the Christian worship repertoire. It is often sung in churches and other Christian gatherings as a prayer for God's healing and renewal in the midst of a broken and hurting world.

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

- [Sing along here](#)  
Or this [Version](#)

# Loaves & Fishes Foodbank Wellsford



MAY YOUR  
*Christmas*  
BE MERRY &  
*Bright*

**We need your help please!**  
**You can - by making donations for**  
**CHRISTMAS TREAT BOXES**

Goods received will be distributed to families in need in the Wellsford and surrounding areas.  
Foodbank Wellsford works with local organisations to help families receive these items.



Hammer Hardware

Wellsford Four Square

Woodys Winners

Grocery items we would appreciate are:

- Tinned fruit salad
- Xmas mince pies
- Plum puddings
- Boxed chocolates or blocks of chocolate
- Shortbread biscuits
- Meringues
- Jelly - red and green
- Candy canes and bagged lollies
- Popcorn - 3 pack popping corn
- Potato chips 150g
- Tins reduced cream
- Packets Maggie onion soup for dips
- Tea bags or Coffee
- Milo or drinking chocolate
- Sparkling Grape Juice
- 1.5litre Soft drinks, Fruit Juice or Raro sachets
- Tomato Sauce and Mayonnaise



Clever Endeavours

Hospice Shop

Rodney Four Square

You can donate food by dropping it off to any of the listed stores or arrange cash donations by contacting 021-090-89-333 or email [foodbankwellsford@gmail.com](mailto:foodbankwellsford@gmail.com)

*If you know of someone in need, please contact Foodbank Wellsford. We are here to help.*

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AND  
WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS**



O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)*

**Bible Judges and Ruth BUMPER Quiz,**  
**Brought to you by Chat GpT**

**The answers are printed on the back cover of this  
bulletin.**

1. Who is the central character in the Book of Ruth?  
**A) Naomi B) Boaz C) Ruth D) Gideon**
2. In the Book of Judges, which judge famously defeated the Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey?  
**A) Gideon B) Jephthah C) Samson D) Barak**
3. What was the primary role of judges in the Book of Judges in the Old Testament?  
**A) They were religious leaders and prophets.  
B) They were responsible for interpreting the law.  
C) They were military leaders and deliverers.  
D) They were priests who offered sacrifices.**
4. In the Book of Ruth, where did Ruth and Naomi go to find a new life after the death of their husbands?  
**A) Egypt B) Moab C) Bethlehem D) Jerusalem**
5. Who was the mother-in-law of Ruth in the Book of Ruth?  
**A) Orpah B) Naomi C) Boaz D) Abimelech**
6. Which judge in the Book of Judges is known for seeking a sign from God using a fleece?  
**A) Gideon B) Deborah C) Ehud D) Barak**
7. Who was the first judge of Israel, mentioned in the Book of Judges?  
**A) Jephthah B) Samson C) Deborah D) Othniel**
8. In the Book of Ruth, which kinsman-redeemer ultimately marries Ruth, securing her and Naomi's future?  
**A) Elimelech B) Mahlon C) Boaz D) Obed**

## **The Preaching Plan for DECEMBER 2023:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Multi Media, Rheychille Reguyal  
**10<sup>th</sup> December:** David Balchin  
**17<sup>th</sup> December:** Ted the Evangelist  
**24<sup>th</sup> December:** David Balchin  
**25<sup>th</sup> December:** **Christmas Day Service** – David Balchin  
**31<sup>st</sup> December:** Rowan Smiley

## **The Preaching Plan for JANUARY 2024:**

**7<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** Multi Media, Rheychille Reguyal  
**14<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** David Balchin  
**21<sup>st</sup> January 2024:** Jonty  
**28<sup>th</sup> January 2024:** David Balchin

### **Wellsford Duty Schedule for December Duty Stewards and Morning Tea**

3<sup>rd</sup> : Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke, 10<sup>th</sup>: Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison  
17<sup>th</sup>: Eryl Nolan 24<sup>th</sup>: Jocelyn Daken  
31<sup>st</sup> Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke

### **Wellsford Duty Schedule for January Duty Stewards and Morning Tea**

7<sup>th</sup> Jan: Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke, 14<sup>th</sup> Jan: Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison  
21<sup>st</sup> Jan: Eryl Nolan 28<sup>th</sup> Jan: Jocelyn 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- email: [davidjbalchin@gmail.com](mailto:davidjbalchin@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Eulene Goddard- email: [eulene.goddard@yahoo.com](mailto:eulene.goddard@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Willis MacGillivray

**Parish Councillors:** Rev David Balchin, Ann Clegg, Eulene Goddard, Gerald North, Rheychille Reguyal

### **Answers to this month's Bible Book Quiz:**

1. C) Ruth
2. C) Samson
3. C) They were military leaders and deliverers.
4. C) Bethlehem
5. B) Naomi
6. A) Gideon
7. D) Othniel
8. C) Boaz