

Wellsford Co-operating Parish

MAY 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 May?

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.

<u>REMAINING PARISH MEETINGS FOR 2022</u>	15 May 2022
21 August (AGM) 2022	20 November 2022

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP- The Women's Fellowship ceased to exist on 1 March 2022.

The remaining members had a coffee shop get together to reminisce and remember Mary Partington who died during Lockdown in September 2021.

The money left in the Women's Fellowship account was donated to the Women's Fellowships' Special Project 2021-2022.

The Fellowship Minutes have been sent to Ruth Stevens, Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand, PO Box 7174, Pioneer Highway, Palmerston North 4443

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE- On 15 April, we were delighted to be able to have our Inter Church Good Friday Service at the Co-operating Church and we were pleased that most of the mainstream churches in Wellsford were able to participate. There were scripture passages read by the Anglican, Catholic, Christian Fellowship, Church of Christ and the Co-operating churches, with the sermon preached by Rev David Balchin. Because of anxiety about Covid, which is rife in the Wellsford community, our numbers were fewer than the last time we were all able to worship on Good Friday, but the warmth and friendliness were as strong as ever. After the service, we celebrated our essential unity over tea/coffee, hot cross buns and a lot of catching up with each other.

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

Parish Council: Tuesday 10th May @ 2:00pm.
This will be at the Church Centre.

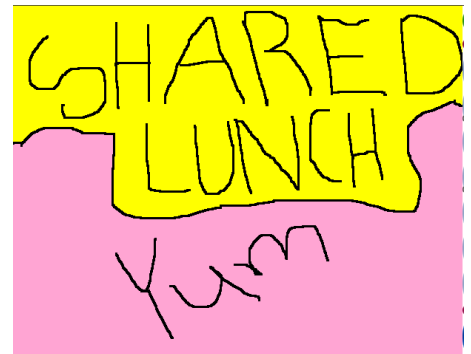


Birthdays: If your birthday is in **May**, a very happy birthday to you!



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: The Shared Church Luncheon for the 1st May will be at the Balchin's place, 34 Matheson Road Wellsford. You are very welcome to attend.



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

PRAYER FOR WESLEY DAY

Help me Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in your presence.

So may my every word and action have a moral content.

Susannah Wesley (mother of Charles and John Wesley)

PASTOR'S BLURB FOR MAY 2022

We have had an exciting time of it lately. Do you remember the night of Sunday-Monday, 20th-21st of March? It was blowing all night long, and about 5 o'clock it started to thunder and 'lighten'. Then came the rain. It was torrential, and it lasted for enough time to cause flash flooding. It may have been what the meteorologists call a 'weather-bomb'. Chris went to the basement and found that the floor was under about six inches of water. We had a lot of bags and boxes stored down there, most of which were soaked to the point of ruination. I suppose a lot of you will know people to whom the same thing happened. But the point is, the whole experience was a blessing in disguise. Chris would not want it to happen too often (the same thing happened again the next day, but the first inundation had done its worst, and there was nothing for the second inundation to destroy), because she spent the whole day sorting and cleaning, with a little help from the children. But it was a blessing in disguise. Why? Because we had long been considering getting rid of the things that were in storage. But, due to procrastination, we hadn't got round to it. Now we *had* to. Chris and I thanked the Lord for the flood because we could see His hand of mercy in it. You cannot second-guess God, so we couldn't be sure of this, but we were saying to ourselves: 'God might have been saying "Cleanliness is next godliness. I want everything decent and in order."' And when we did not act after the Lord had given up *more* than enough time, God said, 'Here – have a little bit of flooding. It's a gift from Me to you.' It is not the first time that an apparent disaster has been a blessing in disguise.

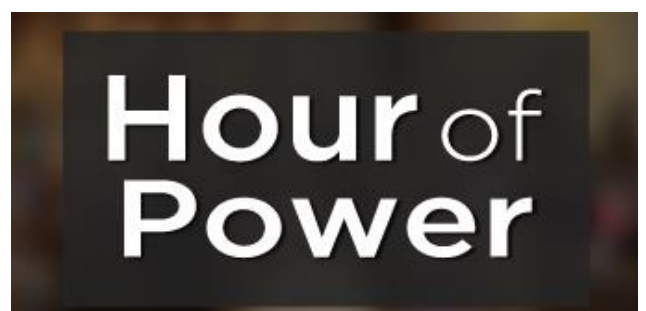
When I was younger, Grandma moved in and started to live with us, which she did for about twenty years. Mum could not and would not take the step of having Grandma moved to a retirement village because she was a dutiful daughter, and dutiful daughters look after their mothers. (*To be continued over...*)

