

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

MARCH 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 March?

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.

LAURA BENNETT: On Sunday 20 February, the congregation learned that Laura Bennett died at the age of 100. Laura had been a faithful member of the congregation when she lived at Port Albert. In later years she moved to Hamilton to be near her daughter. Our sympathy goes out to her grieving family.

REMAINING PARISH MEETINGS FOR 2022 15 May 2022
21 August (AGM) 2022 20 November 2022

Women's Fellowship: This will be on the **1st of March** at 10.00am.

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



Parish Council: **Tuesday 8th March @ 2:00pm.** This will be at the church centre.

Birthdays: If your birthday is in **March**, a very happy birthday to you!



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

Shared Lunch: It's back! The shared church Luncheon will be at Eryl Nolan's home at **506 B Pakiri Block Road** on the **13th of March**.



“Relying on God has to start all over every day, as if nothing has yet been done.” – C.S. Lewis

LENTEN CANDLE LIGHTING: Once again we will be lighting Lenten candles in the church as we progress towards Easter.

6 March (Lent 1)	Eulene Goddard
13 March (Lent 2)	Lee Twiss
20 March (Lent 3)	Irene Rockell
27 March (Lent 4)	Jocelyn Daken
3 April (Lent 5)	Rheychille Reguyal
10 April (Lent 6 Palm Sunday)	Ann Clegg

PARISH MEETING held on the 20th of February 2022
The meeting was ably chaired by Rev Verna Healy.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE: These last years have put an extra burden on the parish finances. Motion: *The Parish Council is charged with investigating the possibilities of redeveloping the western side of the church to facilitate better stewardship of our assets.* This may require consultants.

LOAVES AND FISHES FOORDBANK: Irene Rockell continues the administration of the Food Bank. Lee Twiss has taken on a lot of the work and the efforts of Lee, and the other volunteers are invaluable. There is a surge in the need for food parcels now. The Wellsford Loaves and Fishes Food Bank services an area between Maungaturoto and Mangawhai in the north down to Glorit in the south. Now there is a rise in providing contactless deliveries to people who are self-isolating.

MULTI MEDIA AND OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES:
Rheychille Reguyal has volunteered to be a worship leader. We welcome her valuable contribution to the life of our church.

BROADBAND: The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank is willing to pay half of the broadband cost to the church. Rev David Balchin volunteered to pay the other half.

PRAYER FOR LENT

O Christ, as we walk through the land that you loved, in the country where you lived and taught, grant us the grace and wisdom to see clearly and understand deeply that all you suffered was for the sake of redeeming humanity. Through your life, death, and resurrection, you have made it possible for us to have life and have it more abundantly.

O Christ, as we follow you down the road to Calvary, Guide us to become active participants, not curious bystanders.

O Christ, as we stand with the mourners at the cross, Give us the love that can forgive those who trespass against us.

O Christ, as we witness the new life given to us through your Resurrection, Empower us with faith to act and spread the Good News. (Palestinian Women of Jerusalem)

Our Mission:

‘Love God, Love Each Other and Extend that Love beyond our Church’

Loaves & Fishes: Loaves and Fishes continue to be busy. Lee joined the foodbank a while ago and has stepped into organising the stock and answering the parcel phone. Lee is learning the job I do, and I appreciate that I’m able to share the load.

Last week we helped over 150 adults and children. We distributed vegetable and fruit bags, basic food parcels, meat, bread with margarine packs. We supply masks to all. Loaves & Fishes wish you all to stay safe. Take care.



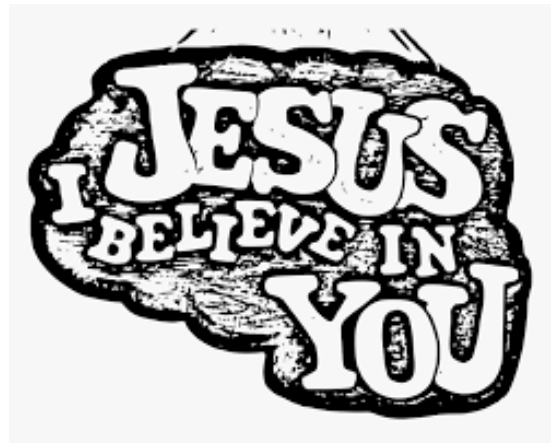
LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

