

# **WELLSFORD CO-OPERATING PARISH**

## **FEBRUARY 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 February?

**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 February will be on the **11 Feb**, then 10 March, and 14 April.

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. The next service is 2 February, then 1 March, and 5 April.

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



**SHARED LUNCH** after Church will be at the Daken's 206 Meikle Road Tomarata on the **4th of February**.



**In Loving Memory** of the late Rev. David Balchin and Runa Halfpenny, who sadly passed away prior to Christmas last year. We will miss you both dearly. Rest in Peace.

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

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

Pastor Bobby teaches that your life has immeasurable results even after you're gone. "How You Do Anything, Is How You Do Everything." [https://hourofpower.org/episode/\\_trashed/](https://hourofpower.org/episode/_trashed/)

## **The Story behind the Hymns**

### **History of Hymns: Amazing Grace, Source: Chat GPT**

"Amazing Grace" is a Christian hymn with a powerful and compelling history. The lyrics were written by Englishman John Newton and were first published in 1779. Newton, born in 1725, had a tumultuous early life. He worked as a sailor and was involved in the Atlantic slave trade, eventually becoming the captain of a slave ship.

"Amazing Grace" has transcended its Christian origins and has been embraced by various cultures and faith traditions. It has been recorded by countless artists and is often performed at events ranging from religious services to secular gatherings. The hymn's universal message of redemption and hope has made it a timeless and inspirational piece of music.

**Use our digital edition to listen to...Link is hyperlinked**  
**[Sing along here](#)** **[Or this Version](#)**

### **Epiphany Prayer**

God of gold, we seek your glory:  
The richness that transforms our drabness into colour,  
And brightens our dullness with vibrant light;  
Your wonder and joy at the heart of all life.

God of incense, we offer you our prayer:  
Our unspoken and unspeakable longing, our questioning of truth,  
Our search for your mystery within.

God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering:  
The pain of all our rejections and bereavements,  
Our rage at continuing injustice;  
And we embrace you, God-with-us,  
In our wealth, in our yearning, in our anger and loss.

(Prayer by Jan Berry)

## MESSAGE FROM CHRIS BALCHIN

Dear Lovely Wellsford Co-operating Church Family!

It is Chris here! I would love to send a brief message on behalf of our dearly departed pastor, husband, father, new grandfather, friend and most importantly brother in the Lord, dearest David!

Thank you from all our hearts from our Balchin family and extended loved ones for all the amazing prayers, loving expressions of condolence, kind supportive gifts, delicious meals and baking and constant incredible support! We greatly appreciate all your immense kindness and wonderful support in the Lord. I and my children too, have felt greatly uplifted in prayer! I know that dearest David would be adding his immense thanks to you all too for so compassionately and kindly upholding us all. We have certainly felt amazingly supported by our dear church family! Thank you all very much for your very kind ministry to us all!

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus is walking every step of the way with us! He 'will never leave us nor forsake us' Indeed, Deuteronomy Chapter 31 v 8 says 'The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.' What an encouraging verse!

'Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever.' (Hebrews Chp13v8) Being in Jesus, we can with assurance look forward to seeing our dear Saviour 'face-to-face' and also seeing David again and all our dearly beloved family and friends who have already departed in Christ. Won't heaven be wonderful and incredible! Words cannot express the great joy we shall have, living directly in God's presence and without sin nor any cares of this world! However, our dearest Lord wants us here to complete the work he has for each one of us. As Paul instructs us in Hebrews Chapter 12 v 1-3. With God's enabling and strengthening let us all endeavour to faithfully do our very best to obey these words:

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, (those gone on to Heaven beforehand), let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. *And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.* For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.'

Let us now with Jesus' help pick up the baton which He and also David has passed to us and run with perseverance the race Jesus has marked out for us, in His strength! God bless you all, dearest church family and may He greatly comfort and strengthen us all!

All my love and prayers, in Christ. Your sister, Chris. Next month this section will be titled, "Monthly Reflection".



**IN MEMORY OF RUNA HALFPENNY**  
**21 July 1930 - 12 December 2023**

Runa was an extremely accomplished person.

She was a member of the Parish Council. She was also a preacher, plus a member of a choir before she lost her hearing.

She went to live with her daughter Linda Casci a few years ago.

She was buried at the side of her late, beloved husband Ted Halfpenny.

It was a privilege to have known Runa and be her friend.

**In Loving Memory of Runa Halfpenny**



Runa died peacefully at Warkworth Hospital on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

Aged 93 Years.

Much loved wife of the late Ted.