Grandma was suffering from advanced Alzheimer's disease, and Mum gradually grew more and more burdened with the increasingly more demanding care that her mother needed. Still – she *would not* make the decision to put Grandma into a home. By this time Mum was not singing or laughing anymore (she used to sing and laugh a lot). Then it happened. She had a fall which damaged her already very already painful and maimed knee. The fall meant that Mum had to have a lengthy and serious operation on her knee and had to be bed-ridden for months until she recovered. Her compulsory bed rest meant that her hand had been forced, and Grandma was put into a lovely rest-home in Takanini. Sometime afterwards, we heard Mum laughing and singing again. The Lord, in His mercy, had forced her hand.

The two stories above help us to understand one of the most beloved verses in the bible: 'And we know that, in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him' (Romans 8:28). If we understand 'good' to mean 'to be conformed to the likeness of Christ' (as the next verse states), we can see that God, from to time, actually 'forces our hands' by encouraging us – nay – compelling us – to be sanctified. In His mercy, He 'forces our hand', with the result that we are more honest, humble, and loving, like Christ.

Regards 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! Featured episode! DON'T VEIL YOUR FADING GLORY [Watch by clicking here!](#)



Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Story Behind the Song: I Need Thee Every Hour

(1872)

Before Annie Sherwood Hawks' death in 1918, she gave the full background story to "I Need Thee Every Hour" (inspired by the Bible passage John 15: 4-5):

Seating myself by the open windows, I caught up my pencil and committed the words to paper almost as they are today. A few months later Dr. Robert Lowry composed the tune and added the refrain. For myself, the hymn, at its writing, was prophetic rather than expressive of my own experiences, for it was wafted out to the world on the wings of love and joy, instead of under the stress of great personal sorrow, with which it has often been associated. At first, I did not understand why the hymn so greatly touched the throbbing heart of humanity. Years later, however; under the shadow of a great loss, I came to understand something of the comforting power of the words I had been permitted to give out to others in my hours of sweet serenity and peace.

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

1. *I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.*

Refrain:

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

2. *I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.*
3. *I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.*
4. *I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfil.*
5. *I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
Oh, make me Thine indeed, thou blessed Son.*

Celebrating all the Mums this May

May is the special month that we celebrate our mothers, both living and passed. This month we would like to give a huge 'thank you' to all the mothers out there. We love you all and we thank you for being so wonderful in all our lives. May this be a special month for you all. Here are some special bible verses just for you!



#1 I am so grateful you are my mother. This Mother's Day, I offer you all my love and gratitude. The love that you've shown me has been a continuous source of encouragement throughout my life. Thank you for your faithfulness! I pray your heart will overflow with blessings from our Lord.

#3 God created my inmost being he knit me together in your womb. You have loved me ever since, and you have always been by my side. I cannot thank God enough for giving me you as my mother. Happy Mother's Day.

#4 Neither time nor distance could hinder God's love from connecting our hearts. Praying for you from across the miles and holding you close in my heart. I love you wherever I am.

#5 My dearest wife, you are such a beautiful person inside and out. I thank God for the day he brought you into my life, and I thank you for choosing to be my wife. This Mother's Day, I want to also thank you for loving and caring for our children the way you do. I know that it is not always easy to juggle everything, but you invariably rise to the occasion beautifully. From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you, and I love you. **You can read the full list of 50 verses here:**



<https://connectusfund.org/christian-mothers-day-messages>

The Preaching Plan:

1 st May	Multimedia
8 th May	Reverend David Balchin
15 th May	Reverend Verna Healy (Parish Meeting)
22 nd May	Reverend David Balchin
29 th May	Ann Clegg (Wesley Day)

Wellsford Duty Schedule for May- Duty Stewards

<u>1st May</u>	<u>8th May</u>	<u>15th May</u>	<u>22nd May</u>	<u>29th May</u>
Steven and Nelleke Duinkerke	Ann Clegg	Eryl Nolan	Jocelyn Daken	We need a volunteer please!

Wellsford Morning Tea Schedule – On Hold due to Covid uncertainty

<u>1st May</u>	<u>8th May</u>	<u>15th May</u>	<u>22nd May</u>	<u>29th May</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