

Dear Friends,

It was good to have a holiday last week. We did receive a lot of rain while we were away, and to a certain extent it made it a more relaxing holiday, as we were not really tempted to rush off and do things.. we had to stay put. I did manage to get out three days to pursue my hobby of bird photography. Out on the sand bar in the Taipa estuary and also on the sand bank at the beachside of the river mouth. We had to stay a night in Paihia as the road south was blocked. All part of the adventure.

Our thoughts and prayers were with everyone in Whangarei as you received even more rain than we did on Friday night. I know some of you are having to clean up from flooding and leaks.

Isaac and I were going to be back to set up and host the Zoom service on Sunday. I want to say thanks to Shane Jansen and Karen Cullen for taking on that role at such short notice. I had thought it would have been essential to have the zoom service as I did not know how many were still affected by the adverse weather.

This Sunday

We are have three Sunday morning services in our three sites.

10am @ HopeTikipunga - Rolland Schreurs will be preaching... Matthew 13: 41-46

9:30am @ Hope Central - Howard Carter will be speaking...Matthew 13: 10-17

9:30am @ HopeOnerahi - Enosa Auva'a will be speaking... Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-33

Zoom Service

The Zoom service will be from HopeCentral. As it is communion at Central we would advise people attending via zoom to have their own elements of bread and wine.

The time will be 9:30am.

If you are joining by PC or laptop then the link is... <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89285364673>

If you have a mobile device with the Zoom app the meeting ID is 89285364673

If you are wanting to join us by phone the number is 09 884 6780

The meeting ID is 89285364673

Thank you to Trix

We will be saying thanks to our receptionist Trix on Sunday and giving her a little thank you gift for all her 'above and beyond' work here. If you are wanting to contribute to a gift please let Karen Cullen know karen@hopewhangarei.nz

Connect Group leaders and Co-leaders get together:

Saturday August 1st @ 9:30am at HopeCentral Lounge.

Most of our connect groups are back meeting face to face again.

Some are doing the Bible Course ... others the Prayer Course ... and one is doing a blessings course.

This meeting is for our leaders to come together for mutual encouragement and empowering.

Please bring something to share for morning tea. Plunger coffee and a cup of tea provided.

Please reply to Lorne to let us know that you are coming. lorne@hopewhangarei.nz or phone 09-4381667

The coming referendums and election

At HopeWhangarei we want to encourage people to be informed and to cast their votes and have their say in the referendums on assisted dying and cannabis legalisation, this September.

The government website has good balanced information on the referendum.

<https://www.referendums.govt.nz/>

There are some very good resources about euthanasia and the bill that is at the heart of the referendum on the PCANZ website including reports and submissions that were made by the InterChurches Bioethics workgroup. <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out/what-we-believe/euthanasia>

Joan Sharpes

We are sad to report that Joan Sharpes passed away yesterday, following a fall from her bed last week and a broken collar bone that led to a rapid deterioration. Joan was 96. Joan had been a member here at HopeWhangarei (formally St Andrews) for at least 30 years. Joan lived a very full and active life as a science teacher. She was born in the United Kingdom and her daughter said that "Church has been part of her whole life" being brought up originally in a Congregational Church setting.

Her family wish to hold a memorial service next Thursday, July 30th, 10:30am at Hope Central – the time her connect group meet. The service will be followed by fellowship in the St Andrews Hall. All are welcome to come and hear her story and to comfort the family.

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple" Psalm 27:4

Interim council

Meets at HopeCentral this Wednesday at 7pm. We will be looking at the church budget and other challenging and encouraging matters please keep us in your prayers.

Blessing

My favourite worship band Rend Collective released a song this year which I have quoted before. It seems to be very timely with COVID 19 and the recent storm. As it acknowledges that we choose to worship even when we struggle with life its self as God is worthy, God is good when life is not.

*'I will praise You through the fire
Through the storm and through the flood
There is nothing that could ever steal my song
In the valley You are worthy, you are good when life is not
You will always and forever be my song*

*When the enemy says I'm done, I'll lift my praises
When my world come crashing down I'll lift my praises high
'Til the darkness turns to dawn I'll lift my praises
I choose to worship, I choose You now'*

Blessings

Howard Carter
Senior Minister
HopeWhangarei