*In the tapestry of time, a thread serene,  
A life well-lived, a lady serene.  
Ninety-three years, a journey complete,  
Each step a story, memories sweet.*

*Her laughter, a melody, echoed in years,  
A symphony of joy, and silent tears.  
Through seasons of life, she gracefully  
danced,  
Leaving footprints of love, where she once  
pranced.*

*Now, she rests beneath the celestial dome,  
Her spirit in stardust, forever to roam.  
A legacy woven, like threads in the sky,  
A tapestry of love that will never die.  
In the embrace of eternity, she finds peace,  
A soul released, longing for no cease.  
Her legacy lingers, a whispered goodbye,  
In the hearts she touched, under the azure  
sky.*

# David Balchin

27 April 1956 - 9 December 2023



Our late beloved pastor not only left us with a collection of pre-prepared sermons, he also left us with a wonderful You Tube channel full of incredible words of God and sermons. You can view some of David's videos at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@davidbalchin8210>

Rest in Peace Good and Faithful Servant.

Dear David

When we craved surprise and delight  
You battled convention and  
Emerged victorious

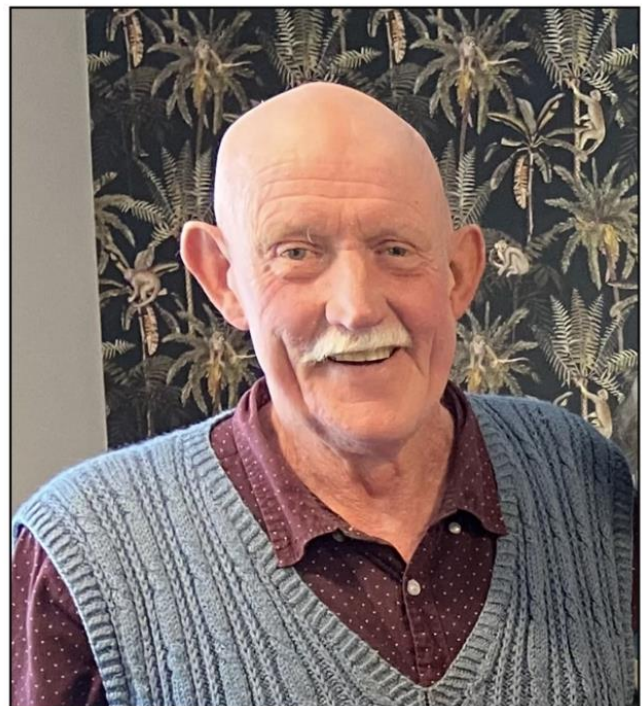
When we demanded satisfaction  
You offered humour  
Subtle and memorable

When we lacked courage  
You offered fearlessness  
Bold and intrepid

When shadows, dark and  
Menacing emerged to threaten  
You offered charity and hope

And so it is, dear David  
With gratitude, homage and affection  
That we bid you farewell

**Nick Unkovich Brisbane QLD**



Psalm 23 - The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**Bible Samuel Quiz,**  
**Brought to you by Chat GpT**

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

**1. Who was the mother of the prophet Samuel in the Bible?**

- a. Rachel   b. Hannah   c. Leah   d. Deborah

**2. What significant vow did Hannah make before the birth of Samuel?**

- a. A vow of silence   b. A vow of celibacy  
c. A Nazirite vow   d. A vow of dedication to God

**3. Who was the last judge of Israel and the mentor of Samuel?**

- a. Eli   b. Joshua   c. Gideon   d. Samson

**4. What event marked the calling of Samuel to become a prophet of God?**

- a. A burning bush   b. A vision of angels  
c. A voice in the wind   d. God speaking to him in the night

**5. Who were the sons of Eli, who served as priests but were corrupt?**

- a. Phinehas and Hophni   b. Aaron and Miriam  
c. Ishmael and Isaac   d. Moses and Aaron

**6. What city did the Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant to after defeating the Israelites?**

- a. Jerusalem   b. Bethel   c. Ashdod   d. Jericho



## The Preaching Plan for FEBRUARY 2024:

**04 Feb Andrew Balchin**  
**11 Feb Chris Balchin**  
**18 Feb Cathy Clifford**  
**25 Feb Verna Healy + Parish Meeting**

### Wellsford Duty Schedule for February Duty Stewards and Morning Tea

4<sup>th</sup> Feb: Steven & Nelleke Duinkerke,  
11<sup>th</sup> Feb: Ann Clegg/ Maria Harrison  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb: Eryl Nolan  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb: 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:** TBC

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

**Treasurer:** Willis MacGillivray

Parish Councillors: Ann Clegg, Eulene Goddard, Gerald North, Rheychille Reguyal

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

1. b. Hannah
2. d. A vow of dedication to God
3. a. Eli
4. c. A voice in the wind
5. a. Phinehas and Hophni
6. c. Ashdod

Finally this hymn "Goodness of God" is so powerful.  
Have a listen <https://youtu.be/n0FBb6hnwTo?si=eUBI7ogbX9ETLaKd>