PASTOR'S BLURB FOR MARCH

We've got a growing pile of pinecones. Or I should say that we've got several growing piles of pinecones. And when I say, 'growing piles', I mean ever-expanding clusters of bagfuls. And these clusters of bagfuls of pinecones are themselves multiplying. And still the numbers grow. Every time Chris and I walk out of the house and down Worthington Road, we have our eyes peeled for pinecones. We sally forth with empty cloth bags, and return, staggering under the weight (or I should say that I stagger and Chris marches) of full bags of pinecones. As well as hefting twice as many bags as I can carry, Chris returns home with long brittle branches with clusters of pinecones all along the branch. And even though we now have enough pinecones to sink a battleship, we are going to set forth again, as a family, to gather yet more pinecones in a few weeks' time. From time to time the suspicion comes upon me that such behaviour is obsessive. But whenever such a suspicion comes upon me, the antidote to the accusation immediately surfaces when I console myself that we can always give a few dozen bagfuls away to our neighbours. There is a purpose in all this fixated behaviour. Pinecones burn well. In fact, we have noticed that a glowing bed of pinecones adds many degrees to the temperature of our fire. This year I'm looking forward to trying out my experiment of seeing whether half-green firewood will burn if it is sitting on a hot bed of glowing pinecones. We shall see. But it's the first time in my life when I find myself actually looking forward to winter.

But where is the spiritual illustration in all this? The Bible likens the Holy Spirit to fire. On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all the believers in Jesus, the believers were seen to have tongues of fire on their heads. And the Bible likens the Word of God to fire as well: 'Is not my word like fire,' declares the Lord (Jeremiah 23:29). I urge you all, just as I



urge myself, to be as keen in the collecting of spiritual firewood (in the form of memory verses), as Chris and I are obsessed with collecting physical firewood. And then, when you are involved in conversations with your loved-ones, or friends, or mates, the Holy Spirit will bring the memory verses to life, and they will glow with surprising meaning, and living, saving relevance. The Lord Himself will be the fire-starter.

Yours in Christ, David

Hour of Power: Do you find yourself missing a multimedia sermon during the month? Well do not fret! Did you know that all recent and past episodes of Hour of Power can be found on their website? The



address is <https://hourofpower.org/episode/> Check it out and you will soon be hooked! On a recent episode they featured an amazing lady who gave her testimony after surviving multiple brain injury events. She is an inspiration for us all! Cristabelle Braden is a speaker and singer-songwriter. After experiencing a traumatic brain injury, she took to music and began song writing as not only a way to recover, but to also worship. Today, she is an advocate for those suffering from brain injuries. She ministers to survivors and their families and shows that there is hope ahead. For more information about Cristabelle, go to cristabellebraden.com.

You can watch or listen to the episode featuring her here: <https://hourofpower.org/episode/eternal-life-is-the-quality-of-gods-life/>

Story Behind the Song: 'As the Deer'

Credit: <https://www.staugustine.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2016/01/07/story-behind-song-deer/16321507007/>

"In 1984 I was a schoolteacher in Seattle, and since I had the summer off I decided to go back to Bible College, but only for the summer term. I headed for Dallas, Texas and Christ for the Nations Institute. Little did I know what was about to happen to me, especially with all that I would be exposed to and the worship emphasis of the school."

"I had a roommate at CFNI who was a very vibrant Christian. He challenged me to go on a fast - a period when a person refrains from eating solid food in order to give time to the reading of the Bible and to prayer." ***(Continued next page...)***

"I took up the challenge, and on the 19th day of the fast I found myself sitting at a piano trying to write a song. I was simply playing chord progressions when I noticed a Bible on the music stand of the piano. It was open to Psalm 42. My eyes fell on the first verse of that chapter... As the hart (deer) panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. After reading the verse I began to sing its message, right off the page. I wrote the first verse and the chorus of a song, pretty much straight through. The whole of the adventure was completed in a matter of minutes. I then repeated the song I had just written. I wanted to seal it in my mind."

"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:" - Psalm 42:2

As the deer panteth for the water

So my soul longeth after thee.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship thee.

Chorus

You alone are my strength my shield,

To you alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire,

And I long to worship thee

You're my friend and you are my brother,

Even though you are a king.

I love you more than any other,

So much more than anything.

"Since that introduction of the song, it has been translated into several languages and is often sung in other countries.

Orchestras have used it. It has been sung in unusually different styles."

Marty continues to write songs and travel extensively, teaching in worship conferences. In Korea in the 1990s, he attended one such conference and as he walked into the stadium 100,000 Koreans were singing "As the Deer."

[Listen and sing along with this hymn by clicking here!](#)

The Preaching Plan:

6 March	Multimedia
13 March	Reverend David Balchin
20 March	Rev Kuli Fisi'iahi
27 March	Reverend David Balchin

Wellsford Duty Schedule for March- Duty Stewards

<u>6 March</u>	<u>13 March</u>	<u>20 March</u>	<u>27 March</u>	
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	

Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule – On Hold due to Covid uncertainty

<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>	<u>6 March</u>

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

Treasurer: Willis MacGillivray

Other Members of Parish Council:

Eulene Goddard, 021 122 4268 and Irene Rockell, 423 7105
Parish Bulletin admin: Mark Lorenzen marklorenzen73@gmail.com

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”

– **Corrie ten Boom**

“There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God.” – **Alistair Begg**